

PARENT GUIDE

JOURNEY

Lesson 4.3: Context

WITNESSES

▶ SCRIPTURE READING

1 Corinthians 9:19-23

SUMMARY:

Although God's intention for humanity is to be perfectly united in Christ, we maintain a wide variety of contexts and, therefore, an even wider diversity, making it all the more difficult sometimes to find the desire to share the gospel whenever we are presented with the opportunity. Once again Paul provides us with just the right example for how to carry out the mission in all contexts in this week's reading.

It would have been easy for Paul to consider himself somehow superior to others because of his knowledge, his status, and even his encounter with Jesus. Instead, he essentially puts himself in the shoes of the Corinthians. He remains a servant of others and displays a high degree of empathy for those he is ministering to.

This week's challenge is to follow the example of Paul as he follows the example of Christ. The challenge is to be empathetic towards others. Be humble. Seek out new contexts. Get beyond your comfort zone and seek out ways that you can be all things to all people so that through you, God may save some.

▶ DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Talk to me about the most interesting thing you learned from this week's lesson.
- How often do you seek to learn about others and experience new contexts?
- Is there somewhere you've always been interested in going but haven't?
- How can you follow Paul's example to be all things to all people and still maintain your identity and commitment to Christ?
- Tell me your next steps based on what you've learned. How can I help?

▶ CORE VERSE

1 Corinthians 9:22-23

▶ CORE CONCEPTS

Sharing the gospel requires seeking out new contexts and befriending people who need Christ.

Context: The interrelated setting, environment, language, and conditions in which something or someone exists