



ACTS: LIVING ON MISSION

Acts 9:1-19a

Week of October 1, 2023

Start at 9:50-10:00

Belong: Use 5-10 minutes as an opportunity to get to know one another. The questions below are written for people to open-up and to know the group members.

Take a **few minutes** to hear about your group members' week.

- Which of the five senses would be the worst to lose (sight, hearing, smell, taste, or touch)? Why?

10:00-10:05

Believe: Use 5 minutes to read this week's assigned Scriptures then highlight each verse that helps you to understand the passage better. Include the book, chapter and verse(s).

In the last couple of weeks, we have seen the joy of the good news [the gospel] about Jesus given to the Samaritans and the Ethiopian eunuch. The seed of the gospel is being scattered AND its finding roots in fertile soil among half Jews and Gentiles. But this week, we're going to be read about one of the most shocking and unlikely conversions yet. Have someone in the group read **Acts 9:1-19a** aloud.

10:05-10:15

Build: Use about 10 minutes to engage the passage and wrestle with its meaning.

In this section, we are going to spend about 10 minutes building up to our understanding of Acts 9:1-19a.

Up to this point in Acts, what do we know about Saul?

- If you had to try and compare him to a historical figure, who do you think would best represent him?
- What does Saul want done to followers of Jesus? **[Look at verse Acts 9:1 - have someone look at the translation in the NET (Bible app) on their phones to help out.]**
- How does Saul see this fate being carried out? **[Acts 9:2]**

What phrase best describes Saul's approach to his plans in **Acts 9:2**?

- Impassioned and irrational?
- Calculated planner?
- Lone Wolf?
 - Do any of these match your answer/ or contradict your answer about a historical figure above?

What is the significance of Saul's conversion for the life and ministry of Saul? **[have someone look up and read Acts 26:12-23 & I Corinthians 15:5-8]**

Knowing Saul's reputation - how do you think Ananias felt?

10:15-10:35

Become: *Use about 20 minutes to apply what you have read. How can this help me? What would the application of this verse look like in my life? What is God saying to me?*

Have one person in your group **re-read Acts 9:1-19** aloud. Have everyone else should close their eyes, listen intently, and try to picture the scene in their minds.

- **What do you see? Hear? Smell? Taste? Feel?**

During Saul's three days of blindness, he also fasted [**verse 9**].

- What do you think happened during those three days in Saul's heart, mind, and soul?

Why do you think the Lord sent Ananias to Saul instead of speaking to him directly like he did in **verses 4-6**?

- What have you learned about the people [Philip in Acts 8 & Ananias in Acts 9] God sends to those He converts?

Are there people in the world that you feel are beyond saving? How does the story of Saul's conversion either encourage or challenge you?

Which character in this story do you most identify with: Saul, Ananias, Saul's traveling companions, Jesus?

- Explain.

In **Acts 5:1-11** we read about a different Ananias. Compare that Ananias to the one in **chapter 9**.

- How are these two men very different from each other?
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10:35/ - Class ends at 10:45

Begin: *Use the last 10 minutes for prayer. It's important that we not only hear and discuss God's Word but respond to it. (James 1:22)*

How should it change the way you pray, think, speak or act this week?

At the end of the conversation, spend some time praying as a group. Here are some prompts:

- Spend some group time-sharing requests and praying specifically for them.
 - Spend some time praying for FBC and that we would be encouraged and hopeful in how God is working in and through FBC Portland.
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Additional Resources:

Blue Letter Bible: [Acts 9](#): Check out the QR code to learn more.

Precept Austin: [Acts 9](#): Check out the QR code to learn more.

