

Life as an adventure with God

Part one Changing your plans

Acts 9:1-19

Icebreaker: Are you able to share a time when something stops you in your track and you have to rethink how to go forward? Describe how you handled it.

Introduction

This is the beginning of a new series where we are invited to go on an adventure with God, learning insights from the Apostle Paul. Paul, who wrote 13 letters in less than 80 pages; carried out 3 missionary trips and finally ended up being executed in Rome. In that time this resulted in Paul being the most influential person in advancing the Christian faith since the time of Jesus. He was someone who went from being a persecutor of Christ followers to peaching Christ. From a hard-line nationalist Jew to becoming the founder of multiethnic communities which on turn grew into what is today's growing church of over 2 billion people.

Read Acts 9 vs 1-2

1. From your understanding of Paul's background and beliefs what were the reasons Paul persecuted Christians in Jerusalem and now on his way to do the same in Damascus? (Acts 7:54 – 8:1 – Stephen's stoning)
2. Discuss the hopes the Jewish people dreamt of for their Nation and themselves? E.g. Malachi 3:1-5
3. What role did the Tabernacle – Temple and Torah have for the Jewish people? (Exodus 40:36-38; Ezekiel 43:4-5)

Read Acts 9 vs 3-19

4. Describe and discuss Saul's experience on the Damascus Road vs 3-9
5. Why do you think God may have allowed Paul to be blind for 3 days and what did Paul do in that time? vs 9 and 11
6. In what ways does Saul's change of heart and plan (conversion) demonstrate the marvellous grace of God? including Acts 9:15,
7. How does Ananias respond to God and what lessons can we learn from him? Vs 10-18
8. What happened to Saul when Ananias laid hands on him? vs 17 and 18
9. What happens when someone is filled with the Holy Spirit?

Note the Spirit went from the Old Testament – Tabernacle – Temple – Torah - God's presence as a glorious signposts pointing to the New Testament when The Spirit comes to a person bringing them into a personal living relationship with Jesus. The greatest gift Jesus can give us is His personal presence which is eternal. Heaven coming to earth in His people.

10. How do we encourage ourselves to live a life filled to overflowing with God's Spirit?
11. As you continue a life of adventure with God what practical steps can you take to get the best outcomes now or next time you change your plans when your situation changes either through choice or outside your control?
12. Encourage and pray for on another.

John Stott has some good thoughts on this passage in *Seeing the Spirit at work Acts Bible Studies*.