

SERMON NOTES

“What was Paul becoming in Arabia?” / Claude Cox August 23, 2020 –Westminster Church, Barrie – Live Stream

Kids’ Time resources:

Things we can learn together:

1. Wow! > how “wonderful” everything is around us: a feather
2. There are some basic limits for our safety (parents teach kids)
be very careful around bees, spiders; some plants

ebird.org —all things birds

inaturalist.org —find out about all kinds of things in nature, like bugs

Woolly bear caterpillar: www.farmersalmanac.com/wooly-bear-caterpillar-facts

identify dragonflies: www.migratorydragonflypartnership.org

— bird identification application

Bumblebee.org —learn to identify bumblebee species

“What was Paul becoming in Arabia?”

1. Paul’s personal story. (#1. *Map slide*)
How did Paul come to be in Arabia?
What does the word “Arabia” conjure up in our minds?
He was in the city of Damascus and went out from there. (#2. *Desert slide*. Oasis? desert town?)
2. What was Paul *doing* out there?
“Wilderness” as metaphor
Our wildernesses.
3. Seven months in a Malaysian airport (#3. airport photo)
Movie?
www.the.globeandmail.com/opinion/article-as-a-refuge
Quotation from the article, “The isolation I felt as a refugee ...”
#5 slide with quotation (next page)
4. No, the question is, “What are we becoming?”
Paul
God’s gracious moments in the story of his people (#5. people, representing the church)
 - a. Egypt: *instruction* (law)
 - b. Exile: *God went with them*: i. Gen–2 Kings; ii. a servant
 - c. Jesus: after trial, *waited up by angels*
 - d. Paul, after Arabia: his unique story, interpreter of the faith
5. Growing into where we will be and what we will be (#6. something growing?)
 - a. lost time or opportunity? — how to make lemonade from lemon
 - b. where is God’s gracious act among us?