

THE BOOK OF

ACTS

GROUP DISCUSSION | Week 9: Saul Changes Teams

SERIES OVERVIEW

In this series, we examine the remarkable spread of the Gospel and the Kingdom of God from Jerusalem, to Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth...and how we fit into the story God is continuing to write through His Church.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE:

Think of this discussion guide as a springboard. Use what's helpful to your group!

CONNECTION

Monte titled this sermon, "Saul Changes Teams." Are you a fan of a certain sports team? If so, who is the biggest rival? Imagine waking up tomorrow and being the biggest fan of *that* team! Share what all would change for you? (If you're not a sports fan, consider a similar example: waking up with a completely different taste in music, etc.)

TRUTH

Read Acts 9:1-2. What do you think motivated Saul's mission to persecute the early Christians? What extremes was he willing to go? Why did it matter so much to him?

Continue reading vs 3-9. How did his encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus change his perspective? Why do you think God chose to speak to Saul in that way?

Finish up reading this section: vs 10-19. How do you think the other disciples reacted to Saul's conversion and decision to join them, considering his previous actions against them? What was the significance of Ananias's role in Saul's conversion, and what can we learn from his obedience to God's command to go to Saul?

Have someone read vs 19b-31. How did Saul's conversion impact the growth of Christianity in the early church, and what lessons can we apply to our evangelism efforts today?

What do you think motivated the believers in Damascus to take a risk and help Saul escape from those who were plotting to kill him?

Consider these 2 life-shifting components to Saul's story. How did Saul's blindness and subsequent healing reflect his spiritual journey and growth in faith? What was the significance of Saul's name change to Paul, and what does this reveal about his identity as an apostle?

APPLICATION

Henry Blackaby ([Hearing God's Voice](#)), writes, "When God speaks, neutrality is not an option. A response is unavoidable, and the condition of people's hearts is revealed in that response." Do you agree or disagree? Why?

Monte shared 3 Actions to Take When God Speaks:

- Listen for God
- Listen to God
- Obey God when He Speaks

Which of these is honestly most difficult for you? Why?

What do we learn about the role of community and mentorship in discipleship from Barnabas's decision to take Paul under his wing?

How did the early church's persecution and scattering after Stephen's death contribute to the spread of the gospel throughout the world, and how can we apply this lesson to our own trials and hardships?

What do we learn about the power of prayer and the role of the Holy Spirit in guiding our lives from Ananias's vision and Paul's subsequent baptism and commissioning?

PRAYER

Have someone cover the group in prayer for continued Gospel transformation in our lives.