



NEW TESTAMENT • LESSON 50

SAUL KNOCKED TO THE GROUND

No man is a match for the grace of God.



MONDAY

THE STORY: ACTS 8:26-40

The persecution spread the gospel to many. As a result of the persecution of Christians by Saul and others, the church in Jerusalem was scattered. During this time of scattering, an angel instructed Philip to travel south. There he met an Ethiopian eunuch who was reading the scroll of Isaiah. Philip explained to him how the Old Testament pointed to Jesus. The Ethiopian man was so affected by the gospel, he commanded his chariot to be stopped so that he might be baptized! After Philip baptized the eunuch, the Spirit of God carried Philip away to preach the gospel elsewhere.

TALK ABOUT IT:

How does the Isaiah passage read by the Ethiopian remind you of Jesus? (Jesus is the sheep who was led to slaughter on the cross. Jesus is the lamb who did not open His mouth. Jesus willingly died so that we might be saved.)

How did hearing the gospel affect this man? (When the Ethiopian man heard and understood the gospel, he was immediately converted from unbelief to faith, and he ordered his chariot to stop so he could demonstrate his faith in baptism.)

PRAY:

Pray that God would convert each member of your family and give them the gift of faith to believe.



TUESDAY

THE STORY: ACTS 9:1-19

Saul met Jesus. Saul threatened to kill anyone who believed in Jesus. He received letters which gave him authority to arrest anyone who belonged to “the Way” in Damascus. The Way was a name given to early Christians who followed Jesus. Jesus said that He was the “Way” (John 14:6).

While traveling to Damascus, Saul was stopped in his tracks when Jesus appeared before him. Saul was blinded and had to be led into the city. For three days he remained blind until God sent Ananias to him. Ananias prayed for Saul and laid hands upon him. Immediately, his sight was restored. Like the Ethiopian, Paul was immediately baptized in confirmation of his conversion. In God’s words to Ananias we are given a glimpse of the difficult life that was to come to Saul. God said that Saul, later called Paul, would suffer much for His name (Acts 9:16).

TALK ABOUT IT:

How is God’s calling of Saul like His calling of other men in the Bible? (God took initiative. Saul was not calling out to God. It was God who called out to Saul. This is true of Abraham, Moses, and the disciples. In our lives it may seem that we call out to God first, but God is at work arranging circumstances and drawing us before we even know it!)

What is the other name Saul is known by? (Saul is also called Paul in Acts 13:9.)

Are people still converted like Saul was? (Yes - People are dramatically changed in a moment. Saul’s experience in seeing Jesus and being knocked to the ground

is unique. But God does dramatic things when He saves some men. Many are delivered from great wickedness in a moment by the power of God.)

How can Saul's conversion increase our faith for unbelievers today? (Seeing such a wicked man converted helps us to remember that no man is too sinful for the saving arm of God to reach him.)

PRAY:

Pray that the power of the gospel touches the lives of every member of your family.



**WEDNESDAY
WHERE IS THE GOSPEL?**

THE STORY: ACTS 22:4-20

When the voice came out to Saul asking, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" Saul did not know who was speaking. He questioned, "Who are you, Lord?" What an amazing answer came to him saying, "I am Jesus."

We, like Saul, are sinners who do not know Jesus. Saul knew that Jesus was a teacher, a man who lived and died on the cross. But Saul did not yet know and believe that Jesus was Lord, the Son of God, raised in power!

We come to know Jesus in a similar way that Saul did - not with a visionary appearance of Christ, but by God's initiative while we were still sinners. Saul was on his way to kill more disciples when Jesus revealed Himself to him. Saul immediately realized that the stories of Jesus' resurrection were true. Jesus was, and is, alive!

TALK ABOUT IT:

What do we call it when a person shares the story of his or her conversion? (We say the individual is sharing his or her testimony.)

Do all Christians have a testimony? (Yes. All Christians have a testimony, even those who were touched by the gospel at a very young age. Once we were enemies of God. Then our hearts were changed by the power of the Spirit of God.)

Parents take time to share your testimony with your children.

PRAY:

Thank God for saving Paul and saving your parents.



THURSDAY

THE STORY: ACTS 9:19B - 25

The gospel bears fruit in Saul's life. After his conversion Saul remained with the disciples and immediately proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues. People were amazed because he was a Pharisee who had been persecuting the followers of Jesus. His dramatic conversion served to confound the Jews there. This was further evidence that Jesus was alive and could transform lives.

Jesus once said to His disciples, "You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit – fruit that will last." See John 15:16. No place is this more true than in the life of Saul. It was by God's initiative that Saul was converted, and the fruit of that conversion was dramatic.

TALK ABOUT IT:

Are all Christians changed when they are converted? (Yes. We are all changed and all bear fruit for God's kingdom. If a person thinks he is a Christian but bears no fruit of conversion, that person should consider himself unconverted and should continue to call out to God for salvation.)

What do you think the Jews did about Saul's conversion? (As with Jesus, they plotted to kill him, but he escaped. See Acts 9:23-25. Just as God told Ananias, Saul would suffer much for the sake of Christ. That suffering began almost immediately. Paul, the persecutor, was now the one being persecuted.)

PRAY:

Thank God for the power of the gospel to change our lives.



**FRIDAY
ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS**

THE STORY: PSALM 130:3-8

The psalmist recognizes that we all deserve to be punished for our sins, and that every man is a sinner. If the Lord, in His glory, were to appear to us as He did to Saul on the road to Damascus, we would not be able to stand. Just as Saul fell to the ground, so would we. But we need not fear the Day of Judgment. We can, instead, hope in the Lord because He has redeemed us. The redeemer of Israel is Jesus. The psalmist would die waiting for his redemption. We, however, have no need to wait for our redeemer. Jesus, our redeemer, has come!

TALK ABOUT IT:

Why couldn't this passage be referring to anyone else beside Jesus? (Jesus is the only redeemer who can remove Israel's sins. Plenty of men were redeemers of Israel, saving them from an earthly enemy. But only Jesus brings eternal redemption. Only Jesus brings full redemption.)

If Jesus has already come, what good are these words of hope to us? (Although Jesus has already come, salvation has not automatically come to all men. We are required to place our faith and hope in Jesus. Only those who place their hope in Christ will be saved. This psalm urges us to trust in Jesus and assures us of His forgiveness.)

PRAY:

Thank God for not keeping a record of our sin. Thank God for redeeming us.