

This session is all about your primary motivation in life, what Louie called your “why.” For Paul, his motivation was to carry the name of Jesus to the ends of the earth. That may seem like a broad motivation, but it gave him a specific purpose throughout his ministry.

As we examine Paul’s ministry, think about your own “why.” Start by thinking broadly. This mission should be applicable in every area of your life, not just in your work or on Sunday mornings. Louie challenged us to avoid the “wheres” and “whos”—where you are, who you are with, and where you would like to be—and simply to focus on your mission no matter where you are or who’s around you. **What would you say is your primary purpose in life? What is your greatest goal?**

In the video, Louie talked about the four things that will help us live like Paul, sold out for the mission of Christ. First, we must have a new mindset understanding that “the greatest thing [we] can do with [our] li[ves] is to help someone else come to life.”

Read Acts 20:17–24.

According to these verses, what is Paul’s primary motivation? How much is he willing to endure to accomplish the mission God has given to him?

In what ways do your goals in life serve the mission of God?

As we learned in the video, Paul’s specific mission was to take the gospel to the ends of the earth, but he did not wait until he got to Rome to serve Jesus. **In what ways are you serving God through your career, your free time, and in your social life?**

Following Jesus causes us to have a new mindset, giving us a new way to see everything we do, no matter where we are or who we are with. **How could you use the normal events of your life to help others find life in Jesus?**

Note: To learn more about Paul’s motivation and values, go to **Go Deeper Section 1** at the end of this study.

What do you want people to notice or “smell” when they get close to you? What do you hope they notice first about you and your reputation?

How long do people need to be around you before they start to notice the influence of Jesus in your life?

Paul’s primary motivation was to know Jesus and to be like him. That was what he wanted people to know about him before they knew anything else. That was his “why” and his reputation.

What would it look like to make your Christ-focused motivation your reputation? What, if anything, would need to change?

2. Trusting God in Difficult Places

We will all have seasons in our lives that we neither expected nor wanted. We will know suffering and pain. But it is important to know that these times are not a sign of God’s absence. Even in the darkest days, God is still with us. Read Psalm 23.

Read it again.

What stands out to you about God in this psalm?

Though David was in a “valley of shadow and death,” God still led him to moments of peace and rest. In many ways, this psalm is a prayer of thankfulness.

What moments of peace and rest has God given you in the last month?

In what ways is God showing you goodness and mercy right now?

Take some time to meditate and pray over this psalm. Rewrite Psalm 23 as a prayer in your own words. Even though you might feel like you are in darkness, forgotten, surrounded by death, God has not left you and is caring for you like a shepherd cares for his sheep.
