

ACTS EMPOWERED FOR JESUS'S MISSION

Sunday, February 26, 2023 | Wawasee Bible | Milford, Indiana | Pastor Josh Weiland

Part 18 | Saul's Conversion

Acts 9:1-19 (cf. Acts 22:3-21 and 26:2-23)

God can change **ANYONE** (v. 1-2)

no one's too bad Acts 8:3 v. 9:15; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; 15:9-10

no one's too broken Ephesians 2:1-5ff; Titus 3:5; Isaiah 61:1; Psalm 147:3

at **ANYTIME** (v. 3-9)

up to the last second

God chooses who and when Ephesians 1:4-6, 11; John 6:44

by the power of **THE GOSPEL!** (v. 10-19)

saves sinners Ephesians 2:4-9; Romans 6:23

changes saints Romans 8:28-30; 12:1-2



Text us at **833-271-8805**.

Text this number anytime for prayer. Just say, "Pray for..." followed by your request.

Or if you just need someone to talk to, start texting us with whatever's going on and someone will be in touch via text.

God uses
NOBODIES
to tell
EVERYBODY
about
SOMEBODY.

God likes to use "nobodies" to tell everybody about Somebody (Jesus). Sometimes we might be tempted to think that God only does big things or meaningful ministry through those we see as "big" or "important" or "more worthy" people.

Even as we read about Saul's conversion in Acts 9 we might be tempted to believe this...

Given Saul's selection as such a key person in the vast program of God, we might think that Peter or one of the other apostles should have been chosen to minister to this important new convert. **Not so.** God called an unknown disciple named Ananias for this task. In fact, other than when Saul (Paul) references Ananias later, we know nothing else about him and never hear from him again!

This has been true throughout church history. Consider this list of "nobodies":

John Staupitz. He's the man who helped lead Martin Luther to faith in Jesus Christ.

John Eggen. John was instrumental in the conversion of C. H. Spurgeon, one of the greatest preachers in history.

Edward Kimball. He was just a shoe salesman... who happened to be D. L. Moody's spiritual mentor.

Mordecai Ham: A little-known evangelist who preached the night that Billy Graham gave his life to Christ.

We never know how God might use us to touch a life that will, in turn, touch millions. Yield yourself to the purposes of God, and be faithful when he calls.

Be a "nobody" that God can use to tell everybody about Somebody!

Adapted from Bruce B. Barton and Grant R. Osborne, Acts, Life Application Bible Commentary (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House, 1999), 155.



Study Guide

Questions & Scripture for Further Study

What is this? – Each week people from Wawasee Bible meet in small groups in various homes to learn about Jesus, pray, eat, laugh, & live life together. **We call them Life Groups.** The questions here are based on the sermon each week (often a related part of Scripture), and guide each group's study. If you're interested in connecting with a Life Group, let us know on a Connect Card or at the Connect Desk!

Getting Started

Think of a person who has hurt you, betrayed you or left you fearful. What would be your first response if you saw that person walk into church on the weekend?

- (a) What are *they* doing here? (b) No, not them. I know what they have done.
(c) That's never going to last. (d) Praise God! I'm glad they're here.
(e) Wow, the Lord must be doing something in their life. (f) Other

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, *was there anything you heard for the first time, that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?*

Digging Deeper

Use this guide for further personal and group study this week. For the most impact in your life and in your group, *work through it on your own before you gather with your Life Group.* If your Life Group isn't gathering this week, use this guide for further study personally.

1. Consider this truth: we don't get to pick our brothers and sisters (physical or spiritual!). The prophet Jonah is an example of someone who wanted to keep his enemies out of the family of God. As you read Jonah's story, what are some possible reasons Jonah was so angry at the Ninevites? What didn't he understand about God that caused his anger? (**Before you meet, read through the Old Testament book of Jonah.** Don't worry, it's short!)
2. What are some hurdles you might face in wanting your "enemies" to know God and receive His love and forgiveness?
3. Take some time to read and study **Titus 3:3-7** and **1 Corinthians 1:26-30** below. As you do...

Circle or highlight any words or phrases that catch your attention.

Underline what you think is important to remember.

Put an X next to anything that confuses you.

³ At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. ⁴ But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, ⁵ he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. **TITUS 3:3-7 (NIV)**

(Study Guide continues on back panel...)

Welcome to Wawasee!

OUR CORE VALUES

These are things you'll see to be true about us...



1. It's All About Jesus!

You'll hear us say this often.—Why? Because *it's all about Jesus!* Apart from his death, burial, and resurrection we're wasting our time.



2. God Wrote it All Down

God wrote a book—and we are to believe the Bible in all that it teaches, obey it in all it requires, and trust it in all that it promises.



3. All People Matter

No matter who you are, where you're from, what you've done, or what's been done to you—you *matter to Jesus and you matter to us!*



4. We All Need Friends

You were designed to belong, not to go through life alone. Jesus created each of us desiring friendship and to live in community.



5. No Sacred Cows

Jesus is sacred, God's Word is sacred, *but our opinions, methods, and traditions are not*—we'll let go of any of them if more people can experience life change through the Gospel!

Word Find in the Word

Find the words from a passage related to this week's message.

Word Find for Acts 26:15-18 (NIRV)

Find the words **bolded** below.

15 "Then I asked, 'Who are you, Lord?' "I am Jesus,' the Lord replied. 'I am the one you are **opposing**. 16 Now get up. **Stand** on your feet. I have **appeared** to you to **appoint** you to **serve** me and be my **witness**. You will **tell others** that you have **seen** me **today**. You will **also tell** them that I will **show** myself to you **again**. 17 "I will **save** you from your own

people and from those who aren't **Jews**. I am **sending** you to them 18 to **open** their **eyes**. I **want** you to **turn** them from **darkness** to **light**. I **want** you to **turn** them from **Satan's power** to God. I **want** their **sins** to be **forgiven**. They will be **forgiven** when they believe in me. They will have their place among God's **people**.'

T U R N F P N O Y U V G N
E A L S O P E N S J N D L
P O W E R T W J F E E T I
S S A E G Y I O G W Y E G
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D S E N D I N G U T H E N
U J D R R R E P L I E D A

life groups Study Guide (continued)

26 For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. 27 But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; 28 God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, 29 so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. 30 And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption.

1 CORINTHIANS 1:26-30 (ESV)

- How might the things you see in these passages help you overcome those hurdles and welcome others into the family of God?

4. In **Matthew 5:44**, Jesus tells His disciples to pray for those who persecute them. If you were to pray for someone who is your "enemy", what would you pray for them? (Write your prayer below).

5. One essential when it comes to loving our enemies is having renewed mind. Renewing our minds involves focusing on what God desires and thinking like Christ rather than like the world, culture or our natural way of thinking. **Read Romans 8:5-6; Ephesians 4:22-24; and Colossians 3:7-11**. How do these verses reinforce the idea of being like Christ by renewing our minds?

- Is there an aspect of God's character you can set your mind on that will help you to better love someone who is difficult for you to love?

Taking It Home

6. Think of two or three people you view as being in the wrong about something. Is your response to them more like Jonah's response to the Ninevites or Ananias' response to Saul?

- Is there something you can do this week to respond more like Ananias to these people?

Prayer

As you close, take time to pray for each other.

This week's Study Guide is adapted in part from a study by North Coast Church in Vista, CA. North Coast is a sister church of Wawasee Bible and part of the EFCA.



Wawasee Bible is part of the Evangelical Free Church of America. View our Statement of Faith online at wawaseebible.com/beliefs. Learn more about the EFCA at efca.org.

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ACTS

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PART 18

Saul's Conversion



ACTS 9:1-19



We're Glad You're Here Today!

Please register your attendance on our **digital Connect Card** by scanning the QR code with your phone's camera, or by visiting **wawasee.today** in your web browser. Update your contact info, share prayer requests, or just let us know how we can serve you! You can also access today's bulletin using the same QR or link.