

## GOING DEEPER

May 2 & 3, 2020

**Title:** Never the Same – Paul’s Encounter

**Teacher:** Wayne Alguire

**Text:** Acts 9:1-9

**Supplementary Texts:** Acts 22:6-22, 26:12-18. Galatians 1:11-17. Philippians 3:1-11

### **Discussion Questions:**

This week, we meet the Apostle Paul, writer of 13 of the 27 books of the New Testament. Jesus encounters Saul, persecutor of the early believers in Jesus, on the road to Damascus and sets in motion Saul’s transformation from persecutor to Paul, the greatest evangelist of the faith.

### **LOOK AT THE WORD**

**Saul is charging forward with what he believes is right.**

**“Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord’s disciples.” (Acts 9:1)**

Saul had been absolutely right in his devotion to YHWH the one God and absolutely wrong on how God would act and who Jesus was. Refer back to Acts 8:3 and other passages you see Paul working. Why would he be attacking the early disciples? What made Jesus so controversial to the Jewish faith?

### **‘Who are you Lord?’**

With Saul’s question we get a sense that even though he was physically blind...he was beginning to see. Suddenly, things Saul knew from the ancient scriptures had been fulfilled in ways he had never imagined. What does it mean for Paul to identify Jesus as Lord? What does Paul proclaiming Jesus as Lord mean? Personally? And publicly?

### **LOOK INWARD**

#### **Word #1: STOP**

**“He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?” (Acts 9:4)**

*You are heading in the wrong direction.*

You may have good intentions. You may be living with great passion and resolve, but you may be heading in the wrong direction. What has guided you in your current direction? What is motivating you? What has informed your choice to go in this direction? Take a moment and confess where you have not had Godly passions, intentions and motivations.

#### **Word #2: BELIEVE**

**“Who are you, Lord?” Saul asked. “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,” he replied. (Acts 9:5)**

God has a much better plan for you and it’s found in Jesus. When a person acquires a new Jesus-centered autobiography, their lives become intertwined with the core story of the Christian faith. Take a moment to ask God how He wants to use your unique design to advance His kingdom. What is His vision and plan for you? What are God’s dreams for you?

### **LOOK OUTWARD**

**“Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.” (Acts 9:6)**

#### **Word #3: GO**

*Run the full distance of your God-given potential.* Leave your plan behind and embrace God’s plan for your life: an abundant, vibrant, flourishing life. God has good and bold works for you to do in His name and for His glory.

- Take a moment to listen to God: who is already in your life and needs to hear the Gospel proclaimed? See it lived out? Needs you to come alongside and support?
- What needs to change in HOW you go?

- The early church, and even Paul in this story, travelled together with a group, on mission. Who is going with you? Who do you need to go with you? Who has gifts, abilities and skills that will work with you?

Ask the Holy Spirit to help you to dedicate yourself completely to God's purposes.

*Your life is utterly unique, your influence critical, your relationships appointed. Go! Proclaim the great news: Jesus is alive.*

#### **NEVER STOP PRAYING**

- *Praise God for His faithfulness and presence during these times of uncertainty and*
- *Thank God for the way He is providing for you in these challenging circumstances*
- *Pray for people who want to get back to work*
- *Pray for the school district trying to get creative with High School graduation*
- *For the Gospel Mission and Metro Church as they look after the rising homeless population due to spring weather*
- *For Trinity Church staff as they navigate all this change*
- *Pray and intercede for frontline workers, health care and government leaders, and our province and others that are forming plans to reopen businesses and public spaces*

NOTE: In a season of physical distancing:

***If you know of someone needing Pastoral Care in this season, please call:***

- *Pastor Gord (who is caring for our seniors as well as those in hospital/care facilities) 250-801-0480*
- *Pastor Brad (who is caring for families and those not yet seniors) 250-469-0618*