

## ***STUDYING THE BOOK OF ACTS*** ***IN SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS***

### **Lesson 22 – Saul's Conversion - [Acts 9:1-19](#)**

Read the following verses in the Last Days Bible or a translation of your choice. Then discuss the questions that follow. Questions should be studied by each individual before your discussion group meets.

Materials may be copied and used for Bible study purposes. Not to be sold.

#### ***Saul Is Converted!***

**9** Now concerning Saul, he was still breathing out threats of murder against the followers of the Lord.

<sup>2</sup> Going to the High Priest, he asked him for letters of introduction to the presidents of the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were followers of the Way of Jesus there, either men or women, he might be allowed to bring them in chains to Jerusalem.

<sup>3</sup> He was on his way there and approaching Damascus when suddenly a most brilliant bolt of light from the sky enveloped him in a blaze!

<sup>4</sup> He was so overpowered by it that he fell to the ground! Then he heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are persecuting Me?”

<sup>5</sup> “Who are you, Lord?” Saul asked.

“I am Jesus whom you are persecuting,” the Lord replied. “It’s grievous and painful for you to continually kick against the prods\*.”

**Acts 9:5** - “Continually kick against the prods\*.” Actually, a goad, a stick with a pointed end for driving cattle.

<sup>6</sup> Saul was astonished! Trembling, he asked, “Lord, what do You want me to do?”

“Get up now,” the Lord replied, “and go into the city. There you will be told what you must do.”

<sup>7</sup> The men traveling with Saul just stood there, speechless. They heard a voice, but they couldn’t see anyone.

<sup>8</sup> So Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes, he couldn’t see a thing. So the men with him had to take him by the hand and lead him into Damascus.

<sup>9</sup> For three days he couldn’t see, and during that time he didn’t eat or drink anything.

<sup>10</sup> Now in Damascus there was a follower of Jesus by the name of Ananias. The Lord spoke to him in a vision, saying, “Ananias.”

“Yes, Lord,” he answered, “I am here.”

11“Get up and go to the home of Judas on Straight Street, and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul,” the Lord said. “You’ll find him praying there.

12“In a vision he has seen a man by the name of Ananias coming in and placing his hand on him, so that he might see again.”

13“But Lord!” Ananias exclaimed, “many people have told me about this man, about all the harm he’s done to the people who are devoted to You in Jerusalem!

14“And here he has authority from the chief priests to arrest everyone who calls on Your name!”

15But the Lord told him, “Go! Because I have chosen this man to carry My name before the Gentiles, their kings, and the people of Israel.

16“Now I will show him how much he must suffer because of the stand he will take for Me.”

17So Ananias went, and after entering the home of Judas, he placed his hands on Saul and said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were on your way here, has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.”

18Instantly, something like thin scales fell from Saul’s eyes. And immediately he was able to see again. Then he got up and was baptized.

19And when he had eaten, he regained his strength. He then spent several days with the Lord’s followers in Damascus.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### Lesson 22 – Saul's Conversion - [Acts 9:1-19](#)

282. What was Saul doing against the Lord’s disciples? ([9:1-2](#))

283. What was "the Way"? ([9:2](#))

284. What happened to Saul as he approached Damascus? ([9:3-6](#))

285. Whom did Saul meet? ([9:3-6](#))

286. In persecuting the church, whom was Saul really attacking? ([9:5](#))

287. What did the resurrected Lord Jesus order Saul to do? ([9:6](#))

288. What did Saul’s traveling companions experience when Saul met the risen Christ? ([9:7](#))

289. How did Saul get to Damascus after his meeting with the Lord?

[\(9:8\)](#)

290. Who was Ananias? [\(9:10\)](#)

291. What did the Lord instruct Ananias to do? [\(9:10-12\)](#)

292. Why was Ananias reluctant to do as the Lord asked? [\(9:13-14\)](#)

293. How did God persuade Ananias that it was all right to go to Saul? [\(9:15-16\)](#)

294. To what service had Saul been called? [\(9:15-16\)](#)

295. How did Ananias do the Lord's bidding? (9-17)

296. What did Saul do when his vision returned? [\(9:18-19\)](#)

### **Lesson 23 - Saul in Damascus and Jerusalem - [Acts 9:20-31](#)**

#### ***Saul Preaches in Damascus***

<sup>20</sup>Immediately he went to the synagogues and began preaching about Jesus, stating that He is indeed the Son of God.

<sup>21</sup>This amazed all who heard him, and they said, "Isn't this the man who destroyed the followers of Jesus in Jerusalem? And didn't he come down here for the very purpose of putting all such people in chains and bringing them to the chief priests?"

<sup>22</sup>But Saul's preaching became more and more powerful. He totally overwhelmed and silenced the Jews living in Damascus by his convincing proofs that Jesus was indeed the Messiah.

<sup>23</sup>After many days of this, the Jews made plans to kill him.

<sup>24</sup>Saul found out about their plot, but he couldn't leave because his enemies kept close watch at the gates of the city both day and night, looking for a chance to kill him.

<sup>25</sup>But one night the Lord's followers took him to an opening in the wall and lowered him down in a basket.\*

**Acts 9:25 – According to Paul's own account in Galatians 1:11-24, it was at least three years after this event before Paul went back to Jerusalem. He went from Damascus to Arabia (evidently to be alone with the Lord, and confer with Him). He returned to Damascus, and then went to Jerusalem.**

### ***Saul in Jerusalem***

26 When he arrived in Jerusalem, he tried to join in fellowship with the followers there, but they were all afraid of him. They didn't believe he was a true follower.

27 But then Barnabas came to his aid and brought him to the apostles. He told them how Saul had seen the Lord on his way to Damascus, and that Jesus had spoken to him. He also told how courageously he had preached about Jesus in Damascus.

28 On hearing this, they accepted him. He was then constantly with them, coming or going while in Jerusalem,

29 speaking out boldly in support of the Lord Jesus. He also talked and debated with the Greek-speaking Jews, but they made plans to kill him.

30 When the followers discovered this, they brought him to Caesarea, and then sent him off to Tarsus.

31 Finally the churches throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace. As they were encouraged and built up by the Holy Spirit, and as they lived in reverence and awe of the Lord,\* they continued to grow in numbers.

**Acts 9:31** – “They lived in reverence and awe of the Lord.” *i.e. walking in the fear of the Lord.*

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

#### **Lesson 23 - Saul in Damascus and Jerusalem - [Acts 9:20-31](#)**

297. After spending some days with the Christians in Damascus, what did Saul do? ([9:20-21](#))
298. What was the focus of Saul's message? ([9:20](#))
299. How did people react to their former enemy? ([9:21](#))
300. Why were the Jews living in Damascus baffled by Saul? ([9:22](#))
301. What did the Jews plan for Saul? Why? ([9:23](#))
302. How did Saul outwit his enemies? ([9:24-25](#))
303. Who mistrusted Saul in Jerusalem? ([9:26](#))
304. Who welcomed Saul in Jerusalem? ([9:27](#))
305. How did Barnabas help the apostles accept Saul? ([9:27](#))
306. What did Saul do while he was with the apostles? ([9:28-29](#))

307. How did Saul follow in Stephen's footsteps? ([9:29](#))

308. As a result of the threat on his life, where was Saul taken by his friends? ([9:30](#))

309. What was the state of the young church at this time? ([9:31](#))

### **Lesson 24 - Aeneas and Dorcas - [Acts 9:32-43](#)**

#### ***Peter Heals Aeneas***

<sup>32</sup>During this time, Peter travelled everywhere. On one trip, he went to visit the Lord's followers living in Lydda.

<sup>33</sup>There he met a paralyzed man named Aeneas, who hadn't been able to get out of bed for eight long years.

<sup>34</sup>"Aeneas," Peter declared to him, "Jesus the Messiah now heals you. Get up and make your bed." And he promptly got up.

<sup>35</sup>Everyone living in Lydda and Sharon turned to the Lord when they saw this man walking around, healed.

#### ***Dorcas Restored to Life!***

<sup>36</sup>Now in Joppa there was a follower named Tabitha. (Her name in Greek was Dorcas, meaning a deer.) She was always helping the poor and doing other good deeds.

<sup>37</sup>But she had become sick, and died. So they washed her body and laid it in a room upstairs.

<sup>38</sup>Since Lydda was near Joppa, the followers had heard that Peter was there. So they sent two men to beg him to come to them immediately.

<sup>39</sup>Peter got right up and went with them. And as soon as he arrived, they brought him to the upstairs room. All the widows stood around him weeping, and showing him the shirts and other clothing that Dorcas had made for them while she was still with them.

<sup>40</sup>But Peter sent them all out of the room, and then knelt down and prayed. Then, turning to the body, he said, "Tabitha, get up!" And she opened her eyes! Upon seeing Peter she sat up.

<sup>41</sup>Peter then gave her his hand and helped her to her feet. Then he called the other followers, including the widows, and presented her to them alive.

<sup>42</sup>Everyone in Joppa heard about it, and as a result, many people came to believe on the Lord.

<sup>43</sup>So Peter stayed on in Joppa for quite some time at the home of Simon, a tanner of leather.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### Lesson 24 - Aeneas and Dorcas - [Acts 9:32-43](#)

310. Where did Peter's mission work take him? ([9:32](#))
311. Whom did Peter visit in Lydda? ([9:33](#))
312. How was Peter able to cure Aeneas? ([9:34](#))
313. What effect did the healing of Aeneas have on the residents of Lydda and Sharon? ([9:35](#))
314. What did Tabitha (Dorcas) do in Joppa? ([9:36](#))
315. What happened to Dorcas? ([9:37](#))
316. Where was Joppa in relation to Lydda? ([9:38](#))
317. Why was Peter summoned by the disciples to Joppa? ([9:38](#))
318. Where was Peter taken when he arrived in Joppa? ([9:39](#))
319. How was the miracle of raising the woman to life performed? ([9:40](#))
320. What did Peter do when he was alone with the dead woman? ([9:40-41](#))
321. After Peter helped Tabitha to her feet, what did he do next? ([9:41](#))
322. How did the miracle of raising Tabitha further the kingdom of God? ([9:42](#))
323. With whom did Peter stay in Joppa? ([9:43](#))