

STAND-ALONE SERMONS: THE POWER OF ONE CHANGED LIFE

DISCUSSION GUIDE

SUMMARY:

In the New Testament book of Acts chapter 9, we learn about the salvation conversion of the Apostle Paul. This is a remarkable story. In part, because up to this point in his life, Saul (as he was formerly known) had been running from God and strongly opposing the Lord and the Christian faith. In this week's text, Paul comes face to face with the God of the universe—and the result is both amazingly historic and incredibly instructive for us still today.

Key Passages: Acts 9:1-7

Be sure to read this Scripture passage together before you proceed to the "Grow" section of our study.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

KNOW: Spend some time finding out how everyone's week has gone.

The questions in this section provide a guide for connectivity; feel free to approach this part of your group time organically over a meal or "connection" activity or with questions appropriate to your context.

What is something that you are thankful for this week?

What is something that is causing you stress or concern this week?

Who in your life is in need of prayer, physical help, or emotional encouragement right now?

GROW: Grow in the Lord as you engage His Word together.

In many ways, it seems Paul the Apostle would've been the last person who would ever turn to Christ and be saved. Yet, Christ relentlessly pursues each of us in the midst of our sinful lives. If you belong to the Lord Jesus, talk about the ways He pursued you in order to bring you to salvation.

Read the Gospel of John chapter 8 verse 12 and describe how the "light" of Jesus transforms a person from darkness.

In this week's sermon, Pastor Brett said that "Salvation is not simply a fire escape from hell; but it's the entryway into communion with and service for God." Have you been saved (born again by the spirit of God)? Discuss the specific implications/results that salvation in Jesus has made in your personal life.

GO: Talk through ways you can put what you've learned into practice.

Take some time to reflect on how and when the Lord called you to Himself. What were the circumstances and who were the people involved? How did you see the Lord move in you?

Is there someone in your sphere of interaction that seems really hardened toward the Gospel? Pray for a softening in this person's heart. Then pray for an opportunity to reach out to or serve that person in a meaningful way. Take the opportunity when it comes.

In what ways do we sometimes hold back from doing what God wants? Confess those to God and ask Him to help you to relinquish control.



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