

TURNING AROUND

SAUL'S CONVERSION

Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" "Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked. "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything.

In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!" "Yes, Lord," he answered. The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight." Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength. Acts 9

2. How would you feel if you were Paul during the three days that he sat in his room in Damascus-blind-trying to figure out what had happened to him?

wiped out humbled confused angry terrified repentant

3. If you could compare your spiritual journey to Paul's experience, where are you right now?

on the road to Damascus

starting to hear God call out my name and wondering what God is trying to tell me

experiencing some of the same emotions Paul went through

trying to sort out what has been happening

4. How would you compare your conversion to Paul's conversion? Mine was more gradual.

Mine was more intellectual. Mine was different, but just as real.

Mine was even more dramatic. I'm on my way back to God and I still have a lot of questions.

5. Ananias was sent by God to come alongside of Paul in his crisis. Who has come alongside of you to help you sort out what is going on? my parent(s) a teacher my brother / sister

one or two friends another relative no one my Relig leader / priest other

6. If you had to explain to little children how God turned your life around, how would you describe it?

It is like getting to know a friend. It is like waking up one morning and being a different person.

It is like coming into the world as a baby. It is like a bolt of lightning.

It is like getting a puppy for your birthday. It is like:

7. How were others able to notice the difference in your life after you met Jesus?

8. In what area of your life have you seen the most change since you committed your life to Christ?

my beliefs my relationships my goals my habits / lifestyle

my devotional life (prayer, Bible study) my priorities my attitudes my values other:

9. What changes do you feel God is calling you to make in your life now?

10. How would you like the group to pray for you this week?