

PAUL'S CONVERSION

Acts 9:1-19

INTRODUCTION

In Acts 9:1-19, we witness the dramatic conversion of Saul, a fervent persecutor of Christians, into Paul, one of the most influential apostles of the early church. This passage not only chronicles Saul's extraordinary encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus but also underscores themes of redemption, transformation, and divine calling.

LESSON AIMS:

- **Cognitive:** Recognize the events of Saul's conversion, calling, and filling of the Holy Spirit.
- **Affective:** Appreciate God's power to bring about the transformation of even the hardest of hearts.
- **Psychomotor:** Reflect upon and testify to others about the change God wrought in your own heart through conversion by the Spirit.

OBSERVATION *What does it SAY?*

Discover key details of the passage by reading Acts 9:1-19 and then answering the following questions:

1. Describe Saul's purpose for going to Damascus and what happened to him on the road (Acts 9:1-6):
2. Who was Ananias and what were his responses to what the Lord told him to do in vv. 11-12 (Acts 9:13-14, 17)?
3. How did the Lord characterize the purpose he had for Saul's life (Acts 9:15-16)?
4. What happened to Saul when Ananias laid his hands on him and prayed (Acts 9:18-19)?



Saul's Eyes are Opened: The Bible and Its Story: Acts—Epistles, Apostles to Revelation. Vol. 10. New York, NY: Francis R. Niglutsch, 1910.

INTERPRETATION *What does it MEAN?*

Use the Bible to interpret the Bible. Look up the cross references and use them to interpret the passage under study:

5. According to Acts 22:3-5 how does Paul describe his own attitude, motives, and actions prior to becoming a follower of Jesus? Why do you suppose God chose Paul to represent him as an apostle?

6. Read Acts 26:16-19, Galatians 1:15-16, and Romans 1:1-5, and describe the nature of the ministry the Lord assigned to Paul. What were the stated purposes and desired outcomes of Paul's ministry?

7. Paul's extraordinary conversion was followed by an equally extraordinary calling. This is one of only three instances in which God showed a vision to one person and then a related vision to another (the other two are Nebuchadnezzar and the Prophet Daniel in Dan. 2, and Peter and Cornelius in Acts 10). What reasons can you think of for God doing it this way?

8. Read each of the passages below and describe what they may contribute to our understanding about the restoration of Paul's physical sight in this passage:
 - a. John 9:39-41

 - b. 2 Corinthians 4:4-6

 - c. Ephesians 1:18

 - d. Isaiah 42:6-7

APPLICATION *Why does it MATTER?*

Now that you have discerned what the passage means, how does it apply to your life?

9. What were the circumstances around you coming to believe that Jesus is the Son of God who gives eternal life?
10. Paul was no doubt deeply affected by his encounter with Jesus. Though probably less dramatic, what was it that convinced you that Jesus was the Son of God?
11. What kind of difference or change did believing in Jesus bring to your life?
12. Who was the person or people in your life that God used to introduce you or guide you in your faith?

TAKE AWAY *How does this change me?*

13. What does this passage reveal about God?
14. What does this passage reveal about humanity?
15. What is the Holy Spirit revealing in this passage about your life?