

BYF—June 7, 2026
Resurrection Appearance #9: Acts 9:1-31
Dr. Clay Brown, MDPC Adult Discipleship Pastor

1. Greet one another, begin with prayer, and read Acts 9:1-31 [5 minutes].
2. Review Acts 1:1-11 very briefly [5 minutes].
3. Discuss Saul's leadership in persecuting the church in Acts 9:1-2 [10 minutes].
 - Acts 9:1 picks up where Acts 8:1a leaves off
 - His actions are official, legal, and expansive beyond Jerusalem
 - Not limited to the leaders, but anyone who is part of the Christian community
 - ***Why does Christianity in general, and Jesus Christ in particular, appear to spark such animosity from many?***
 - ***Where are Christians being persecuted for their faith today? How can we support Christians undergoing persecution?***
4. Discuss Saul's dramatic conversation to Christ in Acts 9:3-18 (15 minutes).
 - A blinding light and a divine voice while traveling to Damascus
 - He encounters the risen Christ: prerequisite for being an apostle
 - Ananias of Damascus led by the Spirit to help prepare Saul for the next steps
 - Key verses: "he [Saul] is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles... I will show him how much he will suffer for the sake of my name"
 - ***Presbyterians often cite the conversion of Saul as evidence for the doctrine of election. Define election. What does this doctrine claim about God? About us? How and when have you seen evidence of God's election in your life?***
 - ***We often call dramatic conversions to Christ "Damascus Road experiences." Others profess Christ in a much less dramatic fashion. Does the initial experience of following Christ as Lord need to be dramatic? Why or why not?***
5. Discuss Saul's early witness in Acts 9:19-31 [10 minutes].
 - With the disciples in Damascus, proclaiming Jesus in the synagogues
 - Incredible transformation astonishes everyone, leading to a plot against his life
 - Barnabas courageously speaks up for Saul in Jerusalem
 - Boldness leads to more death threats and a move to Caesarea and Tarsus
 - ***What are the pros and cons of new Christians bearing witness to the gospel? How can we support and encourage them? How can we learn from them?***
 - ***Sometimes personal transformation occurs in a radical leap forward. Other times transformation occurs gradually over a long period of time. When have you experienced (or are experiencing) both types of transformation?***
6. Close with prayer.

Next week: BYF Summer Study—The Essential Tenets of ECO

June 14	“Our DNA”	<i>ECO: Reformed, Evangelical, Egalitarian</i>
June 21	“God Speaks”	<i>God’s Word: The Authority for Our Confession</i>
June 28	“God Is”	<i>Trinity: One of Two Central Christian Mysteries Part 1</i>
July 5	Stand-Alone Study	(4th of July weekend) TBD
July 12	“God Is”	<i>Trinity: One of Two Central Christian Mysteries Part 2</i>
July 19	“God Comes Near“	<i>Incarnation: One of Two Central Christian Mysteries Part 1</i>
July 26	“God Comes Near”	<i>Incarnation: One of Two Central Christian Mysteries Part 2</i>
August 2	“God Saves”	<i>God’s Grace in Christ</i>
August 9	“God Chooses/Sends	<i>Election for Salvation and Service</i>
August 16	“God Gathers”	<i>Covenant Life in the Church</i>
August 23	“God Entrusts”	<i>Faithful Stewardship of All of Life</i>
August 30	“God Forms”	<i>Living in Obedience to the Word of God</i>
September 6	Stand-Alone Study	(Labor Day weekend) TBD