

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, April 29, 2007

Passage: Acts 9:1-19

Memory Passage: 1 Timothy 1:15

TODAY: From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Acts 9:1-2.** How does Luke describe Saul's attitude toward Christians?
- (b) What else does Acts 26:9-11 tell us about the extent to which Saul went to persecute believers (Galatians 1:13)?
- (c) What did he try to force them to do? How did they react (1 Peter 4:12-14; 1 Peter 2:20-23)? How did this affect Saul?
- (d) What was the purpose of the letters (Acts 22:5; Acts 26:12)?
- (e) What does Saul call these early Christians (Acts 19:9; 19:23)? What do you think this meant (John 14:6; Matthew 7:13-14; Matthew 3:3)? What does this tell you about the nature of the Christian life (1 Thessalonians 1:6)?
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 9:1-2 and 1 Peter 2:20-23. Talk about what it means to be a follower of Jesus. What were these early Christians doing that offended Saul so much? How did these Christians respond to Saul's persecution? Are you following Jesus with all your heart, even though it might mean persecution for you? Pray that God will give you the boldness to stand for Jesus and follow Him no matter what the consequences.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Acts 9:3-4.** What miraculous encounter did Saul have on the road to Damascus? Is this a normal experience in conversion?
- (b) When did this take place (Acts 26:13; Acts 22:6)? Why is this significant?
- (c) Did everyone in the group hear and see the same thing (Acts 9:7; Acts 22:9)? What does this tell you about God's *special revelation* of Himself to Saul (Acts 28:17)?
- (d) What did Jesus say to Saul? What does this tell us about how the Lord views His church (1 Corinthians 12:27; Ephesians 4:12; Ephesians 5:23; Ephesians 5:30; Colossians 1:24)?
- (e) What happens when we do not treat others in the Body properly (1 Corinthians 11:17-34)?
- (f) *Family:* Acts 9:3-4 and 1 Corinthians 11:17-34. What is the church? Why do we call it the "Body of Christ?" Who was Saul persecuting when he persecuted the Christians? What does this tell you about how He views the church? How should this affect the way we relate to others in the Body of Christ? Pray for your church today. Thank God for those He has called out to be part of the Body of Christ.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Acts 9:5-9.** When does Saul first understand who the light has come from?
- (b) What does Jesus tell Saul has been hard for him (1 Samuel 13:21; Acts 26:14)? What does this expression mean?
- (c) What does this expression indicate about the conflict going on inside of Saul while he was persecuting the church (Acts 22:19; Acts 8:1; Acts 26:9-11)? What does this remind us about the testimony of believers under persecution?
- (d) What response does Saul make in Acts 9:6? What does this reveal about the state of his heart (Acts 2:37; Acts 16:30)?
- (e) Look at Acts 9:8. How *was* Saul coming to Damascus (Acts 26:12)? How was he going *now*? What was God doing to Saul? Is humility an essential element for coming to God (Luke 18:9-14)? How does the gospel *humble* us?
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 9:5-7 and Luke 18:9-14. Talk about humility. What is it and why is it essential in coming before God? Can anyone be saved and be proud? Explain.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Acts 9:10-16.** How did the Lord speak to Ananias? How did he know that this was really the Lord (consider how specific the instructions are)? What concern did Ananias have? Was it a realistic one?
- (b) What plans did God have for Saul? What does He tell Ananias that Saul is? Do you think this was surprising to Ananias?
- (c) When had God *chosen* Saul to be His messenger (Galatians 1:15-16)? When did He chose you (Ephesians 1:4)? Why did He chose you (Ephesians 2:10; Titus 2:14)?
- (d) What picture does the idea of Saul as a chosen "vessel" or "instrument" convey (Romans 9:20-24; 2 Corinthians 4:6-11; 2 Timothy 2:20-21)?
- (e) What did God say He would "show" Saul? Is this only for Saul or for all who follow Christ (Philippians 1:29; 2 Timothy 3:12)?
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 9:10-16 and 2 Timothy 2:20-21. Discuss elections: God's choosing some. When does this take place? How does it humble the believer and always remind us of the grace of God. What kind of vessel do you want to be? Pray that you will be a vessel of honor, useful to the master for every good work.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read Acts 9:17-19.** What did Ananias do for Saul? Who did he say sent him?
- (b) What happened immediately? What did Saul do immediately after receiving his sight? What did the Ethiopian eunuch desire after coming to Christ (Acts 8:36-37)?
- (c) What one thing was required before baptism? Did his baptism save him? Does Paul ever refer to baptism as “saving?” What *alone* saves us (Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:4-7)?
- (d) How is baptism a picture of salvation (Romans 6:3-4)?
- (e) What other evidence of salvation in Saul’s life is seen in Acts 9:19? What two things does he desire (not including food)?
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 9:17-19 and Romans 6:3-4. Talk about baptism. What does it do for the believer? Why is it necessary? How is it a “first testimony” of what Jesus has done for us? Pray for someone today who has not responded to the good news about salvation through Jesus Christ.

DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

Think back through what you have learned each day this week. Read Acts 9:1-10. What is conversion? How does it happen? What things are different in conversion? What aspects are the same (or similar)? Why is election important? Why does God call us to Himself? Is it just for our salvation? Pray for your services tomorrow, that God’s Word would be clear and that some might come to faith in Jesus.

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The Conversion of Saul

“...Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.”