

Elmbrook Discussion Questions

Acts 9

Introduction

Leo Tolstoy wrote, "Everyone thinks of changing the world, but no one thinks of changing himself." What is one thing you would do to change the world?

Head: *What is the passage saying?*

Acts 9:1-6

1. Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest 2. 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. 3. As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. 4. He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" 5. "Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked. "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. 6. "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

1. In your own words, describe the story / events of Acts 9:1-6
2. In verses 4 and 5, how does Jesus describe the relationship between Saul and himself?
3. What do we learn about Jesus from this passage?

Acts 9:10-15

10. In Damascus there was a man named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!" "Yes, Lord," he answered. 11. The Lord told him, "Go to the home of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. 12. In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight." 13. "Lord," Ananias answered, "I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your saints in Jerusalem. 14. And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name."

1. How does God use others in this story about Saul's conversion?
2. This passage reveals that God can unexpectedly redeem the story of Saul.
 - a. How is Saul's story an example for others who are far from God?
 - b. How does Saul's story help Christians view people who are far from God?

Heart: *How does this passage influence my inner being?*

1. God changed the heart of a man bent against Christianity. Are you a person who expects God to do the unexpected? If so, how does that make a difference in your life? If not, how could that make a difference in your life?
2. After reflecting on this story of Saul, what is most impactful for you?

Hands: *How do I practically live this out?*

1. **Pray:** Be intentional to pray for people that you know who are far from God. Perhaps create a prayer list, and pray regularly for them, and be open to letting God use you in the process.
2. **Journal:** If you have been changed by Jesus, take time to write out words of thankfulness to Jesus. Be specific and describe what He has done to change your life.

3. **Support:** If you have been changed by Jesus, consider reaching out and providing spiritual encouragement to someone else. Perhaps there is someone in your life who is newer in their faith, and you can help, encourage, or equip them.
4. **Serve:** Be intentional for however God is calling you, and be willing to let Him use you. Perhaps there are practical ways to serve someone this week. Reach out to someone this week, and be open to God working through you.

Digging Deeper Study:

1. Invest time in learning more about the good news of Jesus, and how you can share this with others. Watch the series, [The Good Gospel](#), by Jennie Allen on [Rightnow Media](#).
2. Perhaps you want to spend time digging deeper into Paul's story. Start with, [The Paradox of Paul](#), by Kiara Moshansky on [Rightnow Media](#).
3. Get a biography of Paul for summer reading. [The Apostle](#), by John Pollock, is the story of Saul / Paul, and reads like a biography.