

IV. CHARACTER

DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR SESSION 4



“Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they descendants of Abraham? So am I. Are they ministers of Christ? I am talking like a madman—I am a better one: with far greater labors, far more imprisonments, with countless floggings, and often near death.”

2 Corinthians 1 (NRSV)

1. Review the “evidence” of Paul’s having been a Roman citizen. A resident of Tarsus?
2. According to Borg, what was Paul like?
3. How is Paul’s encounter with Lydia indicative of his relationships with potential converts?
4. How did Paul’s “charisma” likely benefit his mission?
5. In what time period and in what cultural environment did Paul live?
6. What are some of the genuine characteristics of the Pharisaic movement?
7. Where do you see this information influencing your spirituality? The church? The world?