

God's Chosen Instrument, Part 1
Acts 9:1-19

Getting Started

- ❖ Share your salvation stories with one another. When you think of your story, are there vivid emotions and events associated with it or is it a more settled memory?

Key Ideas for Discussion

1. (Takeaway Truth) True conversion stories glorify our Savior's sovereign grace and overwhelming love.

Digging Deeper

- ❖ Revisit the sermon text and the sermon and answer the following:
 - From this passage, Acts 7:53-8:3 and Acts 22:1-5, put together a description of Saul BEFORE salvation. Brainstorm as a group, making use of phrases, impressions from the passage and "word-pictures" that resonate with you about who Paul was.
 - From this passage and Acts 26, put together a description of Saul AFTER salvation. Brainstorm as a group, making use of phrases, impressions from the passage and "word-pictures" that resonate with you about who Paul was.

Apply It!

- ❖ How are you continuing to experience the grace of God in your life?
- ❖ In the sermon, Jerry highlighted four common elements to every salvation story regardless of the presence or lack of vivid emotions and events associated with each person's story. Which of the four common elements do you resonate with in your story and Why?
 - The Planting of Gospel Seeds
 - The Pursuit of our Loving Lord
 - The Predestinating Grace of our Sovereign God
 - The Promised Day of Response and Salvation

Think About It!

To sum up, the cause of Saul's conversion was grace, the sovereign grace of God. But sovereign grace is gradual grace and gentle grace. Gradually, and without violence, Jesus pricked Saul's mind and conscience with his goads. Then he revealed himself to him by the light and the voice, not in order to overwhelm him, but in such a way as to enable him to make a free response. Divine grace does not trample on human personality. Rather the reverse, for it enables human beings to be truly human. It is sin which imprisons; it is grace which liberates. The grace of God so frees us from the bondage of our pride, prejudice and self-centredness, as to enable us to repent and believe. One can but magnify the grace of God that he should have had mercy on such a rabid bigot as Saul of Tarsus, and indeed on such proud, rebellious and wayward creatures as ourselves. (John Stott)

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Note from Pastor Jerry: For this year's CG questions, group resources and Bible studies from John Stott (*Acts Seeing the Spirit at Work*), John MacArthur (*MacArthur Bible Studies: Acts*), Jack Hayford (*Kingdom Power*) and Max Lucado (*Life Lessons from the Book of Acts*) are used in addition to original material.

WORSHIP RESOURCE

February 13, 2022 | Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

WORSHIP SONGS

ALL CREATURES OF OUR GOD AND KING

Words by Francis of Assisi, 1225 / German Melody, 1623

All creatures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us sing, Alleluia, alleluia! Thou burning sun with golden beam, Thou silver moon with softer gleam,

O praise him, O praise him, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Thou rushing wind that art so strong, ye clouds that sail in heaven along, O praise him, alleluia! Thou rising morn in praise rejoice, Ye lights of evening find a voice.

Let all things their creator bless, and worship him in humbleness, O praise him, alleluia! Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son, And praise the Spirit, three in one.

GOD SO LOVED

Words and Music by Ed Cash, Franni Cash, Martin Cash, Scott Cash and Andrew Berghold, 2019

Come all you weary, come all you thirsty. Come to the well that never runs dry. Drink of the water, come and thirst no more. Come all you sinners, come find His mercy. Come to the table; He will satisfy. Taste of His goodness, find what you're looking for.

For God so loved the world that He gave us His one and only Son to save us. Whoever believes in Him will live forever. The power of hell forever defeated. Now it is well, I'm walking in freedom. For God so loved, God so loved the world.

Bring all your failures, bring your addictions. Come lay them down at the foot of the cross. Jesus is waiting there with open arms.

Praise God, praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him, praise Him for the wonders of His love.

O PRAISE THE NAME

Words and Music by Marty Sampson, Benjamin Hastings, and Dean Ussher, 2015

I cast my mind to Calvary where Jesus bled and died for me. I see His wounds, His hands, His feet. My Savior on that cursed tree.

His body bound and drenched in tears, they laid Him down in Joseph's tomb. The entrance sealed by heavy stone. Messiah still and all alone.

*O praise the Name of the Lord our God.
O praise His Name forevermore.
For endless days we will sing Your praise. Oh Lord, oh Lord our God.*

Then on the third at break of dawn, the Son of Heaven rose again.
O trampled death, where is your sting?
The angels roar for Christ the King.

He shall return in robes of white, the blazing sun shall pierce the night. I will rise among the saints; my gaze transfixed on Jesus' face.

10,000 REASONS (BLESS THE LORD)

Words and Music by Jonas Myrin and Matt Redman, 2011

*Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul; worship his holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul; I'll worship your holy name.*

The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning; it's time to sing your song again. Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me; let me be singing when the evening comes.

You're rich in love and you're slow to anger; Your name is great and your heart is kind. For all your goodness I will keep on singing, Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find.

And on that day when my strength is failing; the end draws near and my time has come. Still my soul will sing your praise unending, Ten thousand years and then forevermore.

DAILY READINGS | BOOK OF COMMON WORSHIP

SUNDAY | Ps. 81; Genesis 29:20-35; 1 Tim. 3:14-4:10; Mark 10:23-31
MONDAY | Ps. 97; Genesis 30:1-24; 1 John 1:1-10; John 9:1-17
TUESDAY | Ps. 86; Genesis 31:1-24; 1 John 2:1-11; John 9:18-41
WEDNESDAY | Ps. 15; Genesis 31:25-50; 1 John 2:12-17; John 10:1-18
THURSDAY | Ps. 36; Genesis 32:3-21; 1 John 2:18-29; John 10:19-30
FRIDAY | Ps. 139; Genesis 32:22-33:17; 1 John 3:1-10; John 10:31-42
SATURDAY | Ps. 56; Genesis 35:1-20; 1 John 3:11-18; John 11:1-16

PRAYER OF RENEWAL

Gracious Lord, we confess that we often rely on our own strength and resources, and turn away from you. In doing so our souls remain parched and unsatisfied. We long to be a people who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. We desire to be like trees planted by water, that do not fear when heat comes, and whose leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought they are not anxious, and they do not cease to bear fruit. Help us to be this kind of people; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



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