



IMMANUEL CHURCH

Discussion Guide: The Johnny Come Latelys
July 23, 2017

Opening Questions:

- What's something you came around to late? Something that people kept telling you about but, for whatever reason, you delayed buying in. What do you suppose drove your hesitancy?
- In what ways did these same kind of feelings or this way of thinking factor into your faith journey? Did you delay following Jesus at all? How about your friends or family members who did...what was behind their being late to the party?

Looking at Scripture:

- Read **Acts 22:3...** As Paul describes his upbringing, what goes through your mind? If Paul were a modern day Christian but was still the "super-Christian" he became, what might his upbringing entail? What would a modern-day Paul's story be?
- Read **Acts 8:3...** Do you think our intellect can get in the way of our "buying in" to the whole church thing? How might Christians do a better job at interacting with individuals who think deeply and have educated reasons why they don't follow Jesus' way of life?
- Read **Acts 9:3-17...** Which part of Paul's interaction with Jesus stands out to you most? Why? How might Paul's effectiveness have been different if his timing in meeting Jesus was different?
- Is there anyone in your life that God might be asking you to be the Ananias for? What might it look like for you to go to them instead of waiting for them to come to you?

Application Questions:

- This week's bottom line was **OUR PREFERRED TIMING AND GOD'S PERFECT TIMING AREN'T THE SAME**. How then, are we supposed to live in submission to his perfect timing without losing our minds and constantly feeling frustrated? In a time-sensitive society, how can we be more okay with there being "no such thing as late."
- Who are you committed to praying for, and loving on, no matter how long it takes for them to start following Jesus? How can the people sitting around the room best support you in your effort to be Ananias to that person?

End your time together sharing which of the Ragamuffins we discussed meant the most to each person, explaining why that's the case. As part of their sharing, ask each person to share one way the group can pray for them in light of what they learned from this series. Ask one person to pray for the one sharing once they're done.