

Growth Group Questions – August 9th, 2020

Introduction Questions:

- How are you doing?
 - [This question will always be here – it’s optional, but may help bring the passage back to mind if you meet later in the week] - If you heard the sermon this week, was there any part of the message or scripture passage that was particularly important or meaningful to you? If so, what?

Read: Acts 9:1-31

Understanding Questions:

- Why was Saul on the road to Damascus? What happened to him while traveling and how is the experience described – what details are included?
- Where does Saul go after this experience and for how long?
- Who else does God call in Damascus and what does God tell him to do?
- What do the disciples in Jerusalem initially think of Saul and what convinces them to meet with him?
- Where do the disciples send Saul and why do they send him?

Application Questions:

- Have you ever felt called by God toward a particular task? What was it and what was that experience like? How do you live out your calling to follow Jesus in your home, school, workplace, and/or neighborhood?
- At this point in Acts, the identifier “Christian” has not yet been created. Instead, Christians are known as followers of “the Way.” What does this term mean to you? What does a life following “the Way” look like?
- Stephen was arrested and stoned in Jerusalem. But in Damascus, disciples help Saul escape those trying to kill him by lowering him down a wall in a basket. When do you think Christians should face danger head on and when should they instead practice self-preservation in order to continue God’s work in the future?

Additional Notes:

- Acts 9:1-2: Saul's proposed trip to Damascus, about sixty miles northeast of the Sea of Galilee, implies that both that Christianity and the persecution of Christianity has already spread here.
- Acts 9:2: The term, followers of the 'the Way,' used to identify Christians aligns to Jesus naming himself 'the way' (see John 14:6).
- Acts 9:27: While it is unclear how Barnabas knew of Saul's change of heart, here he lives up to his name, which means "son of encouragement."
- Caesarea, where the disciples send Saul, was a major Roman port. There is irony in the fact that it is safer for Saul to preach the gospel here than in Jerusalem.