

Closing Prayer

Close with prayer for the spiritual needs of your family, your spiritual family, and people everywhere.



Connection Group Study Guide

For the week of May 5 – May 11

Acts 9:1-20

He Lives! That We Might See His Light

Opening Prayer

Introduction

Share a story about a time when you couldn't see as well as you wanted to.

MY NEXT STEP THIS WEEK IS TO...

Memorize Revelation 5:12.

Pick one of the following to give extra stress to this week:

Connecting to God.

Connecting to People.

Connecting People to God.

Into the Bible

Read Acts 7:54 – 8:3

What seems to have been the trigger for Saul's persecution? Why do you think that might be?

Read Acts 9:1-19a

What background information do verses 1-2 give us?

In your own words, describe the encounter Saul had on the road.

What can we learn about Jesus from that encounter?

What does Saul's neither eating nor drinking indicate? How do you think this incident changed Saul's prayer life? What kinds of thoughts and feeling do you think Saul was experiencing during the three days mentioned in verse 9?

What plan did God have for Ananias? (c.f. Acts 22:6-16)

Read Acts 9:19b-25

What came next for Saul?

Connecting

Read 2 Corinthians 4:3-6

What can we learn about conversion by reflecting on Saul's experience and on his words in this passage?

Compare Saul and Ananias's callings from the Lord to your own. What similarities are there? What differences?

What two things does Christ share with Ananias to shift his perspective with regard to Saul? Have you ever known someone who you never thought would come to Christ but did?

This narrative is full of drama. One of the most dramatic points comes when Ananias actually lays hands on Saul and calls him "Brother Saul." With this act of physical touch and that word of familial acceptance Saul receives his sight back and receives a sense of belonging to a new family—he experiences physical restoration and a type of social or community restoration. Has God ever used someone in your life to bring you closer to Christ and make it clear that you were welcome in the body of Christ? Is there a "Saul" out there to whom you could be an "Ananias"?