

# THE PORTRAIT OF A FATHER

Philippians 3:4-12  
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## INTRO:

1. The **crisis** of fatherhood
2. The **character** of fatherhood

## A. PAUL'S HUMAN CONFIDENCE

1. Paul's **claim** (v. 4)
2. Paul's **credentials**
  - Religious **piety** (v. 5a)
  - Genetic **lottery** (v. 5b)
  - Vocational **superiority** (v. 5-6)
  - Moral **ascendancy** (v. 6b)

## B. PAUL'S HUMBLE CONFIDENCE

1. Paul's **catharsis** (v. 7)
2. Paul's **confidence**
  - **Greatness** of knowing Christ (v. 8a)
  - **Gain** through the blessings of Christ. (v. 8b)
  - **Gospel** being found in Christ. (v. 9)
  - **Goals** shared through Christ's death and suffering (v. 10-12)

## CONCLUSION

## Table Talk

### Overview

In today's session we'll see the power of God radically transform a life. Saul, a devout Jew and student of the Scriptures, passionately opposed early Christians and their message that Jesus was the Messiah. However, Jesus had other plans for Saul. So Jesus appeared to Saul in a vision and declared Himself as Lord. From this moment forward, nothing about Saul's life would ever be the same. The ability of God to transform a life can still be evidenced in us when we surrender to His lordship.

1. Can you think of a time when God interrupted or challenged your plans? What happened?
  
2. As a kid, when you played a game where players chose teams, were you usually chosen first, in the middle, or last?
  
3. Read Acts 8:1–3
  - \* Have you ever experienced someone standing up for their faith under hostile circumstances? How did their courage impact you?
  
4. Read Acts 9:10–19
  - \* What can we learn from Ananias's example to welcome people with difficult histories into God's family?
  
5. Read Acts 9:20–22
  - \* What has been the greatest change in your life since you became a follower of Jesus?