



VIRAL

HOW THE GOSPEL SPREAD THEN AND NOW

Thursday, Nov 6
Sunday, Nov 9

MESSAGE NOTES

**Viral: How the Gospel Spread Then and Now.
GateWay Church of Visalia, Pastor Lance Ainsworth,
Acts 9:19-30
November 6th and 9th, 2025
Saul's Conversion.**

Introduction

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Acts 9:15 ESV

¹⁵ But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel.”

Acts 9:19-31 ESV

¹⁹ For some days he was with the disciples at Damascus. ²⁰ And immediately he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God." ²¹ And all who heard him were amazed and said, "Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem of those who called upon this name? And has he not come here for this purpose, to bring them bound before the chief priests?"

Four marks of conversion:

#1 A new Mission: "I have been chosen to carry Jesus' name."

²² But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Christ.²³ When many days had passed, the Jews plotted to kill him,²⁴ but their plot became known to Saul. They were watching the gates day and night in order to kill him,²⁵ but his disciples took him by night and let him down through an opening in the wall, lowering him in a basket.

Galatians 1:18 ESV

¹⁸ Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas and remained with him fifteen days.

*#2 A new Motivation: "I want to grow in my relational and intellectual knowledge of Jesus."
(Phil 3:7-11)*

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²⁶ And when he had come to Jerusalem, he attempted to join the disciples. And they were all afraid of him, for they did not believe that he was a disciple. ²⁷ But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles and declared to them how on the road he had seen the Lord, who spoke to him, and how at Damascus he had preached boldly in the name of Jesus.

#3 A new Companion: "I need encouragement."

²⁸ So he went in and out among them at Jerusalem, preaching boldly in the name of the Lord.²⁹ And he spoke and disputed against the Hellenists. But they were seeking to kill him.³⁰ And when the brothers learned this, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus.

#4 A new Mindset: "It's not about me."

How can we carry the name of Jesus to our community?

[illegible]

GROUP DISCUSSION

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Saul's Conversion.

Prayer Requests:

Group Discussion: What character in the Bible do you relate to the most?

Read Aloud: Acts 9:19-30

1. Acts 9:15 "But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel." Do you believe you have been called to carry Jesus' name? What does that look like for you? When you hear the word Christian what do you think of?

2. v.22 "But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Christ." Read Philippians 3:7-11. How do we grow in our relational and intellectual knowledge of Jesus? What areas have you grown in the last year in your knowledge of Jesus?

3. v.26-27 "²⁶ And when he had come to Jerusalem, he attempted to join the disciples. And they were all afraid of him, for they did not believe that he was a disciple. ²⁷ But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles and declared to them how on the road he had seen the Lord, who spoke to him, and how at Damascus he had preached boldly in the name of Jesus." Who is a Barnabas in your life? Who has God called you to be a Barnabas to?

4. After Saul's conversion, he spent 3 years in Damascus/Arabia, then 15 days in Jerusalem, and then 5-8 years in Tarsus before his missionary journeys. Why do you think we have little knowledge about these years of Saul's life? What do you think Saul spent his time doing in these years?