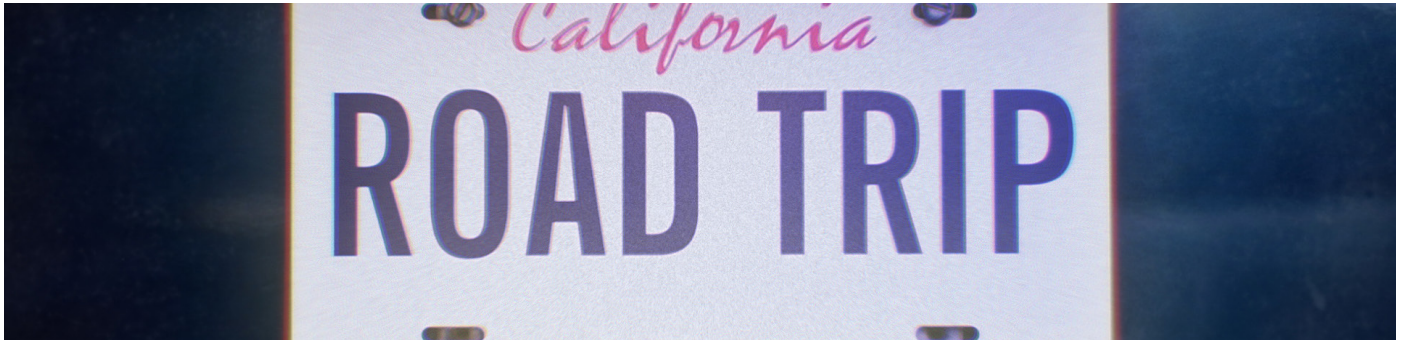


## ROAD TRIP

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### WE'RE TEACHING THIS

Road trips are awesome. Whether you're heading to the mountains with your family or driving to the beach with your friends, the idea of packing up, grabbing your favorite snacks, planning the perfect playlist, and hitting the road just sounds like an adventure. And it is! Maybe that's because new places are always exciting, or maybe it's just that, more than anywhere else, the unexpected seems to happen on the road. Flat tires. Detours. Surprisingly great lunch stops. Disappointingly awful gas stations. The unexpected is just part of the trip. Life works a lot like that, too. We

start with a plan in mind, but things happen along the way that change our plans, change our minds, or even change our relationships. That's when we have to decide to stick to the plan or change course. This was especially true for the apostle Paul. Long before GPS or interstates, Paul set out on a series of road trips, and just like us, he experienced some surprising, even life-changing moments on the road. As we take a look at some key turning points on Paul's road trips, we discover that maybe the best thing that can happen on our journey is a change of direction.

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### THINK ABOUT THIS

**Kara Powell**

"I just wish my parents would realize I'm not who I was in middle school. Their picture of me never changes—even though I've changed."

Without knowing it, this 17 year-old's complaint about her parents' inability to appreciate her growth triggered an internal alarm in me. Since our kids—now ages 16, 14, and 10—have been infants, my husband and I have seen their unique personalities emerge.

One of our kids almost never complains—even when they should exert themselves more. Another one...well, let's just say that no one has ever accused her of not complaining enough.

One of our kids has been an introvert since she was a toddler. She has two good friends and that's all she needs. Our other daughter is an off-the-chart extrovert. She loses count of her friends. Literally.

It's good that I know my kids' tendencies. It's bad when I become so fixated on those tendencies that I don't see how they are changing.

In this series, your students are going to realize change is possible. More than that, change is *inevitable* as we encounter Jesus. Our hero in these three lessons, the Apostle Paul, realized this firsthand. After Jesus got his attention, he changed from being one of the greatest persecutors

of Christians to being one of the greatest builders of the church. **Paul let Jesus change him.**

As your students similarly let Jesus change them, they might start acting a little differently.

All of a sudden, your son is a bit less selfish and empties the dishwasher *without being asked*. Or your step-daughter chooses *on her own* to put down her phone in the car so the two of you can talk.

We hope you know your kids and how God has uniquely molded them. But we also hope you know that **God's love and grace continues to shape them into new creations with new personalities, new victories, and new struggles.**

Parenting. It's never boring.

Get connected to a wider community of parents at [TheParentCue.org](http://TheParentCue.org).

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## TRY THIS

So how can we pay attention to—and support—the ways our kids are changing?

1. **Make a list of ways your son or daughter is different now than they were a year or two ago.** How do you feel about those changes? Which do you applaud? Which make you anxious?
2. **Talk to your child about (some or all of) your list, making sure you talk at least three times more about the changes you applaud than those that make you anxious.** And in fact, start with the good stuff. We are all more open to critique if we have first felt affirmed and understood.
3. **Ask your child two questions about what you've shared: What do you disagree with? And, what makes sense or feels right to you?**  
In my experience with my own two teenagers, they are far more likely to agree with certain observations I've made if they first have a chance to express what they disagree with.
4. **Share with your child an area of your life that you hope can change. Invite your child to do the same.**
5. **Pray that God will make that change a reality, just as He did so powerfully with Paul two thousand years ago.**