SMITH FOR CHRIST

TEACHING THE WORD · WATCHING THE TIMES

REFLECTION JOURNAL · FIVE DAYS

# Acts

## *Chapter 9*

*From Persecutor to Chosen Instrument*

MEMORY VERSE · ACTS 9:15

*"But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of Mine, to bear My name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel;""*

THIS JOURNAL BELONGS TO _____

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

# This week in Acts 9

Saul was the last man anyone expected Jesus to save, and Jesus went and found him on the road. This week the same Lord who knocked Saul to the ground and then sent him a brother is asking you to stop fighting Him, to pray, and to be the kind of man who brings the outsider in.

**How to use this journal**

1. Each day, read the passage slowly — out loud if you can.
2. Answer the **Observe** question from the text before you write what it means.
3. Write honestly on the **Reflect** questions. No one grades this.
4. Do the **Respond** step today, not someday. Say the memory verse.
5. Bring this journal to the group. The last page is for the table.

The full Deep Dive, the O·I·A study and the slides for this chapter are on the Acts study page.

WHERE I AM AS I START THIS CHAPTER

**What is going on in my life right now that I want to bring to God this week?**

DAY 1 OF 5

# Who Are You, Lord?

READ · ACTS 9:1–9

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

**What was Saul planning to do in Damascus, what did he see and hear on the road, and what did Jesus ask him (9:1–5)?**

REFLECT

**Saul was sure he was serving God while he was hurting God's people (9:1–2). Where have you been sure you were right and later found out you were fighting God?**

REFLECT

**Jesus said, "I am Jesus whom you are persecuting" (9:5), though Saul had only hurt believers. How does it change the way you treat other Christians to know Jesus takes it personally?**

RESPOND — TODAY

**Ask Saul's question out loud today — "Who are You, Lord?" — and write down one thing you sense He wants you to stop fighting.**

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 9:15)

DAY 2 OF 5

# Behold, He Is Praying

READ · ACTS 9:10–19

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

**What did the Lord tell Ananias to do, what was Ananias afraid of, and what did the Lord say about Saul (9:11–16)?**

REFLECT

**Ananias told the Lord honestly, "I have heard from many about this man" (9:13), and then he went anyway. What fear is keeping you from going to someone God has put on your heart?**

REFLECT

**Ananias's first words were "Brother Saul" (9:17) to a man who came to arrest Christians. Who is the hardest man for you to call "brother," and why?**

RESPOND — TODAY

**Pray for five minutes today for one man you are wary of, and then send him a short message that begins with "Brother."**

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 9:15)

DAY 3 OF 5

# He Is the Son of God

READ · ACTS 9:20–25

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

**What did Saul begin preaching right away, how did people react, and how did he escape from Damascus (9:20–25)?**

REFLECT

**People said, “Is this not he who in Jerusalem destroyed those who called on this name?” (9:21). What parts of your past do people still hold against you, and what would it look like to let your changed life answer them?**

REFLECT

**The bold preacher had to be lowered over the wall in a basket (9:25). How do you handle it when following Jesus brings trouble or humbling moments instead of applause?**

RESPOND — TODAY

**Tell one person today, in a sentence or two, who Jesus is to you now compared with who He was to you before.**

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 9:15)

DAY 4 OF 5

# Barnabas Took Hold of Him

READ · ACTS 9:26–31

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

**How did the disciples in Jerusalem respond to Saul, and what did Barnabas do (9:26–27)?**

REFLECT

**The church "were all afraid of him, not believing that he was a disciple" (9:26). Have you ever been the man nobody trusted? What did it mean to you when someone finally stood up for you?**

REFLECT

**Barnabas took hold of Saul and brought him in (9:27). Who in your church, your group or your facility needs someone to walk beside him and vouch for him?**

RESPOND — TODAY

**Do one concrete Barnabas thing today: introduce a newer believer to someone, sit with him, or speak up for him.**

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 9:15)

DAY 5 OF 5

# Jesus Christ Heals You

READ · ACTS 9:32–43

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

**Who did Peter find at Lydda, what did he say to him, and what did Peter do before he spoke to Tabitha (9:33–34, 40)?**

REFLECT

**Aeneas had been bedridden eight years (9:33). What has kept you down so long that you stopped expecting to get up, and how does Peter's word "Jesus Christ heals you" (9:34) speak to it?**

REFLECT

**Tabitha was "abounding with deeds of kindness and charity" (9:36), and the widows showed the garments she made for them (9:39). What would people hold up to remember you by?**

RESPOND — TODAY

**Do one quiet act of kindness today with your hands — fix, make, carry or clean something for someone who cannot repay you.**

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 9:15)

WHEN THE GROUP MEETS

# Questions for the table

FOR THE GROUP · 1

**Saul went from breathing threats and murder (9:1) to praying (9:11) to preaching that Jesus is the Son of God (9:20). Which of those three places best describes where you have been this week, and why?**

FOR THE GROUP · 2

**The Lord told Ananias that Saul must suffer for His name's sake (9:16). How do we keep following Jesus when it costs us something — and how can we help each other do that?**

FOR THE GROUP · 3

**Peter knelt down and prayed before he spoke to Tabitha (9:40). What would change in our group if we prayed first before we tried to fix things for each other?**

MY PRAYER

**Lord Jesus, You found me when I was not looking for You and You call me a chosen instrument, so today I stop fighting You and ask You to…**

CUT OUT · CARRY IT · ACTS 9:15

*"But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of Mine, to bear My name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel;""*