

Message Series: Classics week 4  
Message Title: Saul to Paul  
Date: July 30 & 31, 2016

**Message Summary:** Paul experienced dramatic life changes as his story went from being one of the most feared enemies of Christianity, to one of its most prolific voices.

Leaders: The questions that follow are designed to stir reflection and discussion. Please read through them prior to your meeting, so you can be prepared to prayerfully pace your group well. Remember, as leader, your goal is to promote increased biblical awareness, as well as individual self-awareness – a combination that with the help of the Holy Spirit, results in revelation and transformation!

**Group Discussion:**

- As Pastor Ken recounted the life of Saul/Paul, what surprised you the most about his story?
- Pastor Ken talked a lot about change. How do you typically react to change? Do you thrive on it, or does it make you nervous?
- What is the biggest life change you've experienced recently? What do you remember most about that experience? How did you handle the change?
- Change is inevitable. In our jobs, families' relationships, church, and country, change swirls all around us. For many people change is far from welcome. The way that we respond to change shapes our lives going forward.

Read Galatians 1:11-17

- Why did Paul make a distinction between the gospel he preached and man's gospel? Describe these two gospels and their differences.
- What happened to Paul when he received Christ? How did his life change?

Paul made the distinction between the two gospels because there were teachers in Galatia accusing him of trying to please men. Paul was making it clear he only preached the gospel that he received directly from Jesus Christ. Paul transformed from a persecutor of the church to a missionary to the Gentiles. We see the transformation in Acts 9.

Read Acts 9:1-9

- What do Jesus' statements to Paul reveal about his close identification with His followers?
- Saul, a Pharisee, persecuted Christians because he thought they were a threat to Judaism. How have you seen sin distort and twist people's identities, including your own?
- Why did the Lord send Ananias to Saul to restore his sight? Why didn't the Lord restore Saul's sight without Ananias' involvement? What does this tell us about how God desires for spiritual growth to happen?
- How do you think Saul felt when confronted by Jesus? What might he have been thinking about during those three days of blindness and fasting?

Ananias followed directions and went to Saul. God could have healed Saul without the personal interaction with another believer, but God has never intended anyone to do the Christian life alone.

His encounter with Jesus resulted in a dramatic transformation in the life of this proud, Christian-hating Pharisee.

- Why do you think Jesus chose one of Christianity's worst enemies of the time to be a follower? Why is this good news for us? What does it tell us about God?

Paul tells the story of his conversion several times in the rest of the book of Acts. What is your story? How could you share it this week with someone who has not believed the gospel of Jesus Christ?