

PAUL'S CONVERSION

Stories of the Bible

Teaching Outline

Main Idea: God invades the lives of His enemies and transforms them to be used for His glory.

An Enemy of Jesus (Acts 9:1-2)

- Paul's mission was to stamp out the Christian faith.
- We are naturally enemies of Christ. (Colossians 1:21, Romans 5:10)

Conquered by Jesus (Acts 9:3-9)

- Paul was stopped in his tracks by the glory of Jesus.
- In his grace, the authority of Jesus conquers our sinful hearts.

Transformed by Jesus (Acts 9:10-18)

- A chosen instrument
- A suffering servant
- A child of God
- A seeing disciple

Used by Jesus (9:19-25)

- Paul became an instrument to carry the name of Christ.
- We are saved to be used for the glory of Jesus.

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Discussion Guide

Main Idea: God invades the lives of His enemies and transforms them to be used for His glory.

Intro Question: Who is the least likely person you can imagine to follow Jesus?

Teaching Part 1

An Enemy of Jesus (Acts 9:1-2)

Read Romans 5:6-10. How does knowing about Paul's life before his conversion make this passage more meaningful?

- Paul knew very well what it meant to be an enemy of God. For Paul, the only explanation of his conversion was that God showed him love while he was still hostile toward Jesus. Even though our past might not be as obviously evil as Paul's, the Bible teaches us that before salvation we were all enemies of God, hostile to the gospel. We cannot fully appreciate our salvation until we understand the depth of our sin before Christ.

Conquered by Jesus (Acts 9:3-9)

How is the grace of Jesus shown in the force of His calling to Saul?

- Saul was entrenched in his opposition of the gospel. Only a powerful conquering force could have changed the position of his heart. In a moment, Jesus broke through the convictions that Paul held so tightly and tore him out of his sin. This was God's grace shown in power. The same grace is shown today when God powerfully calls sinners out of their hostility and into His love.

Teaching Part 2

Transformed by Jesus (Acts 9:10-18)

Read Titus 1:1-4. What kind of transformation do you see in Paul based on the introduction to this letter?

- Instead of persecuting the church of Jesus, Paul loves and cherishes the church. He gives his life for the benefit of other Christians like Titus. He defines himself by his relationship with Jesus and the mission that Christ has given him. Paul's encounter with Jesus changed everything.

Used by Jesus (9:19-25)

What are some ways you think Jesus may want to use you for His glory?

- Consider people He may want you to love, places He may want you to go, and things He may want you to do. You were created for the glory of God, and through the power of the Spirit you can live out your purpose. Don't settle for a life that is lived without eternal purpose. Strive for purposeful obedience to Christ.

Answer to Remember: Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us... Hebrews 12:1

An _____ of Jesus (Acts 9:1-2)

- Paul's _____ was to stamp out the Christian faith.
- We are _____ enemies of Christ.
(Colossians 1:21, Romans 5:10)

_____ by Jesus (Acts 9:3-9)

- Paul was _____ in his tracks by the glory of Jesus.
- In his grace, the _____ of Jesus conquers our sinful hearts.

_____ by Jesus (Acts 9:10-18)

- A chosen _____
- A _____ servant
- A _____ of God
- A _____ disciple

_____ by Jesus (9:19-25)

- Paul became an instrument to _____
the name of Christ.
- We are saved to be used for the
_____ of Jesus.

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Teaching Resources

[Desiring God Article - God's Sovereignty, Paul's Conversion - John Piper](#)

[Buck Run Adult Discipleship - Into All the World: Missions in the Book of Acts Week 3 - Dr. Hershael York](#)

[Buck Run Adult Discipleship - Spotlight on the Apostle Paul - Josh Benton](#)

[ESV Study Bible: Introduction to Acts](#)