

Bible Study



Adult Bible Study: Saul's Conversion, Acceptance and Truth

Saul's Conversion, Acceptance and Truth: Acts 9

by Sandra Brese Rice

OPENING PRAYER:

Dear Father in Heaven, help us see Your truth today as we study Your Word. Help us come face to face with both Saul's and our own ability to love You and Your people. Amen.

GROUP OR SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION:

- Think about a time you were so angry you felt yourself losing control. What was happening around you? How did you handle your anger?
- Have you ever been angry at someone who was hurting someone you love?
- Have you ever felt yourself hate?
- These are very tough questions, but can you think of some scenarios where someone may hate someone else?
- Have you ever heard of someone acting out in hate?

Most of us have been angry and defensive when someone we love has been hurt. Some of us may even be called "Mama Bear" or "Papa Bear" when defending a child. The sinful acts of violence and hate are not part of God's plan; God's truth is love God, love others.

Read Acts 9:1-2

- The tone is set. How is Saul described?
- Not only did Saul hate, he acted upon this hate. Describe the great lengths he went to for justification of his hate.
- You don't have to say it out loud, but have you ever found yourself justifying hate?
- Have you seen evidence in the world today of groups justifying hating others? If so, where?
- How have you seen this hate played out?

FOCUS VERSE:

But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! I have chosen this man to work for me. He will announce My name to the Gentiles and to their kings. He will also announce My name to the people of Israel. I will show him how much he must suffer for Me."
-Acts 9:15-16 NIV



NOTES:

Read Acts 9:3-7

- Jesus shed some light on the situation. Have you ever been in a situation where the truth just hit you...one of those enlightened moments? If so, what happened?

Read Acts 9:8-9

- It seems as if there are several reasons why Saul was made blind. What do you think they are? Why would God want Saul to experience blindness?

Read Acts 9:10-16

- Due to Saul's reputation, Ananias is a bit apprehensive to go to him. What does God say to him in this vision?
- Have you ever felt called by God or chosen to do His work? If so, were you apprehensive?
- If you have felt called to follow God's plan, how did it work out?

Read Acts 9:17-19

- What do you think is the significance of the scales falling off Saul's eyes?
- What is the first thing Saul did once he could see?
- What kind of importance does this part of the story put on baptism?
- What does the Bible say happens when you are baptized?
- Are you baptized? If so, when were you baptized?
- Should anyone be excluded from the gift of baptism?

Read Acts 9:20-22

- What are some words you would use to describe what happened to Saul?
- Who was ultimately responsible for Saul's change of heart?
- Who was God's instrument, or helper, who guided Saul through the next steps on his new path?
- Have you ever considered yourself an instrument or helper of God?
- What are some ways in which God has used you to help others know Him?
- Have you ever reached out to those who may be marginalized with God's truth: the homeless, widows, single parents, refugees, the hungry, the lonely, people with disabilities?
- What does God say about reaching out to others in love?

Read Matthew 25:35-40

**Read Mark 12: 28-31**

When we reach out to others in love and we follow God's commands, we are His instruments, His helpers. We all belong to the Body of Christ. We all need to feel as if we belong, as if we are needed, as if we matter. It is then that God's Church can grow and His Heaven rejoices.

Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-14**CONSIDER CHASE'S STORY:**

 https://youtu.be/2JKU_ej-OSw

- Who was ultimately responsible for Chase overcoming his fears?
- Who were God's instruments, or helpers, who guided Chase through the steps on his new path?
- How can your congregation minister to and with people with disabilities?
- How can you make sure people with disabilities right in your own neighborhood have a chance to know God and His love?
- Can you make a difference by coming face to face with others, building relationships and changing hearts?
- Can you take that first step toward disability ministry?

**Learn More**

If you would like to learn more about building relationships and communicating with people with disabilities, visit the **Lutheran Hour Ministries** website for a free four session course.

lhm.org/learn

Resources:

If you would like resources for disability ministry, go to

BethesdaLC.org and cph.org/Bethesda.

NOTES:

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