

## **Tri-Village Sermon Discussion Questions**

Topic: Damascus and Jerusalem:
Starting a Journey of Faith
Text: Acts 9:19-31

Service Date: September 7, 2025

Note: The questions are only a starting point for discussion. Don't hesitate to modify, adapt, or highlight only specific ones to fit your group and/or personal study.

## **Getting Started**

- We can learn more about people by learning about their story. Have 2-3 people in your group share their spiritual background in less than two minutes (each) and how that spiritual walk has evolved over time. Were there specific people, events, or places that were instrumental in their journey?
- What are some "intersections" you've had with others that significantly shaped your journey of faith? Have there been any "accidental" connections that you now see as divine appointments?

## **Sermon Discussion**

- Take a moment to read Acts 9:19-31. What does it mean to "remember your Damascus"? If you're a Christian, was there a moment or season in your life that you would say most closely resembles Saul's encounter with Christ on the road to Damascus?
- What stands out to you about the immediate changes to Saul following his conversion? (He preached "at once" that Jesus was the Son of God. Why do you think he acted so boldly and so quickly?)
- Paul was excited to share his faith and story. Would someone say that you are excited about how God has changed your life, or would they say you simply go through the motions, never really living a great adventure of following Jesus fully? If you are finding yourself just going through the motions, when was the last time you were intentional about stepping out and doing something in faith (and not out of routine)?
- Saul's past reputation was a major obstacle. Have you ever experienced this in your own life or had an occasion where someone you knew became a

Christian and their reputation was an obstacle? How did that impact how others viewed their faith?

- How should the church respond when someone's past is messy?
- How do you personally define a "true conversion"? What are some signs that someone has genuinely come to faith in Christ?
- Barnabas became a mentor of Paul while he was in Jerusalem. What is importance of a mentor or "Barnabas" in the life of a Christian? Have you ever had a "Barnabas" in your journey, and what made them that way in your life?
- Have you ever felt like a new Christian who wasn't fully accepted or understood by others in the church? What made the difference in helping you feel welcomed and encouraged?
- How have the "maps" or "GPS systems" of your spiritual journey changed over time? What new spiritual tools or disciplines have guided you in recent years?
- Saul started his journey with intense enthusiasm but needed spiritual maturing. Have you ever had a time where your enthusiasm outpaced your spiritual maturity? How did God use that time in your life for growth or humility?
- Looking back, what were the "mountaintops" and "valleys" in your spiritual journey? How did you experience God differently in those high and low places?
- What encouragement or support do you need on your journey right now? How can the group come alongside you to be part of your journey?

## This Week's Action Response

• Imagine looking at your faith journey like a timeline or GPS trail—where are you now, and where do you sense God calling you next?

.