

GENESIS

begin. belong. believe.

a story of transformation... Acts 9:1-22

Big Idea

When Paul encountered Jesus on his way to Damascus he was transformed in a mighty way. He went from hunting Christians down and persecuting them to becoming one of Christianity's greatest champions. The transformation was swift and radical for Paul and his transformation continues to impact the church nearly 2,000 years later.

Questions for Discussions

1. Paul was stopped in his tracks when Jesus asked him *"Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"* (9:4). What would Jesus have asked you? *'Why are you... persecuting me... doubting me... ignoring me... believing lies about me... disobedient to me... complacent towards me...'*
2. Paul jumped right in when he encountered Jesus – he went from preaching against Christianity to proclaiming the gospel (9:20). He didn't wait for his life to catch up to the message of the gospel. How are you doing sharing what you know of Jesus with those around you? What holds you back from telling others what you know of your Savior?
3. After Saul met Jesus, he became Paul, but as one looks at Paul, he still looked a lot like Saul. Meaning, he did not lose his passion, drive, intellect, etc. Rather than using how God had uniquely fashioned & formed him for selfish gain or to further his agenda, Paul used his 'unique' gifting to glorify God and help reach people for God. In what ways are you using how God has 'uniquely' fashioned and formed you to glorify God and reach others for God?
4. As Paul grew in his understanding of Jesus, he began to grow in his understanding of himself before Christ. In [1 Corinthians 15:9](#) (an early writing of Paul) he calls himself the *"least of the apostles,"* but by his later writings, [1 Timothy 1:15](#), he writes, *"Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners – of whom I am the worst."* How's your perception of ourselves? Are we becoming more impressed with Jesus or ourselves? How can you cultivate a growing understanding of Jesus that would lead towards greater worship of Him and a more 'sober view' of yourself?
5. We often get stuck in a moment and let our past shape and determine our present reality. Paul gives us the example of *"forgetting what is behind"* and pressing forward for the glory of Christ ([Phil. 3:12-14](#)). Is there anything in your past that is holding you back from pursuing God and being used by God in ministering to others? Is there anything in your past that you believe 'rules you out' or is beyond 'redeeming' and being 'transformed'?
6. When we encounter Jesus we can't help but be 'transformed' in some manner. Where do you see Jesus Encountering and 'transforming' your life today?