

Being the Church: Our Story

1 Timothy 1

*If God can save Saul of Tarsus, He can save anyone.*

**I. Paul's story (v12-17)**

- A. Here's how you know me (v1)
- B. Here's who I was (v12-13a)
- C. Here's what happened to me (v13b-14)
- D. Here's the bottom line (v15, 16)
- E. Glory to God! (v17)

**II. "My" story**

**III. Our story**

**FOR FURTHER THOUGHT AND GROWTH GROUP STUDY:**

1. The church is full of messed-up people. It always has been. Why do you think this is the case?
2. How did you come to faith in Christ? Can you tell your story in 3 minutes or less? Who could you share your story with, that could help you finetune it?
3. What are some advantages of a testimony over other means of sharing the gospel?
4. What's Paul's point in calling himself the worst of sinners (v15, 16)? If you had known Paul before his conversion, what would you have concluded about his reachability (see v13)? Does that change your perspective on anyone you thought could never come to faith?
5. Reaching Saul of Tarsus was a strategic move on God's part. Who in our world would be similarly strategic? Can you commit to praying for that person?
6. When you look around at others in the church, does it help to keep in mind that we all were messes saved by the grace of God?
7. Why do you suppose the section ends with doxology (v17)?