



Leader's Guide

Confidence in the Wrong Direction

Acts 9:1-22 / Pastor Dave Bennett / June 7, 2026

Session Overview

This week, we start a new series - yoU-Turn. Our theme verse is Proverbs 16:9 which says, "In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps." Throughout the next month, we will be discussing how God changes the direction we're headed. This week, we talked about the story of Saul and how God stopped him in his tracks to change the direction he was headed. We will be reflecting on how we have also experienced the Lord's changes in our lives.

Session Flow (60-75 minutes)

Welcome and Icebreaker (10 minutes)

Have you ever been driving or walking in the wrong direction? How did you figure out you were going the wrong way? How did you feel?

Purpose: To warm the group up with a memory of when they had been wrong or even lost. We can compare this physical predicament with a time when we were going the wrong spiritual direction.

Scripture Reading

Read Acts 9:1-22 aloud together.

Leader Coaching Sidebar

- We will be discussing a fair amount of struggles that could be hard for someone to talk about. Create an environment that is welcoming to all, no matter what is going on in their lives at the moment.
- We want to keep an atmosphere of hope in these discussions. Make sure to keep the focus on what God is doing.
- As we go through conversation in your group, think of ways your group can work together, walk through hardship together, and collectively keep each other on the right path towards Christ.

Discussion (40-50 minutes)

- 1. Have you ever felt an interruption from the Lord? Explain the situation including what happened and how you felt.**

Leader Note: Let everyone know they can get a specific or general as they feel comfortable. These struggles can be hard to talk about especially if there is someone newer to the group.

- 2. God meets us where we're at to change our path. God wants to encounter with us no matter where we are in our journey. What does that mean to you?**

Leader Note: Think about how Saul was a persecutor of Christians and ultimately, Christ. Be sure to remind the group that we don't have to be perfect for God to work in us.

- 3. God intervenes in the lives of many of the people we meet in the Bible. Is there someone you relate to in terms of how God interrupts their path?**

Leader Note: The people in the Bible can give us hope and encouragement in how God used their experiences to change their course.

- 4. Have you had an experience where a hardship showed to be a redirection from the Lord? What was it?**

Leader Note: Remind others that their stories can impact others in ways they could never imagine. Through one's vulnerability, others can be encouraged.

- 5. Sometimes our destination is the same but our mission changes, like in Saul's story. Has this happened to you or someone you know?**

Leader Note: Encourage the group to reflect and share about a time when they had a goal in mind and instead of changing the course, God changed the way they approached it.

- 6. For the changes God has already made in us, have you had a the opportunity to share with someone else? What was the impact to both you and the other person?**

Leader Note: This question aims to show the impact stories can have on someone else and how our experiences are a part of the overall story of God.

- 7. The vulnerability about our past lives can heavily impact others. Who is someone you could share your story with?**

Leader Note: Have the group think and pray about this one for a second. God may be calling them to share their story with someone specific. If they feel comfortable, have them share.

- 8. "Practicing the Way" is how early Christianity was described. How have we as the Church or individually been religious, like the pharisees, instead of practicing the Way?**

Leader Note: The church can become legalistic and focus on the wrong things like the Pharisees. Think about practical ways we can change that.

- 9. At the beginning of the passage, Saul is consumed with his anger against the church. What is consuming us that is drawing us away from God?**

Leader Note: Think about some of the actions or emotions that might be holding us back that God is trying to reveal to us.

- 10. How can you individually keep yourself accountable to not turn back to how you were? How can we as a group help keep you accountable?**

Leader Note: Remind the group that repentance is all about completely turning away but it can be hard on our own. How can we help each other with staying on the right path to Jesus?

Application and Prayer (10-15 minutes)

God is constantly trying to interact with us and keep us on the path towards Him. As His children, God meets us where we are at and wants to draw us closer to Him by calling us to a different path or mission. Is there something God is calling you towards or away from? Are there ways you may be evading this calling into something deeper?

Closing Prayer Suggestion

God we thank you for bringing us together to be able to walk through life in community. As you call us towards you, whether that's changing our current path or re-purposing the path we are on to bring us closer to you, help our hearts be open to change. We ask for your guidance through the u-turns you call us to and to use us as vessels to help others see your work in us. Help us to keep each other accountable to repentance of our old ways and bless our group to help each other through our various struggles. In your name we pray, Amen.