

## BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, May 6, 2007

Passage: Acts 9:20-31

Memory Passage: 1 Corinthians 9:22

**TODAY:** *From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?*

### DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Acts 9:20-22.** What is one of the first things that Saul does after his conversion on the Damascus Road?
- (b) What was the focus of his preaching in these verses? What does this tell us about one of the priorities for believers?
- (c) *Where* does he first preach? What is so *amazing* about this? What is “*normal*” about this (Why is this to be expected)?
- (d) Read Luke 8:26-40. In what way is this conversion similar to Saul’s? What does Jesus tell the man to do (Luke 8:39)? What impact does this have in the surrounding communities?
- (e) Was this a unique experience after conversion (Mark 1:45; John 4:29, etc.)? What is the normal response of one who has come to Christ by His amazing grace?
- (f) *Family* Read Acts 9:20-22 and Luke 8:26-40. Talk together about conversion. How is it always a miracle? Compare Saul’s conversion with that of the man in Luke 8. How is salvation always a work of God? Have you ever received a really special gift? Did you have a desire to tell your friends about it? How is salvation the greatest gift anyone has ever received? Pray that you might be overwhelmed with the grace of God and have a desire to tell others about this indescribable gift.

### DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read 1 Corinthians 9:16-23.** How did Paul feel about his responsibility to share the gospel with others (verse 16)?
- (b) What was he confident that *he would receive* for sharing the gospel? How did this motivate him? What else motivated Paul to share the gospel (2 Corinthians 5:8)?
- (c) How did it affect the way he lived his life (1 Corinthians 9:19-22)? Explain what Paul meant by this and how it ought to affect the way we do evangelism today.
- (d) Read Acts 9:6, 9:15 and 26:19. What was Saul told that he would do for the Lord? When did he decide to begin to be “obedient to this heavenly vision?”
- (e) Is obedience part of evangelism? In what way?
- (f) *Family:* Read 1 Corinthians 9:19-23. Why did Paul preach the gospel? What motivated him? How did it affect the way he lived his life? What are some ways that you can adjust your life so that you can “by all means win some” to Christ? Pray specifically for someone that needs to know the Lord.

### DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Acts 9:20-22 again.** What were the two central parts of Paul’s message? Why are both crucial to the gospel itself?
- (b) What did Paul say about his preaching in 1 Corinthians 2:1-5? What was the one thing he wanted them to know more than anything? Why?
- (c) What does it mean for Jesus to be the “Christ?” Why is this also important (Luke 24:44-45; Acts 8:30-35; Acts 28:23)?
- (d) What does this show us about one effective means of evangelism?
- (e) **Read Acts 9:23-25.** Why were the Jews so upset (1 Thessalonians 2:15-16)? Can we also expect such a response to the gospel when we are faithful to share it (2 Timothy 3:12; John 15:19-21; Matthew 10:22-25)?
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 9:20-25 and Luke 24:44-45. Talk about the gospel. What is the message that we share with others? Why is it essential that people know who Jesus is? How can we use the Bible to show that Jesus is the Messiah? Should we expect that everyone will respond positively to this message? Pray for an opportunity to open the Bible and talk with someone about Jesus.

### DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Acts 9:26-30.** What additional frustration does Saul experience when he comes to Jerusalem? Which do you think was more heartbreaking for this new believer—Damascus or Jerusalem? Why?
- (b) What should be our response to those who come to faith in Christ (Luke 15:7; 15:10)? Are there risks involved? What can happen if we do not reach out immediately in love?
- (c) How did Barnabas intervene? What did he tell the apostles about Saul?
- (d) What marks of true faith do we see in Saul (Acts 9:26/1 John 2:19; Acts 9:27/Acts 26:18/Acts 4:20)? What effect did the preaching of Saul have on those in Jerusalem? Who in particular was upset by his preaching?
- (e) *Family:* Read Acts 9:26-30. What should you do when someone comes to your church? What happens when someone is not well received in the church? What are some practical actions that you can take to be more like Barnabas in reaching out to others? Talk about some of these as a family. What risks and costs would be involved if you did these things? Pray that you might encourage people to follow Christ by your love and hospitality.

**DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT****READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read Acts 9:31.** Make a list of the terms that describe the early church in the days after Saul's persecution.
- (b) How does the church have peace (Ephesians 4:1-3; Romans 14:9; 1 Corinthians 7:15)? What are some ways the church is edified or built up (Ephesians 4:12-16; Ephesians 4:29; Romans 12:10-15)?
- (c) What would describe the lifestyle of these believers (Acts 9:31; Ephesians 5:21; 2 Corinthians 7:1; Proverbs 14:21; Proverbs 8:31)? How do the fear of the Lord and the comfort of the Spirit go together?
- (d) What should characterize our church (John 13:34-35; Romans 12:13; 1 Peter 4:9)?
- (e) How did the early church respond to each other (Romans 16:16; 1 Corinthians 16:20; 2 Corinthians 13:12; 1 Thessalonians 5:26; 1 Peter 5:14)? Is this a cultural practice or a biblical one? What part of it is biblical? How can this be expressed in our church today?
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 9:31. What are some of the characteristics of a growing church? What do many churches focus on today? How are these inadequate ways for growth? Are you showing the kind of love that characterized the early church? Are you concerned about holiness as they were? Pray for your church that it might grow in God's way.

**DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT****READ THE PASSAGE**

*Think back through what you have learned each day this week.* Read Acts 9:20-31. What did Saul begin to do immediately after he was converted? Is this an essential part of following Christ (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8)? What was the content of his preaching? How can we be involved in evangelism just as Paul was after his conversion? What do you think was Paul's biggest disappointment after his conversion? Why should the church reach out to all that the Lord sends? Pray for church services tomorrow that the love of the Lord and the fellowship of the Spirit will be obvious to all who come.

**DATE:** May 6, 2007

**PASSAGE:** Acts 9:20-32

***The Preparation of Saul***  
*“Immediately he preached Christ...”*