

Looking for
helpful
resources as
you study
Acts?



Bible Project



Free Commentary



Free Crossway Study

LET'S CHECK IN:

1. Briefly share: over the last week, what's one way you've noticed God working in your life? Or in the lives of others? In your community? In the world? Or share something that happened in the last week you are grateful for!

LET'S GET STARTED:

2. Icebreaker: How would you describe the most intimidating person you have ever met? Or describe what characteristics would make a person fearful or intimidating?

LET'S DIVE IN!

3. First, read together Acts 9:1-31. Think back to the sermon. Was there an idea or aspect of the text spoke to you? Was there anything said that challenged, intrigued or confused you that you want to explore more? Listen to each other, but don't feel the need to answer a person's question.
4. In [Acts 9:1-9](#), Saul learns firsthand how closely Jesus identifies with his church, here described as "the Way." In persecuting those of the Way, Saul is persecuting Christ himself. In response to his question, "Who are you?" Saul would surely prefer any response to the one he receives: "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting." What do Jesus' words in [Acts 9:4](#) imply about his relationship with the church? Reread Gamaliel's words in [Acts 5:38-39](#). How is Saul fulfilling Gamaliel's prudent words? In opposing God's people, whom is Saul also opposing?
5. For more biographical information on Saul's conversion, see Romans 1:1-5; 1 Corinthians 15:8-10; Galatians 1:11-24; Philippians 3:1-11; 1 Timothy 1:12-17. What can you conclude about his zeal, beliefs, etc. before he met Jesus? When Saul was blinded by the magnificence of this appearance of Christ, his physical blindness forced him to see himself truly. We can only imagine what he

pondered! What do you think he finally recognized about himself? His beliefs? His own powerlessness? His own pride? His own misguided religious zeal?

6. Ananias, while a minor character in the overall drama of Acts, was highly instrumental in Paul's transformation. Why do you think God involved him in Saul's transformation process? Have you ever seen an instance when God orchestrates a person's path to cross paths with another who then eventually encountered God? Briefly share.
7. Barnabas first appeared in 4:32-37; re-read his past acts of generosity. Now, Barnabas is a bridge builder, who reconciles Saul with the Jerusalem believers. Why is this kind of bridge building/advocacy ministry vital for us to practice? How can it help people overcome barriers they may have? (Consider those who've wandered away from God). Do you know anyone like Barnabas who is an encourager/connector, and/or bridge builder?
8. Saul's encounter with Jesus was a big wakeup call. Has there been a time in your life where you've had a "fall-to-your-knees" wakeup call? Why is the power of God's transforming grace and kindness so compelling? (Read Romans 2:4; 2 Cor. 7:10). How does it motivate and invite us to seek change and growth? How does this grace give continual confidence and hope in the power and work of the gospel?

WHATS YOUR NEXT STEP?

9. In light of this study, share and write down one next action step you feel God is leading you to take in the next week?

(Consider areas: a temptation to avoid? Promise to claim? Example to follow? Command to obey? Person to move toward? A new discipline to develop that will help you love God with your heart, soul, mind, strength and to love others?)