

V. VOCATION

DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR SESSION 5



Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, to all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 1 (NRSV)

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1. What are the characteristics that distinguish an Ecstatic from a Mystic?
 2. How does Borg define "conversion?"
 3. Borg describes Paul's "Damascus Road Experience" as a mystical experience. Explain.
 4. How did Paul's mystical experience empower him to create community and resist empire?
 5. Compare the political and spiritual implications of Paul's "Damascus Road Experience."
 6. Explain how Paul promoted the death and resurrection of Jesus as both a "path of dying and rising" and a "parable of grace."
 7. Where do you see this information influencing your spirituality? The church? The world?