

FOOD TIME: (30-45 minutes) – Remember to give some direction for this time.

MEETING TIME: (45 minutes)

We see the miraculous transformation of Saul to start the chapter. Saul is blinded for three days and is able to see both spiritually as well as physically thanks to the Lord and Ananias. We are going to look this week at what Saul does once he is rested and fed. Take a look at how he wastes no time in spreading the name of Jesus, but then what he does when he runs into opposition. The power of the community and fellowship of believers around you can do amazing things, especially when we let God be in control.

READ Acts 9:20-30

20 Immediately he preached the Christ in the synagogues, that He is the Son of God. **21** Then all who heard were amazed and said, "Is this not he who destroyed those who called on this name in Jerusalem, and has come here for that purpose, so that he might bring them bound to the chief priests?" **22** But Saul increased all the more strength, and confounded the Jews who dwelt in Damascus, proving that this Jesus is the Christ. **23** Now after many days were past, the Jews plotted to kill him. **24** But their plot became known to Saul. And they watched the gates day and night to kill him. **25** Then the disciples took him by night and let him down through the wall in a large basket. **26** And when Saul had come to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples; but they were afraid of him, and did not believe that he was a disciple. **27** But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. And he declared to them how he has seen the Lord on the road, and that He had spoken to him, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus. **28** So he was with them at Jerusalem, coming in and going out. **29** And he spoke boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus and disputed against the Hellenists, but they attempted to kill him. **30** When the brethren found out, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him out to Tarsus.

FACILITATE Discussion Questions

1. What is the first group of people that Saul goes to? Why is he sadly disappointed?
2. Why can it be hard to share the gospel with those who are closest to us?
3. The disciples were cautious when Saul arrived, but they help him escape. Why?
4. What do the actions of the disciples tell you about how we should respond to others today?
5. How can we show support for those who are trying to walk a daily life with the Lord, just as Barnabas did?

PRAY- Take the last 10 minutes to pray about the needs of the group.

APPLICATION- As we saw in this passage of scripture, Saul is on fire for the Lord and wants to preach His name everywhere he goes. He runs into what he saw was unlikely opposition in his friends, and he finds reprieve in the disciples who house him and help him escape. This is all because they see the heart change in Saul and they see that he is working for the Lord and has fully accepted Jesus and is living a completely new life. Life changing moments like that are not easy because everything that Saul knew is now different and he has to fully trust in what God is doing in his life. As an application, look at both perspectives of this and see what Saul is walking through. Those he thought he had trust in are now trying to kill him and he is hurt by their rejection of him and the truth he is bringing. Then look at the disciples and how they obediently follow God and open their hearts and the door for Saul, someone that would have tried to arrest them a short time before. If you are newer in your walk with Christ, think about Saul and how you can use his testimony to help you grow. And if you have known Christ, how can we be more open so that others who have changed their life for the better, and to show them the grace and mercy and love that God has shown us.