

LifeGroup Meeting

It's A Brand New Year, Is It The Same Old You 1
"Transformation"

Get To Know You Question:

What biblical character do you relate to the most and why?

Let's Dig Deeper

1. Someone read **Acts 9:1-17**. Spend some time and share some key words that spoke out to you while reading. What is it about those words that spoke to you?
2. Paul goes from being a strong man persecuting the church, to a very weak man. How is his weakness manifested and how does God meet him in his weakness?
 - Why do you think Paul's conversion was so dramatic?
 - Compare **Acts 9:3-6** with Paul's fuller account in **Acts 26:12-18**. Describe Paul's conversion in your own words. What stands out to you about his experience?
 - Has God ever met you powerfully in a time of physical weakness or suffering? If so, how has he used that experience in your life to minister to others?
3. Jesus accuses Paul twice of persecuting him (9:4 and 9:5). Do you think Paul thought he was persecuting Jesus? Why or why not?
 - What efforts did Paul go to in order to persecute Christians (9:1-2). What explanation can you give for Paul's fanatic hatred toward Christians?
 - Do you think we, as Christians, have shown hatred towards people who believe differently than us? Is there ever a time for that?
4. What is the role of Ananias in this story?
 - Why was Ananias hesitant?
 - What two things does Christ share with Ananias to shift his perspective with regard to Paul? How did he minister to Paul?
 - Have you ever known someone who you thought would never come to Christ but did?
 - The Lord specifically prepared Ananias to care for Paul even though Ananias was hesitant. What does the Lord's use of Ananias suggest about how the Lord cares for his followers?

- What does it say about how Jesus might intentionally put his followers in uncomfortable situations to serve someone? Do you have a personal example of this?
5. The big idea of Acts 9 is this: No one is beyond the reach of the Holy Spirit's transforming power—no one!
- How have you seen this truth at work in your own life?
 - How have you seen this truth at work in others?
 - Considering Ananias' beautiful example in Acts 9, how might the Holy Spirit be leading you to take a step of trusting God and being obedient to him this week...even if it might put you in an uncomfortable position?
6. End in prayer.