

## Acts 9

### Observation Questions, "What does the passage say?"

#### Acts 9:1-19

1. What is Saul doing? How are his actions described? Who is he acting against? How are they described? Where does he go?
2. What happens to Saul?
3. What does he hear? How does the passage describe the voice?
4. How does Saul respond?
5. What does Jesus tell Saul to do?
6. How do the people around him respond? What do they hear? See?
7. What is the effect upon Saul? How long does it last? Where is he taken?
8. Who else does the Lord talk to in this passage?
9. What does the Lord tell him and how does he respond? What is his objection?
10. How does Jesus describe Saul in verses 15-16?
11. What does Ananias tell Saul? What happens to Saul?
12. What else do you notice in your observations in this passage?

### Interpretation: What does this passage mean?

#### Acts 9:1-19

1. Verse 1 of chapter 9 picks up on 8:4. Why does Luke give us the intervening section? Why is 8:4-40 important to the message of the book of Acts?
2. Luke describes the Christian movement as "the Way." Look up John 14:6; Acts 18:25f. 19:9, 23; 22:4; 24:14, 22; 28:22. Also look up Isaiah 11:16; 19:23; 35:8-9; 40:3; 49:11; 62:10. What do you make of this description of Christianity?
3. Where is Damascus? Why is Damascus important?
4. Jesus asks Saul why he is persecuting "me" referring to himself. How is Paul persecuting Jesus? Look up Matthew 25:40, 45; 1 Corinthians 12:12; Ephesians 5:30.
5. Is the blindness simply a result of the light from heaven or is there another reason for the blindness? Look up Exodus 4:11; 2 Kings 6:17-20; Isaiah 6:9ff; Mark 4:10-12 and especially 2 Corinthians 3:14.
6. Compare 9:10 with Isaiah 6:8; Exodus 3:4; 1 Samuel 3:4; Genesis 22:1; 31:11.
7. Is Ananias reasonable?
8. Compare 9:15 with Jeremiah 1:5; John 15:16; Romans 1:1; Romans 9:21-24; Galatians 1:1, 15-16. What is your understanding of the doctrine of election?
9. Paul here receives his call to the Gentiles (as well as kings and sons of Israel). How does this fit into the plan of God? See Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; Isaiah 65:18-20; Genesis 12:3; 17:1-8.
10. What else did you glean from your study? Come ready to share.

### Application: What does the passage mean to me?

#### Acts 9:1-19

1. Describe your conversion.
2. Describe your call.
3. What else did this passage teach you about walking with Christ?

## **Observation Questions, "What does the passage say?"**

### **Acts 9:19-43**

13. What are we told that Paul does immediately?
14. What is Paul described as doing in v. 22?
15. What is the response of the people to Paul?
16. What do the Jews plot? How does Paul respond?
17. Where does Paul go? What happens there?
18. Who is introduced in this passage who helps Paul?
19. Who tries to kill Paul in Jerusalem? Where does he go from there?
20. What happens to the church (v.31)?
21. What is Peter described as doing? Where is he?
22. Who does he heal?
23. Make your own observations about the text

## **Interpretation: What does this passage mean?**

### **Acts 9:19-43**

11. In Galatians 1-2 Paul gives an outline of his activity after his conversion.
12. What is the content of the preaching of Paul: 1:20, 22?
13. Verse 31 is a summary statement, compare to 6:7; 12:24; 16:5; 19:20; 28:30-31.
14. Verse 32 shifts from Paul to Peter, and this section takes us through chapter 12.
15. Peter heals a paralyzed man and raises a girl from the dead. Compare to Jesus ministry. Connect to Elijah/Elisha (1 Kings 17:17ff esp. v. 24; 2 Kings 4:18-37).
16. What is the significance of verse 43?
17. What else struck you as you studied? Share the results of your study.

## **Application: What does the passage mean to me?**

### **Acts 9:19-43**

4. Verse 36 describes Tabitha as a woman who was abounding with deeds of kindness and charity which she continually did. If there was a verse in the Bible that described you, what would it say? What do you want it to say?