

## INTRO

- Summer is around the corner. Do you have any plans for fun or travel?

## READ

Acts 9:1-19

## REFLECT &amp; RESPOND

“In the two thousand years since his death and resurrection, millions have turned to Jesus. Lives have been transformed. Directions changed. But no conversion is more dramatic than that of Saul of Tarsus. His is the most famous in church history... Yes, Saul’s conversion was dramatic...and we today continue to reap the benefits of his life. However, though it will probably not be on a Damascus Road, we too must experience a personal encounter with Jesus Christ in order to be converted.” — John Stott, Acts: Seeing the Spirit at Work

*Qu: It is good to reflect on the work of God in our lives. What was it like when you became a follower of Jesus?*

“Paul’s conversion is a great reminder that no one is beyond the reach of Jesus. If the Lord can turn this persecutor into a preacher, he can bring anyone to faith. Are there people you know who you don’t really think could ever become Christians? Why not pray for them right now? And why not keep praying for them daily?” — Tim Keller

*Qu: Discuss Tim Keller’s question: Are there people you know who you don’t really think could ever become Christians?*

It would be easy by only reading today’s passage from Acts 9 to overlook the idea that God had been preparing the way for Saul’s encounter with Jesus.

Saul was educated at the feet of Gamaliel—one of the most noted teachers of Jewish law in

history. This same Gamaliel intervened on behalf of the Apostles (Acts 5:33-39). “For if this plan or this undertaking is of man, it will fail; but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You might even be found opposing God!”

Saul was present for the stoning of Stephen which meant, of course, he was present to hear Stephen preach before his death. Stephen’s final words, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.”

And in today’s reading, Saul met Ananias. “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.”

*Qu: Consider significant people in your life on your road to faith in Jesus? Name one of two. What part did they play?*

**PRAY**

Take time to express gratitude for God’s intervention in each of your lives.

Pray for those individuals in your lives who came to mind as we discussed our second question.

For further personal study you might be interested in:

Acts: Seeing The Spirit at Work (18 Studies with Commentary) by John Stott