

MAIN POINT

The gospel transforms us, renames us, and gives us a new purpose in life.

INTRODUCTION

What is the biggest life change you've experienced recently? What do you remember most about that experience?

What is one thing God has used in your life to make you the person you have become today?

The Book of Acts contains a number of stories about changed lives, and Saul's is one of the more dramatic. A man who had fought passionately to eradicate Christianity was transformed into one of its biggest advocates. The gospel transforms us, renames us, and gives us a new purpose in life.

DISCUSSION

> READ ACTS 9:1-19 AND 13:9.

What was Saul's overall attitude toward Christianity before his conversion? Read Acts 8:1-3 for additional insight.

How do you think Saul felt when confronted by Jesus? Given his previous activities, what might he have been thinking about during those three days of blindness and fasting (v. 9)?

What is most encouraging to you about Saul's conversion story? What did God reveal about Himself through this encounter with Saul?

Why do you think Jesus chose one of Christianity's worst enemies of the time to be a follower? Why is this good news for us? What does it tell us about God?

Why did the Lord send Ananias to Saul to restore his sight? What does this tell us about how God desires for spiritual growth to happen?

Who has most recently played the role of Ananias for you? Who has opened your eyes to God's work in your life? To whom does the Lord want you to play that part?

Why was Saul's name being changed to Paul significant?

How does following Jesus give us a new purpose in life? How did He do this specifically for Paul? How have you recognized your specific calling in life through following Jesus?

APPLICATION

How are you pursuing the specific things God has called you to in your life? How do you need to begin?