

VOYAGER

Experiences That Shape Our Faith

About the Series: Experiences are powerful and can shape our Christian faith. But experiences should not be what defines our faith. Rather, it should serve to strengthen our faith and affirm what we already know to be the facts of our faith as recorded in the Scriptures. In this sermon series, we explore the journeys of Apostle Paul and how encountering life-changing experiences can teach valuable life lessons to voyagers like us who are on a journey called life.

Part 3

The “Look at Me” Culture

Acts 14:1-28 | Dr. Stephen G. Tan

DISCUSS

What is narcissism? How is it seen in our behavior? How is it very different from what the bible teaches? Read Acts 14:1-28 and discuss the following biblical principles on how a follower of Jesus is to guard against the “look at me” culture.

Remove attention and glory from yourself and redirect it to God (v. 14-18)

- Examine yourself—do you often talk about God, or do you often talk about yourself, your accomplishments, and your hard work?
- How can you direct focus from yourself to God?

Accept the consequences of being unrecognized while knowing your life’s purpose(v. 19-20)

- Ask yourself: Would you be OK if the world does not take notice of you—what you eat, where you go, your photos, your followers, etc?

- Why does knowing our identity and our purpose in Christ matter so much in shifting away focus from us to God?

Focus on others by creating community, encouraging one another and fostering teamwork (v. 21-23)

- How does creating community and encouraging others shift the focus away from you to others?
- How do you focus on others in this “look at me” culture? What are you doing regularly for others that guards against this culture?

Acknowledge the enabling work of God in your life and declare it to everyone (v. 24-28)

- When was the last time that you declared to everyone how God has helped you? What was it about?

REFLECT

As you follow God this week, continue to focus on our identity and purpose in Christ—to give Him glory. Whether in work, interactions, and activities, be intentional in your efforts to point people not to yourself but to Christ so that they, too, can experience the enabling work and abundant grace of our Lord and Saviour. Additionally, be mindful of others and do something for them to encourage and nurture one another in our community.

PRAY

Our gracious and loving heavenly Father, thank You for the reminder to push the focus away from myself so that I can give you all the glory. Help me as I counter this look-at-me culture. Help me to always understand that all glory belongs solely to You. Remind me that my life’s purpose is to bring You all glory and honor. Strengthen me to do the work of the Great Commission knowing that my rewards are set in heaven. Empower me, O Lord, to give you all the praise and the glory so that people can focus on You and not on me. I ask for your blessings as I live according to your will. In Jesus’ name. Amen.