

Acts 9:1-19

August 31, 2025



CONVERSATION STARTERS

- What are some highs or lows you experienced this past week?
- What Scripture has been shaping you recently?
- Where have you seen God moving in your life this week?
- What did you hear in today's sermon OR read in today's passage that you would like to discuss?
- What did you learn about yourself in today's sermon/passage?
- What did you learn about God in today's sermon/passage?
- What convicted you as you listened to today's sermon OR read in today's passage?

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

Flashlight Freeze Tag

Materials Needed:
2 Flashlights

Setup:

Before students arrive, hide a flashlight somewhere in the room (make sure it is working first!).

How to Play:

- Choose one student to be it. Give them a flashlight.
- Turn off most or all of the lights to create a dimly lit playing area.
- Give all other students 10 seconds to spread out and find hiding or strategic spots.
- Once play begins, the student who is it will search for and "tag" students with the light. If the light shines directly on a player's shirt, that player must freeze in place.
- Non-frozen players can "unfreeze" frozen teammates by tagging them.
- The game ends when either everyone is frozen, or the students find the hidden flashlight and shine it on the student who is it.

Teaching Moment:

Today we played a fun game of flashlight freeze tag where you had to freeze if you were tagged by the light. In our reading in Acts today, we are going to read about a time when Saul (also known as Paul) was blinded by God's light on the road to Damascus. Just like the flashlight stopped us in our tracks, this event stopped Saul in his tracks and changed the entire course of his life.

DISCUSSION

 ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ ACTS 9:1-19.

What stands out to you in these verses? What details do you notice?

What impressions do we get about Saul from these verses?

What was Saul's goal in the beginning of this passage? What do you think his motivation was?

What questions might Paul have been wrestling with through the three days he was without sight?

Why do you think God gave Saul three days of blindness before opening his eyes?

What do you think your reaction would be if you were Ananias in this situation?

What did the Lord say about Saul here?

GOING DEEPER

What does this passage teach us about God?

APPLICATION

Have you or anyone in your family ever experienced God working in your life in a powerful, undeniable way? What happened?

Why do you think God chooses to sometimes show up in our lives and work like this?

How does Saul's story give us hope?

PRAYER

Thank God for showing up in your life, even when you least expected it. Pray for the people in your life who seem like they will never turn toward Jesus and ask that God would work in their hearts.

LOOKING AHEAD

Encourage your group to look ahead as we continue the series on Acts next week.

September 7, 2025 --- Acts 9:20-31

COMMENTARY

Acts 9:1-19

Paul's conversion is related three times in Acts, here and in two speeches of Paul; before a Jewish crowd in the temple yard (22:3-21), and in his address to King Agrippa (26:2-23). There are minor differences between the three accounts, mainly due to the different audiences to whom they were addressed. The present account is the primary account. It falls into three divisions.

Verses 9:1-9 relate the vision of Christ which came to Paul the persecutor on the Damascus Road. It was an objective experience. Paul's companions saw a light and heard a noise but only Paul experienced the vision itself. In persecuting the church Paul was persecuting Christ Himself ("Why do you persecute me"). Paul now understood that Christ truly lived, that He was indeed the risen Messiah. In his letters Paul referred to his experience as an actual appearance of the risen Lord (e.g. 1 Cor. 15:8).

Verses 10-19a relate the interlocking visions of the blinded Paul and the Christian Ananias in Damascus. Ananias was understandably reluctant to approach this notorious persecutor, who had come to Damascus expressly to arrest Christians like himself. Ananias was instructed to come to Paul, restore his sight, baptize him, and reveal his commission to him. The commission is given in verses 15-16. Paul would now be a witness for Christ; the former persecutor of Christ would himself be persecuted for his own witness to Christ