



Welcome + Opening Prayer

Acts 9:20-31

See passage printed on the back of this page.

THEMATIC OVERVIEW

Surprised by God: how do we discover God as He really is and not just as we imagine Him to be.

Explore + Apply

1. Is there a recent time that you found God's character to be different than you originally thought? How has that shaped the way you interact with God and other people in your life? (See v. 20, Paul taught Jesus is the son of God - who Paul never said Jesus could be.) What are some ways to discover God as He really is?
2. Are there people in your life that you consider, even subconsciously, beyond God's grace? Who do you tend to write off as not worth your time? (See the incredulity of the disciples in v. 21.)
3. Barnabas whose name means "son of encouragement" welcomed Paul into the church even at first when it was hard to trust him. Who has welcomed and encouraged you at a significant moment in your life? What are ways God might be inviting you to similarly show the hospitable love of Christ for outsiders?

PRAYER GUIDELINES

In prayer, we ask God to transform us and the world around us with His grace as we enjoy a unique time of fellowship with God made possible through Christ's servant leadership.

Pray

- Praise God for Christ who seeks outsiders, like us!
- Pray that we would not worship a God of our imagination but find practical ways to discover God as He really is in every day life.
- Pray God's Kingdom come as he seeks outsiders in our community, city, and world.

GROUP SCHEDULE - SPRING

*week of Jan 21
week of Feb 11
week of Feb 25*

Home Groups are a vital part of shared life and growth in Christ. Here, we build community, deepen relationships, and discover and live the Christian life together.

Acts 9:20-31

20 And immediately he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God." 21 And all who heard him were amazed and said, "Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem of those who called upon this name? And has he not come here for this purpose, to bring them bound before the chief priests?" 22 But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Christ.

23 When many days had passed, the Jews plotted to kill him, 24 but their plot became known to Saul. They were watching the gates day and night in order to kill him, 25 but his disciples took him by night and let him down through an opening in the wall, lowering him in a basket.

26 And when he had come to Jerusalem, he attempted to join the disciples. And they were all afraid of him, for they did not believe that he was a disciple. 27 But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles and declared to them how on the road he had seen the Lord, who spoke to him, and how at Damascus he had preached boldly in the name of Jesus. 28 So he went in and out among them at Jerusalem, preaching boldly in the name of the Lord. 29 And he spoke and disputed against the Hellenists. But they were seeking to kill him. 30 And when the brothers learned this, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus.

31 So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied.