

# ACTS

## LIVING ON MISSION

Acts 9:19b–31

October 15, 2023

### BELONG

Get to Know One Another

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

- How would you describe the most intimidating person you know?
- If you could have a surprise visit from someone, whom would you want to visit you?

### BELIEVE

Read this Week's Scripture

This week, we're going to go back and take a look at Saul again. In this set of verses, we are going to see that discipleship takes time – it's not a quick process. Really this is foreign to us in our society where we expect things to happen so quickly. In Pastor Jacob's message, we'll learn that Saul's discipleship took many years. And, that as he was being built-up [discipled] then the church was being built-up [strengthened in Christ]. This concept flows down to us – as we steadily grow and remain consistent in our discipleship – the church will naturally be built up as a result! [Have someone in your group read Acts 9:19b–31.](#)

### BUILD

Engage the Scripture

**Question 1:** In [Acts 9:19 & 22](#), we see the words “strengthened” and “strength.” BUT, they are used in two different ways. In **vs. 19**, the word implies a physical strength that was restored due to eating. In **vs. 22**, the word implies a spiritual strength that **was given** by the Holy Spirit.

- In this spiritual strength, Scripture states that the Jews were “amazed” and **“confounded.”**\*\*\* How do you think Saul goes about confounding the Jews by telling them that Jesus is the Messiah? [*Acts 9:22....HINT: Compare 6:9–10 and the methods used by Stephen in his speech.*]

**Question 2:** What ironic situation is described in [Acts 9:23–24](#)?

**Question 3:** Note the time reference in [Acts 9:23–24](#). [*“When many days had passed...”*] By comparing this passage with Paul's writings in [Galatians](#), we learn additional information about this time period.

- [Have someone in your group look up and read Galatians 1:13–18.](#)
- What did the group learn about the time period between Paul's conversion and his return to Jerusalem from Damascus?
- What was he doing during this time?

## BECOME

Apply the Scripture

In our current “church world,” we [the church] can become preoccupied with ways to increase attendance. We think through all kinds of ways and methods to “draw a crowd.” And, this becomes the expectation of churches...bigger-louder-more flashy-more entertaining...

- According to **Acts 9:31b**, what is the better “church growth strategy”?
- In this strategy, how do we “walk in the fear of the Lord and comfort of the Holy Spirit”?
  - Where does the spiritual growth come from? [**discipleship, faithfulness to Christ**]

What would you say is the difference between a church goer and a disciple of Jesus?

When you first became a Christian what sort of learning, teaching, mentoring or discipling did you receive, from FBC or “another church”?

As a “young believer” was there an emphasis on equipping you to live your life as a disciple of Jesus by applying God’s Word in your everyday life?

Is someone discipling you? OR, do you have someone you are accountable to and with whom you can talk about your faith honestly with? *Do you mentor anyone, formally or informally?*

What do you see as the weaknesses or challenges for disciples of Jesus in your generation?

Would you say that FBC Portland “intentionally” disciplines the members?

- How can discipleship be better developed at FBC?

## BEGIN

Response and Prayer

**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 how God is working in and through FBC Portland.

## 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.

