



Sermon  
Discussion  
Guide

Sunday, November 10, 2024

# ACTS – The Church on Mission

## Change of Heart

### Read/Reflect

1. Read Acts 9:1-9. Recognizing that Saul was not a criminal, but an extremely faithful and well-respected religious leader (a leading Pharisee), what was his motivation to stamp out the Christians? Consider the Jewish perspective on God's mission in the world, and Jesus' perspective (Acts 1:8).
2. Read Acts 9:10-19. Reflect on what it was like for Ananias to accept the assignment that God gave him (9:11). What was it like for him to go from "this man and all the harm he has done" (vs.13) to "Brother Saul," (vs.17)?

### Explore

3. What makes an authentic conversion? Compare your answers to the conversions recorded in Acts 8-9 (Simon, the Ethiopian, Saul).
  - Demonstrated repentance,
  - Changed behaviour,
  - God's show of grace,
  - A dramatic turn in life,
  - The fruit of conversion,
  - Other: \_\_\_\_\_
4. In what ways do you feel God has pursued you, so that your life now is changed?
5. If conversion is God's act of calling you into his mission, with what has he commissioned you:
  - Like Peter, to correct an errant convert (Acts 8:20),
  - Like Simon, to humbly submit in repentance (Acts 8:22),
  - Like Philip, opening the Scripture to one seeking salvation (Acts 8:35),
  - Like the Ethiopian, rejoicing in the gospel's good news (Acts 8:39),
  - Like Saul/Paul, to be a missionary in whatever context you are (Acts 9:15),
  - Like Ananias, to restore and disciple a new (risky) convert (Acts 9:17).
6. Do you think conversion is a single episode or a continuous event in your life? Why?
7. What needs to change in your life to represent the conversion to Jesus you've experienced

### Pray

- Praise God that he is at work accomplishing his mission of gathering people to himself.
- Pray for strength and courage to address issues brought up in question 7; and for those you know who have yet to experience God's amazing grace.