

**HIS STORY**

**Saul Encountered Jesus**

Saul approached Damascus, planning on capturing and eliminating those who followed Jesus of Nazareth. On his way, he encountered a voice, an overwhelmingly bright light, and a question. The question confused Saul. He did not recognize the voice as Jesus, because he did not know Jesus. Jesus identified Himself as the One being persecuted, because Saul was persecuting His followers. What Saul was doing to the disciples, he was actually doing to Christ Himself. At that moment, humiliation and humility began to set in. The world as Saul knew it was about to change.

► **In what ways do you think Saul's thoughts about Jesus started to change in that moment? What about the way he thought about himself?**

**Ananias Obeyed God and Went to Saul**

Ananias obeyed and his heart was opened to a man who should have been his enemy, but became his brother. Saul's eyes were opened to the gospel of Jesus, he was filled with the Holy Spirit, and baptized as a sign of being a true disciple of Jesus. The former Christ-persecutor became a Christ-follower.

**Saul Proclaimed Jesus as Messiah**

The God who delights in doing the unexpected didn't stop with Saul's conversion. God transformed Saul through the power of the gospel and graciously called him to be the greatest missionary in history. God's conversion and calling of Saul reveals His heart as the God who sends.

► **When have you been tempted to view someone as too far beyond the reach of God's redemptive power? Why?**

► **How might the story of Saul's conversion change your perspective?**

**Essential Doctrines**

**Calling:** *The calling of God to salvation happens in two ways: externally through the proclamation of the gospel and internally through the Holy Spirit working in the heart of the person who hears. Both of these callings are essential, and both work together to bring someone to faith in Christ (2 Tim. 1:8-10).*

**YOUR STORY**

► **God used a unique collision with Saul to get his attention. In what ways do you see Jesus "colliding" with people today?**

► **Have you thought God called on you to do something that didn't make sense or that you didn't want to do? How did you respond?**

► **Ananias needed courage to obey Jesus and go to Saul. How can we have courage to obey God no matter what? Where do we get this courage and what is it based on?**

► **How does Saul's story of conversion deepen your own gratitude for God's grace and mercy?**

**Leader Note:** *Because some content from the Personal Study Guide will not be available on the One Sheet, make sure to adapt the session based on how you use the material with your group.*