# the New Testament. What object might he have chosen to describe himself *before* this turning point? Explain.

**» What object might Paul have chosen to describe himself *after* his conversion? Explain.**

***SAY:* Paul's life had spun out of control-he spent ali his time and energy doíng things that hurt God and people who loved God. Paul's turning point carne when God confronted him over his behavior­ told the truth about how he was hurting those around him-and made him powerless. No matter who we are or what we've done, we all have times when we need to hear the truth about ourselves-and the core of that truth is that God loves us just as we are, not**

**as the person we sometimes con others into thinking we are.**

**..n \VORSHIP**

bridge into your worship time, ask teenagers to get in a circle for a short prayer time. lf you have a large group, have them stay in their rows or sit at their tables. Invite tr1em to silently offer thanks to God for anything that comes to mind, including anything they experienced during Connect Time something as simple as

"God, thanks for helping me with school this week" or "God, thanks for giving me cool triends." lf you have a group with students who are comfortable praying out loud, encourage them to do so-this can help the other

students in the group to recognize that prayer need to be sometr1ing intimidating or complicated. this time of prayer after a minute or two.

Then lead kids in tr1ree familiar worship songs. lf

you have a youth band, invite the group to lead your teenagers in worship. Otherwise, play the songs from a CD and encourage kids to sing along or simply play the music as everyone sits and thinks about the words of the songs.

Then have everyone read aloud, together, this week's beatitude: *"Happy are those who know they are spiritually poor" (Matthew 5:3 GNT).*

**111 TEACHING.;**

**SUPPUES:** old bedsheet or large sheet of newsprint or butcher paper, a stack of newspapers (enough for each teenager to have a section), a small or medium­ sized backpack (depending on the size of your group), markers, and a Bible.

Put sorne srieets of newspapers on the floor, and then have kids spread out the bedsheet (or butcher paper) on trie floor on top trie newspapers; this will keep your carpet from any ink from this activity. Have the teenagers around it, and pile sorne markers where kids can reach them. lf you have a large group, you may

need to form severa! groups of teenagers doing this, with one adult leader for each group.