

Digging Deeper - Acts 9:20-31

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Day 1

Pray to God, confess your sins, and ask for His help. As you dig deeper into His word this week, consider using a journal to write down the ideas and questions He has for you as you study. Read Acts 9:20-31. Saul had a very dramatic change in his life. In fact, many didn't believe he was the same person. In your faith in Jesus, have you had anyone in your life that can't believe you are the same person?

Day 2

Pray to God about what he wants you to learn as you study in His word digging deeper into the verses from Sunday's message. Read Acts 9:20-31. Paul was a Jewish leader (rabbi/pastor) already an expert at teaching the word of God. In fact, he was one of the very best. New Christians (Jesus followers) will often take time to learn more about their bible before they start teaching others, in fact, Saul, who became Paul, took time to learn and study Jesus with the other disciples. But Saul (Paul) did not wait to witness to others about Jesus. He witnessed right away and frequently. Is there someone in your life right now who you feel the Holy Spirit is prompting you to witness for Jesus?

Day 3

Pray to God as you learn from His word today. Is there someone you need to reconnect with that you haven't spoken to in a long time? Send them a text, give them a call, and ask them how they are doing and what you can do for them. Read Acts 9:20-31. Saul's witnessing was powerful because he was such a strong bible scholar. But the main impact of his witness was his changed life; meaning, the way he lived, the new choices he made, the new ways he talked with people, showing compassion, empathy, and strong Fruit of the Spirit. While it is important to know what the Bible says, it is equally important to show others with your actions. Are there any areas of your life where your knowledge on Sunday might not align with your choices the rest of the week?

Day 4

Pray for others in your life. Ask God how is He nudging you to come alongside them with kindness, compassion, and joy. Read Acts 9:20-31. When Saul began witnessing for Jesus, the church was understandably afraid. Reputations are hard to change. Jesus' followers didn't trust Saul because he had such a violent reputation having persecuted/killed many Christians. It can be the same for us in our previous lives; people won't believe that we have changed after we start following Jesus. Saul had Barnabas, someone to come alongside and be a mentor and advocate acting as a bridge between his old (pre-Jesus) self and his new self. Do you have a Barnabas in your life? Pray and think about signing up for Discipleship with someone in the church. Do you feel the Holy Spirit tugging on your heart to "be a Barnabas" for someone else? Consider signing up to be a Disciple for someone else who may be seeking to be Discipled.

Day 5

Find a quiet place to settle your body, mind, and spirit. Pray for God's help during this digging deeper study time. Write down what the Holy Spirit brings to your heart and mind. Write everything down into your journal for reflection and study. Read Acts 9:20-31. Paul was not one of the original twelve disciples. He was constantly having to defend his faith in Jesus. Paul not only knew the Jewish Old Testament bible better than nearly anyone else, he was also Greek and could speak multiple languages enabling Paul to be a tremendous influence for Jesus, to a much broader set of people. What steps are you taking to improve your bible knowledge so you can defend your faith whenever needed, and share your faith when opportunities present themselves? What groups of people are you involved in where your faith in Jesus can be shown by the choices you make, the way you talk with people, and the way you lead your life for Jesus?