

Sermon Discussion Guide

Encounters with Jesus: Saul's Conversion

Acts 9:1-9

May 16 & 17, 2020

This discussion guide is written in three sections. The first is for private/individual reflection. The second is for couples or for small groups who may be meeting via video or phone. The third contains questions for family discussion. As many of you are sheltering in place, we encourage you to continue to read the passage and study it throughout the week. This way you can meditate on new truths each day and discover new things God might teach you in his word.

Section 1: Individual Reflection

1. Have you ever had to give your testimony? What are the emotions around that experience or even the thought of sharing your testimony?
2. How does it change your perspective on giving a testimony when you understand that you're "required to give an account" of the things you believe?
3. Despite some of the apparent differences, you have a powerful story to share just like Paul's. What is it that makes all stories of God's salvation in a person's life powerful?
4. Use this opportunity to outline your testimony (and maybe even write it out further). Begin by taking time to consider your life as an "enemy of God." What actions proved that you were an enemy of God, living against his will? Next, when

did God “open your eyes” to your sin and brokenness? Was it a particular moment or process over time? Lastly, describe how God’s grace has saved you - what impact has it had and what impact does it continue to have that you are saved, like Paul, purely by grace?

Enemy -

Eyes -

Salvation by Grace -

5. Consider how this sermon affects our head, heart and hands. What does the passage teach us - what knowledge/information do we gain from this passage (head)? What does this passage show us about our sinfulness and how our affections need to be changed by the gospel (heart)? How should this passage change our actions - what do we need to do or think in our everyday life because of these truths (hands)?

Section 2: Couple/Small Group Discussion

1. What portions of the sermon were most significant and helpful to you? Summarize some of your answers from the previous section.

2. Take time with your group to share your experience outlining/writing your testimony? What was difficult about it? What was encouraging and insightful about it?

3. Brandon said that the power of your testimony is that it's never actually about us? What did he mean by this? How does that specifically impact/apply to your testimony?
4. List and share two or three people you have shared the gospel with recently or who you plan to share the gospel with.

Section 3: Family Discussion

1. Share with your kids your reflections from Sections 1 and 2. Ask them to share some of their highlights from the sermon and see if they can summarize it.
2. Now is a great opportunity to share your testimony with your kids. There are some obvious benefits for your kids when you do this - what are they?
3. Discuss with your kids your answer to Section 2, Question #4. Ask your kids who in their lives they might share the gospel with.