

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

Acts Series

These questions are for the **February 23, 2020** sermon, "Transformed by Grace." Please read the sermon passage (Acts 9:1-19a) together out loud.

Sermon Outline

AS WE CONSIDER HOW GOD TRANSFORMS LIVES, NOTE . . .

1. The sovereign grace provided by God (1-9)
 - a. Saul is spiritual and educated in religion, but he has rejected Jesus Christ. He is lost.
 - i. When we do things our way, we necessarily reject God's way.
 - ii. The early believers are called "the Way" 5 times in acts (cf. Isaiah 40:3)
 - b. No rebel, no matter how far or seemingly close, is beyond the reach of God's grace.
 - i. Jesus breaks in with visual (light) and verbal (voice).
 - ii. He produces interruptions which are opportunities and appointments.
 - c. Jesus personally feels every persecution against his people.
2. The strategic guidance directed by God (10-19a)
 - a. Saul, now blind, is housed by Judas, and waits for three days.
 - b. Ananias is given a bold assignment from the Lord: go restore the sight of Saul.
 - i. Though he has questions, Ananias is immediately available to the Lord.
 - ii. Though afraid, Ananias risks his life to disciple this new convert.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: Tell us about the gracious transformation that you have seen in the life of someone that at one time you thought could or would never come to faith in Jesus Christ.
2. Based on #1, above: Who in your life is the rebel that you are praying for? How are you persevering in prayer? Do you believe God can do this? What verse or promise fuels your prayer life? May we pray right now with you?
3. Based on #2, above: You probably identify with Ananias or Judas. Judas is asked to show hospitality to this man who radically and violently opposed "the Way" just days prior. He risked his life to show hospitality to Saul. And Ananias was asked to be an ambassador of grace and discipleship to this one who could have arrested him (or worse). Is there a situation you are dealing with right now calling you to risk comfort, safety or ease in order to get involved? To get your hands dirty? To be messy? How can we support you?
4. Based on #2, above: Ananias and Judas has to overcome temporal/physical fear in order to obey God. What are you afraid of? How might fear hold you back? Have you ever tried to convince yourself that your fear is actually wisdom? Ananias had a vision which directed him to Saul, but we are not told how Judas came to the place of risking everything to house Saul. How do we discern the call of boldness and obedience in the task of multiplying disciples?