

**Key Scripture**

*“54 Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. 55 But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. 56 And he said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.” 57 But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. 58 Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. 59 And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” 60 And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” And when he had said this, he fell asleep. And Saul approved of his execution. And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. 2 Devout men buried Stephen and made great lamentation over him. 3 But Saul was ravaging the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison.” – Acts 7:54-8:3 (ESV)*

*“11 For I would have you know, brothers, that the gospel that was preached by me is not man's gospel.[a] 12 For I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ. 13 For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it. 14 And I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. 15 But when he who had set me apart before I was born,[b] and who called me by his grace, 16 was pleased to reveal his Son to[c] me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with anyone;” - Galatians 1:11-16 (ESV)*

Search for the “Renewal Church Denver” app or “St. John’s Denver” app in your app store.

More of God’s truth all week long at [renewaldenver.tv](http://renewaldenver.tv) and [sjdenver.tv](http://sjdenver.tv)

**Start Talking: Find a conversation starter for your group. (15 Min)**

- Do you believe people can change? Why?
- How have you changed in the last few years?

**Head: Start Thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking. (10 Min)**

- Read Acts 7:54 - 8:3 and 9:1-2; what sort of person was Saul?
- Read Acts 9:3-19. How was Saul affected, physically, emotionally, and spiritually, by this encounter?
- Read Acts 9:20-31. What do you make of Saul’s transformation as he works through spiritual infancy, childhood, and young adulthood?
- Read Galatians 1:11-16. What can we learn from how Paul describes his own conversion? What details does he consider important?

**Heart: Start Sharing. Choose a question to create openness. (10 Min)**

- What does Saul’s conversion tell us about God?
- Why would God choose Saul to be His “chosen instrument?”
- How long do you think it took Saul to get from Acts 9:20 to 9:31? Over three years. Why does discipleship take so much time?
- Many in our culture describe themselves as spiritual - but not practicing. Many are attenders, but not engaged. Could Saul have used that same strategy and still grown/matured in faith without the help of the church?

**Hands: Start Doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week. (10 Min)**

- Take an inventory: Are you a spiritual infant, child, young adult, or parent? Are you growing, or stalled out? What’s next?
- What can you learn from Paul about how to share your own faith story? Take some time to write down the key elements that you would share if/when given the opportunity.

**Start Praying. Be bold and pray with power. (15 Min)**

- Jesus you are the one who chose Saul, and me, by grace. Guide me to live immersed in Christian community, with the spiritual velocity to continue to mature/grow as your disciple. Give me the courage to continue the transformation journey of faith! Amen.

**Trios: Split into same-gender groups of three. (15 Min)**

1. What was a memorable passage from your Life Journal (or other Bible reading plan) reading this past week?
2. What’s something you’d like someone else to check in with you about this week?
3. How’s your weekly 3-2-1 challenge going? (3 Conversations with New People, Learn 2 Names, Make 1 Meaningful Connection)
4. Pray for one another.