

Life Group Lesson - Week of July 2

The apostle Paul was a man on a mission. In his former life, Saul of Tarsus, was on a man-made mission to persecute followers of the Way. But God had other plans for Saul (later Paul) and it was not to drag believers into prison, but instead to free men from the prison of sin. Meeting Jesus on the road to Damascus changed his future forever, and in time, the eternal destiny of millions of others. Paul said yes to God's call and personally experienced Holy Spirit power: "And no one can say Jesus is Lord, except by the Holy Spirit" (1 Corinthians 12:3b). Once standing in a stairwell surrounded by an angry mob, Paul boldly shared his story of God's work in his life.

Read Acts 21:33 – 22:23

Paul tells his dramatic conversion story and recounts the words of Ananias whom the Lord sent to restore his sight: "The God of our ancestors has chosen you to know His will and to see the Righteous One and hear Him speak. For you are to be His witness, telling people what you have seen and heard. What are you waiting for? Get up and be baptized. Have your sins washed away by calling on the name of the Lord" (Acts 22:14-16). In other words, "You have a new mission, Paul. So get up and be baptized. There's work to be done!"

1. Jesus Christ is God in human flesh. Have you encountered the risen Lord personally in your life? Like Paul, share that experience with someone today.

Jesus Christ is the Light of the world (John 1:9). He has come to push back the darkness in this world and in your life. How is Christ beginning to push back the darkness in your heart? What areas in your life still need His light?

Upon Saul's encounter with the brilliance of the living Christ, "Saul picked himself up off the ground, but when he opened his eyes he was blind. So his companions led him by the hand to Damascus" (Acts 9:8).

2. Saul (Paul) needed the same Light whose radiance blinded him. The Lord meets us where we are and deals with our sin (pride) in such a way we know undeniably who is Lord. How has Christ had to break you in order to fix you?

Jesus Christ is the atonement for sin. Salvation comes when we call on the name of the Lord. The Lord sent Ananias to tell Paul: "What are you waiting for? Get up and be baptized. Have your sins washed away by calling on the name of the Lord."

3. When has the Lord used a brother or sister to jolt you with some hard (perhaps obvious) questions and speak truth in a way you would listen?

Jesus Christ died physically upon the cross, that man who as a little baby was held in Mary's arms. But that same man's body was resurrected physically from the dead on the third day. Jesus declares: "I am the living One. I died, but look—I am alive forever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and the grave" (Revelation 1:18). The Christ of God came to this earth to do what we couldn't do: storm hell and retrieve from Satan what Adam gave away in the beginning. "So you see, just as death came into the world through a man, now the resurrection from the dead has begun through another man" (1 Corinthians 15:21). Hallelujah! Christ has paid the price. What are you waiting for? Jump in. There's work to be done!

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Text: Acts 22:1-16

Plain Truth:

Your _____ to Jesus will determine
the _____ of your life.

1. Jesus Christ is God in _____ form.
2. He is the _____.
3. He is the _____ for sins.
4. He has _____ from the _____ and holds
the keys to _____ and death.



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