

# Sermon Discussion Questions



LOOKOUT  
MOUNTAIN  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

## "THE CONVERSION OF SAUL"

**Big Idea:** God's saving grace initiates, interrupts, disrupts, and transforms our lives.

### Discuss

The Bible tells us that every person on this earth—whether old or young, rich or poor, educated or uneducated, generally kind or completely cruel—fits into just one of two categories. Everyone is either inside the Kingdom ruled by Jesus, God's Messiah, or outside of it. There's no courtyard in which people who are halfway there can dwell. Nor are some people a lot closer than others to being inside. Do we believe that? Or do we tend to come up with other categories when we look at those around us?

- 1) How many times have you heard someone say, "He (or she) is a really good person"?
  - Would Saul have been described that way in his day? If yes, by whom? And why or why not?
  - Phinehas, the grandson of Aaron, is praised in the book of Numbers for his zeal. The LORD says to Moses, "He and his descendants will have a covenant of a lasting priesthood, because he was zealous for the honor of his God and made atonement for the Israelites." (See Numbers 25:11-13) Was Saul zealous? If yes, then how would you describe or evaluate his zeal?
  - Acts, chapter 8, contains the story of the Ethiopian eunuch who was reading Isaiah while in his chariot. Acts, chapter 10, relates the story of Cornelius, a Roman centurion described as "devout and God-fearing." (10:1) Do you think of those men as people who were more likely to be converted than Saul? Why or why not? Is it helpful to think of some people as more likely to be converted?
- 2) We know from one of the other accounts of Paul's conversion in the book of Acts that Jesus said this to him: "It is hard for you to kick against the goads." (Acts 26:14) What could you point to as possible prodding from God in Paul's life, preparing his heart for his encounter with Jesus on the Damascus road?
- 3) *The Children's Catechism* asks, "Who can change a sinner's heart?" The answer, of course: "Only the Holy Spirit can change a sinner's heart."
  - Saul, the hunter and persecutor of believers, was clearly captured by God's sovereign grace, but how?
  - Was Saul simply overwhelmed by an experience that left him no other choice but to believe in Jesus? What adjectives would you use to describe the grace that transformed Saul? The grace that transformed you?
- 4) Is anyone "too far" from God to be brought into his Kingdom?

DATE: February 16, 2020

SPEAKER: Joe/Frank

SERIES: Acts

PASSAGE: Acts 9:1-9

### Pray

GLORIOUS GOD,  
We once lived in the world, but were ignorant of its creator. We were partakers of your providences, but we knew not the provider. We were blind while enjoying the sunlight. We were deaf to all things spiritual even while we listened to other voices all around us. We saw the world, but did not see Jesus only.

O wonderful day, when in your love's sovereignty you looked on us and called us by your grace. We understood that your Son died that we might live, and now our souls sing.

Grant that we may always give praise to you for the mercy found, and tell to others as long as we live, that you are a merciful, sin-pardoning God. Amen.

- based on "The Great Discovery," *The Valley of Vision*, p. 62.

#### PRAY FOR HOME MISSIONS

Young Life Northwest Georgia

#### PRAY FOR WORLD MISSIONS

Disciple Making Movement in Central Africa