

Small Group Questions

Week of Sunday, February 25th, 2024

Launch

If you could witness a personal transformation in our nation like that of Saul (from persecutor to promoter of the faith), whose transformation would you be most inspired to see and why?

Text

Acts 9:1-19

Observe

1. Read Acts 8:1-3 and 9:1-2. What role was Paul playing in the early persecution of the church?
2. Read Acts 22:3 and 23:6. What other details do we know about Saul?
3. Read Ezekiel 1:26-28. How would this well known biblical vision connect the dots of who Jesus is for Paul?
4. Looking at the passage as a whole, what details stick out to you about Paul's interaction with Jesus or Ananias?

Discuss

5. Why did Jesus say that Saul was persecuting him? Why should this matter to believers? Especially those enduring persecution themselves?
6. Imagine if you were in Saul's shoes on the road to Damascus. What would be your understanding of God? How would you feel about this encounter with Jesus?
7. What do you think of Ananias' response to God? Would you have responded differently? Why or why not?

8. Read Ephesians 2:19. Why is it so significant that Ananias calls Paul “brother”? Why might someone who lacked the love or Spirit of God find it difficult to approach Paul the way Ananias did?

9. Based on what God said to Ananias, do you think Paul would be surprised by the suffering he would face? Read John 15:18. Should any Christian be surprised by suffering?

Respond

10. We all have people in our lives we find difficult to love or forgive. How might the account of Ananias's obedience to God's call inspire us to step out in faith, despite our fears or doubts, to minister to them?

11. Any comments or thoughts that have gone unspoken?