

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FROM JANUARY 28/29 SERMON

If you missed the sermon, check out biblechapel.org/sermons.

ICEBREAKER: What's the worst job you have ever had? What's the best job you have ever had? *(Courtesy of Mike Hershey. Thanks, Mike!)*

1. **Read Acts 8:3, 9:1-2, and 26:9-11.** Why was Saul so zealous to punish Christians?
2. **Read Acts 9:3-6.** What's significant about Jesus asking, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?"
3. We often call Saul's encounter with Jesus a "Damascus Road" experience. Your encounter with Jesus may not have been so dramatic but is it a miracle, nonetheless. Share how you met Jesus.
4. **Read Acts 9:26-30 and 11:25-26.** Barnabas was a great encourager. Who has been a "Barnabas" in your life? Who would consider you a "Barnabas" in their life?

BIBLE REFERENCES

Acts 8:30 ESV

³ But Saul was ravaging the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison.

Acts 9:1-2 ESV

The Conversion of Saul

9 But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ² and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

Acts 26:9-11 21:1 ESV

⁹ "I myself was convinced that I ought to do many things in opposing the name of Jesus of Nazareth. ¹⁰ And I did so in Jerusalem. I not only locked up many of the saints in prison after receiving authority from the chief priests, but when they were put to death I cast my vote against them. ¹¹ And I punished them often in all the synagogues and tried to make them blaspheme, and in raging fury against them I persecuted them even to foreign cities.

Acts 9:3-6 2:1-7 ESV

³ Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven shone around him. ⁴ And falling to the ground, he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" ⁵ And he said, "Who are you, Lord?" And he said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ⁶ But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do."

Acts 9:26-30 ESV

Saul in Jerusalem

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. 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.^[a] 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.

Acts 11:25-26 ESV

²⁵ So Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, ²⁶ and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the church and taught a great many people. And in Antioch the disciples were first called Christians.

Source: biblegateway.com