

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



**PRINCE
OF PEACE**
Called to Connect



Conversion 2

July 13-17, 2019

Saul is the last person we would imagine becoming a follower of Jesus, but that's because our imaginations often aren't big enough to grasp the power of the Gospel as the mission spreads. Sometimes God uses us as God used Philip in last week's story and sometimes God uses us like Ananias in this week's story.

SCRIPTURE TEXT: ACTS 9:1-19

Read the scripture text together as a group.

BACKGROUND INFO

Paul was a well-connected and highly educated Jewish man, a second-generation Pharisee, and a Roman citizen -- all of which God would eventually use in the service of the good news. As a well-connected insider, Saul had marginalized those who joined the Jewish sect centered around Jesus, those called Christian, by others, in Antioch first. Like the Ethiopian eunuch, Paul never met Jesus of Nazareth during his earthly ministry. God simply chooses to whom God will reveal himself. As we participate in God's mission sometimes we respond to God's call with "blind faith", not knowing where we're going or how things will turn out. We respond with simple and obedient faith.

Paul's blindness is perhaps both physical and symbolic. Paul has been "blind" to the reality that Jesus is God's Messiah. But his blinding and then re-opening of his eyes is also a symbol of the significant transition in how Paul sees God, Jesus, himself, his calling and the world. And that's what conversion does. It's transforms us in both profound and subtle ways.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Would you have responded as Ananias did initially? Why or why not?
- How do you think the blindness affected Saul?
- Give an example of something you were once blind to but then had your eyes opened.
- How would you define conversion simply?
- Have you seen or experienced conversion of any kind?
- Do you think conversion is a one time event or on-going? What could daily conversion look like for you?

APPLICATION: This week, consider what daily conversion might look like. How can you reorient your focus and energy towards Christ each day?