

A *rise* Ω

impacting our culture

LIFE
GROUPS

WEEK 20 • JUNE 29



NORTHSHORE'S COMPELLING STATEMENT

Hope changes everything.

ICE BREAKER

What is the best conversion story you have ever heard of or been part of?

BACKGROUND

Luke mentions the conversion of Saul three times in the book of Acts, showing how important he considers the account. What happens next for this new follower of The Way is nothing short of incredible. All the zeal that Saul has for persecuting those who follow Christ is now re-directed 180 degrees. What a real sign of repentance! He is proclaiming Jesus in the synagogues with such passion that all who heard him were likely even more afraid! The witness of Saul became so strong that they could not deny his arguments that Jesus was the Christ.

Saul's life was now in danger, causing him to escape to Jerusalem. His lowly method of escape, being lowered from a window in the city wall, shows the level of humility Saul now has. This marks a drastic change from his former self.

Upon Saul's arrival to Jerusalem, the other disciples would take some convincing before welcoming him as a believer. Even there the Hellenists were plotting to take Saul's life due to his bold preaching. Upon learning this the brothers sent Saul on his way to Tarsus. There was peace and growth in the church during this time.

REVIEW

What was meaningful from the above context or the sermon from last Sunday?



KEY VERSES: Acts 9:20

And immediately he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God."

READ: Acts 9:20-31



HEAD LEVEL: *What does it say? These help us to examine what the Word tells us.*

1. What is Saul's primary goal after his conversion?
2. How does Saul escape Damascus?
3. Who convinced the apostles to accept Saul as a true disciple. How does he do it?

DEEPER DISCOVERY

Barnabas was known as the "Son of Encouragement". Read and study these verses below to gain a better idea who he was to the early church:

- Acts 4:36
- Acts 11:19-30
- Acts 13:1-3
- Acts 15:36-41



HEART LEVEL: *What does it mean? These questions help us shape our beliefs around the objective truth of God's word.*

1. Why do you think the Jews and Hellenists wanted to kill Saul?
2. How do you think fleeing for his life multiple times changed Saul's character?
3. What convinced Barnabas to believe in Saul when others did not?



 **HANDS LEVEL:** *What does it mean to me? These questions help us commit to live out the truth in our everyday lives and commit to potential next steps.*

1. How has trusting Gods provision during adversity contributed to your spiritual growth?
2. How have past mistakes strengthened your faith and testimony to others?
How can you use it in the future to show others the love of Jesus?

 **MEMORY VERSE:** Acts 9:22
But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Christ.

PRAYER REQUESTS

(Please remember that these requests are confidential and need to stay within the group.)