

The Book of Acts

GROUP CURRICULUM

SERMON SUPERNATURAL HEALING (ACTS 9:32-35)

DATE FEBRUARY 2, 2020

³² Now as Peter went here and there among them all, he came down also to the saints who lived at Lydda. ³³ There he found a man named Aeneas, bedridden for eight years, who was paralyzed. ³⁴ And Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you; rise and make your bed." And immediately he rose. ³⁵ And all the residents of Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned to the Lord.

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1. Read Hebrews 12:1-2. What does the writer of Hebrews encourage us to do with our sin? Why is this so important?
2. List some ways that Christian believers allow sin to get in the way of pursuing Christ.
3. The events of Acts 9:32-35 show God's transcendence and immanence. Briefly describe the definitions of these two terms and how they are shown in this passage.
4. Pastor Karl described the "mats" of sin that we willingly cling to. In *The Pursuit of God*, A.W. Tozer writes about the "self-life, the hyphenated sins of the human spirit. They are not something we *do*, they are something we *are*." Use the table below to describe how destructive these are to the life of the Christian believer, and what our response should be when seeing these appear in our lives.

	What's destructive about this?	What should my response be?
Self-righteousness		
Self-pity		
Self-confidence		
Self-sufficiency		
Self-admiration		
Self-love		
5. Read Acts 9:36-42. How do you see the following three principles in this section of Scripture?
 - Know how desperate I am
 - Embrace Jesus' deliverance
 - Live with faith-filled dependence
6. Verse 34 speaks of Aeneas' "immediate" response to Jesus. Read Exodus 3:4, 1 Samuel 3:1-10 and Isaiah 6:8. What is the common theme? What are some examples in your life that compel the same immediacy of response? Think in terms of your spiritual life and also consider examples from your daily routine.
7. Read Matthew 9:1-8. There are four main character types in this passage, outlined below. How do you see these personalities manifested in your life?
 - a. The 'bringer of people to Jesus'
 - b. The desperate, in need of Jesus
 - c. The doubter
 - d. The observer
8. Review the hyphenated sins in question 3. What do you see as "mats" in your life that, if you're honest, it's time to lay aside? As you share these with your breakout group, read Hebrews 12:1-2 again. Do you think that sin is too big for God to overcome or deal with? Do you live as though it is in your words and deeds?