

ACTS EMPOWERED FOR JESUS'S MISSION

Sunday, March 5, 2023 | Wawasee Bible | Milford, Indiana | Pastor Josh Weiland

Part 19 | Saul's Preparation

Acts 9:19-31 (cf. Galatians 1:11-24 and 2 Corinthians 11:32-33)

God's saving grace **CHANGES** us,

grace to reveal Jesus v. 20ff; Galatians 1:12, 16

grace to start anew v. 21, 27-29; Galatians 1:23; Revelation 21:5; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Psalm 103:12

PREPARES us,

grace in the past Galatians 1:13-15; Romans 8:28-30ff; Isaiah 61:3; Philippians 3:13-14

grace to wait Galatians 1:16-21; Psalm 27:13-14; 1 Peter 5:6-7

and **SENDS** us!

grace to befriend Barnabas

grace to go v. 25, 29, 30; John 17:18 (cf. John 3:16-17)

We are sent

to love people and invite them
to follow Jesus with us.



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.



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!

Welcome to Life Group!

Each week we'll spend part of our time getting to know more about one another.

Share with the Group:

Have you ever been on the receiving end of someone building you up or giving you an opportunity or encouragement or connection? How did it help you? Is there a time you could have really used someone to do that for you?

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? — Take time to review and discuss what stood out to you from this week's message.*

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. As Saul returned to Jerusalem, Barnabas was a friend and encourager to him (Acts 9:26-27ff). It was remarkable because Saul had been an enemy to Barnabas and the other believers before his conversion, but Barnabas showed great humility and forgiveness toward Saul. Other places in Acts Barnabas shows great generosity (4:36-37), encouragement (11:19-30; 15:1-35), and mercy (15:36-40). Study **Romans 15:1-6** below and note where you see these same traits commended and on display.

– **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.

¹ We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves.

² Each of us should please our neighbors for their good, to build them up. ³ For even Christ did not

please himself but, as it is written: "The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me."⁴ For

everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance

taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope. ⁵ May the God

who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that

(Study Guide continues on back panel...)

Welcome to Wawasee!

OUR MISSION

We are sent to love people and invite them to follow Jesus with us.

YOUR PATHWAY

If you call Wawasee Bible "home", we challenge you to pursue three things:

1. Gather



Show up *regularly* and gather with us for worship.

2. Grow



Don't just show up, *grow up* spiritually and connect in a growth ministry like Life Groups.

3. Go!



Go and serve somewhere. Contribute as much *or more than* you consume!

Word Find in the Word

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

Word Find for Acts 9:26-28 (NIRV)

Find the words **bolded** below.

²⁶ **When Saul came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the believers.** But they were all **afraid** of him. They didn't **believe** he was **really** one of **Jesus' followers**. ²⁷ But **Barnabas took** him to the **apostles**. He **told** them about **Saul's journey**. He **said** that **Saul had seen the Lord**. He **told** how the **Lord had spoken to Saul**. **Barnabas also said** that **Saul had preached without fear in Jesus' name in Damascus**. ²⁸ So **Saul stayed with the believers**. He **moved** about **freely** in **Jerusalem**. He **spoke boldly** in the **Lord's name**.

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life groups Study Guide (continued)

Christ Jesus had, ⁶ so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our

Lord Jesus Christ. **ROMANS 15:1-6 (NIV)**

- Do you see any opportunities in your life to be this type of encourager of others? (i.e. children, coworkers, neighbors, friends, etc.)
- What are some possible challenges that might hinder you from being able to take risks on people in order to help them thrive?

2. Read the following passages:

1 Thessalonians 5:11-14 and **Hebrews 10:24-25**.

- What do they tell us about the purpose and importance of building up others?
- Can you think of a role you can play in the church that would allow you to encourage and strengthen others?

3. One of the core aspects of being an encourager like Barnabas is having humility. Read these passages then answer the questions that follow:

Romans 12:3-8 **Philippians 2:1-4** **Philippians 2:19-22**

- Why do you think humility is essential in order to encourage others?
- Can you think of a parent, leader, mentor, or friend who consistently encourages others well? What are some qualities that describe their life?
- Is there anything you see in that person's actions or the verses above that you can better implement in your own life?

Taking it Home

4. What are some ways you may be able to encourage or build someone up this week?

Prayer

As you close, take time to pray for each other. **Divide into separate groups of men and women and pray for one another.**

Much of this week's Study Guide is adapted 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 19

Saul's Preparation



ACTS 9:19-31



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.