

# The Book of Acts

## GROUP CURRICULUM

SERMON **SUPERNATURAL CONVERSION (ACTS 9:1-19)**

DATE **JANUARY 26, 2020**

<sup>1</sup> But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest <sup>2</sup> and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup> Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven shone around him. <sup>4</sup> And falling to the ground, he heard a voice saying to him, **“Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?”** <sup>5</sup> And he said, “Who are you, Lord?” And he said, **“I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.** <sup>6</sup> **But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.”** <sup>7</sup> The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one. <sup>8</sup> Saul rose from the ground, and although his eyes were opened, he saw nothing. So they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. <sup>9</sup> And for three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

<sup>10</sup> Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, **“Ananias.”** And he said, “Here I am, Lord.” <sup>11</sup> And the Lord said to him, **“Rise and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying,** <sup>12</sup> **and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.”** <sup>13</sup> But Ananias answered, “Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup> And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name.” <sup>15</sup> But the Lord said to him, **“Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel.** <sup>16</sup> **For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.”** <sup>17</sup> So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” <sup>18</sup> And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized; <sup>19</sup> and taking food, he was strengthened. For some days he was with the disciples at Damascus.

# The Book of Acts

## GROUP CURRICULUM

SERMON

**SUPERNATURAL CONVERSION (ACTS 9:1-19)**

DATE

**JANUARY 26, 2020**

1. What individual in your life seems at times to be impossibly far from Christ? Take a moment before this study begins to pray for him or her.
2. Circle in the passage any occurrences of the following words: "light," "sight," and "saw".
3. Read **Acts 8:3**, and **9:1-2**. What did Saul hope to achieve in Damascus? What did he achieve there?
4. Read **Acts 9:4-5**. What did Jesus liken persecuting Christians to? As Robbie spoke about these verses he highlighted the control of the Lord Jesus over even the darkest hearts. How does this verse specifically comfort you today?
5. How many days was Paul without sight? What do you think was going through his mind?
6. Read **John 16:1-3**. How was Saul an example of what Jesus described in these verses?
7. Is Paul's conversion normal, that is, in order for someone to be converted, do they need to be struck by divine lightening, fall to the ground, or hear God's voice in Aramaic? Do all conversions happen the same way? What elements of Paul's story do you see in your own?
8. Consider that you have a young believer in your life who says to you, "Doctrine, or the accuracy of what you believe, isn't as important as your sincerity?" How could you use the story of Saul here in Acts 9, to demonstrate the error of that statement.
9. As part of God's determined will, he chose to work through another ordinary man empowered with courage by the Holy Spirit. Consider **Acts 9:10-14** again. What do you think was going through Ananias' mind? How does the Lord encourage him?
10. Roads seem to be opportune moments for the Lord to meet with his people. Consider Acts 8 and the Ethiopian eunuch, Bartimeaus the blind man (**Mark 10:46-52**), Matthew the tax collector (**Matthew 9:9-13**), or even the disciples after his resurrection on the road to Emmaus (**Luke 24:13-35**). Can you think of a time when your path and plan in life was drastically altered by God as you were going "on the way" somewhere else?