

God's Chosen Instrument, Part 2
Acts 9:10-31

Getting Started

- ❖ Would you say our church is a “welcoming” church? How about your group, is it welcoming? Why or Why not?

Key Ideas for Discussion

1. (Takeaway Truth) We all need a church of brothers and sisters to welcome, nurture, encourage, and protect us as we become the person God intends.

Digging Deeper

- ❖ Revisit the sermon text and the sermon and answer the following:
 - Besides Saul, there are several other characters explicitly or implicitly referred to in this narrative. List them out and discuss their role and impact in what the passage is teaching us.
 - Put yourself in the place of the Jewish Christians in Jerusalem. Is their initial response to Saul justified? Can you envision instances when a church should forbid entrance or fellowship to someone wanting to come and worship or participate in the ministries of the church? If so, how are those instances different than Saul and the Jerusalem church?
 - Did it surprise you to learn Saul was in the Damascus region for 3 years before returning to Jerusalem? Do you see the wisdom of God in this delay? Why?
 - How do you see this week’s Takeaway Truth illustrated in the passage we are studying?
 - Jerry mentioned that “systems failure” in a church can have unintended and harmful consequences to people that send an unwelcoming message to them. Is your group committed to supporting one another through large or tough life events (e.g., sickness, birth of a baby, moving, unemployment, spiritual battle, etc.) Rather than assume “yes” take a few minutes and review expectations and the way you will support one another.

Apply It!

- ❖ How do you see this week’s Takeaway Truth manifested and applied in our Church’s Mission, Values and Ministries?
- ❖ Our church has provided “Question Marks” for us to ask ourselves in order to self-assess our spiritual health. One of them is: “Where can I safely share anything without condemnation?” Are you hiding something significant in your life that is affecting you spiritually, emotionally, or physically? Or, are you an “open book with a Christian friend or two?

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Think About It!

... the story of Saul's conversion in Acts 9 begins with him leaving Jerusalem with an official mandate from the high priest to arrest fugitive Christians, and ends with him leaving Jerusalem as a persecuted Christian himself. Witness to Christ involves suffering for Christ. It is not an accident that the Greek word for witness (martyr) came to be associated with martyrdom. (John Stott)

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 20, 2022 | Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

WORSHIP SONGS

YOUR LOVE AWAKENS ME

Words and Music by Phil Wickham and Chris Quilala, 2016

There were walls between us, by the cross you came and broke them down, you broke them down. And there were chains around us
By your grace we are no longer bound, no longer bound.

You called me out of the grave, you called me into the light,
You called my name and then my heart came alive.

*Your love is greater, your love is stronger,
Your love awakens, awakens, awakens me.*

Feel the darkness shaking, all the dead are coming back to life,
I'm back to life. Hear the song awaken,
All creation singing we're alive, 'cause you're alive.

And what a love we've found, death can't hold us down
We shout it out, we're alive 'cause your alive.

WAY MAKER

Words and Music by Osinachi Kalu Okoro Egbu, 2016

You here, moving in our midst; I worship You, I worship You.
You are here, working in this place; I worship You, I worship You.

*You are Way Maker, Miracle Worker, Promise Keeper,
Light in the darkness, my God, that is who You are.
That is who you are; that is who You are.*

You are here, turning lives around; I worship You, I worship You.
You are here, healing every heart; I worship You, I worship You.

Even when I don't see it, You're working. Even when I don't feel it,
You're working. You never stop, You never stop working;
You never stop, Jesus.

JESUS YOU ALONE

**Words and Music by Jesse Reeves, John Larson,
and Nicole McLean, 2018**

Who is the great King of glory, seated on high in the heavens?
Oh, Jesus, You alone. You are the Lord God Almighty,
strong in compassion and mercy. Oh, Jesus You alone.

I've searched the world for a love that could fill my heart.
Nothing compares to the wonder of who You are.

*Holy, all the earth singing, holy.
All the angels cry, holy. Jesus, You alone. Jesus, You alone.*

You set the stars in the heavens. You set the world into motion.
Oh, Jesus, You alone. You breathed Your life in creation.
You walked among Your creation. Oh, Jesus, You alone.

*Holy, all the earth singing, holy. All the angels cry, holy. Jesus, You alone. Jesus, You alone. Worthy, all creation sing, worthy.
All the heavens exalt Thee. Jesus, You alone. Jesus, You alone.*

You shed Your blood for salvation. You broke the curse for our freedom. Oh, Jesus, You alone. You rose from death with the morning. You'll come again in Your glory. Oh, Jesus, You alone.

KING OF KINGS

**Words and Music by Brooke Ligertwood, Scott Ligertwood,
and Jason Ingram, 2019**

In the darkness we were waiting, without hope, without light,
till from heaven You came running. There was mercy in Your eyes.
To fulfill the law and prophets, to a virgin came the Word
from a throne of endless of glory to a cradle in the dirt.

*Praise the Father, praise the Son, praise the Spirit, three in one.
God of glory, majesty, praise forever to the King of kings.*

To reveal the kingdom coming and to reconcile the lost,
to redeem the whole creation You did not despise the cross.
For even in Your suffering, You saw to the other side. Knowing this
was our salvation, Jesus, for our sake You died.

And the morning that You rose all of heaven held its breath
till that stone was moved for good, for the Lam had conquered death.
And the dead rose from their tombs, and the angel stood in awe, for
the souls of all who'd come to the Father are restored.

And the Church of Christ was born, then the Spirit lit the flame.
Now this Gospel truth of old shall not kneel, shall not faint. By His
blood and in His Name, in His freedom I am free, for the love of
Jesus Christ, Who has resurrected me.

DAILY READINGS | BOOK OF COMMON WORSHIP

SUNDAY | Ps. 67; Proverbs 1:20-33; 2 Cor. 5:11-21; Mark 10:35-45

MONDAY | Ps. 57; Proverbs 3:11-20; 1 John 3:18-4:6; John 11:17-29

TUESDAY | Ps. 54; Proverbs 4:1-27; 1 John 4:7-21; John 11:30-44

WEDNESDAY | Ps. 65; Proverbs 6:1-19; 1 John 5:1-12; John 11:45-54

THURSDAY | Ps. 81; Proverbs 7:1-27; 1 John 5:13-21; John 11:55-12:8

FRIDAY | Ps. 88; Proverbs 8:1-21; Philemon 1-25; John 12:9-19

SATURDAY | Ps. 63; Proverbs 8:22-36; 2 Tim. 1:1-14; John 12:20-26



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