

CLAIMED BY GOD

Life Group
Discussion
Guide

05/10/2026

Sermon Summary:

This sermon explores the transformative story of Saul's conversion in Acts 9, focusing on Ananias—an ordinary disciple called to minister to the very man who had been persecuting Christians. The message challenges us to consider who is "on the other side of the road" for us—those people we find difficult to approach, whether due to past hurt, political differences, or personal offense. This illustrates how God's grace goes before us when we obediently cross difficult thresholds. The message emphasizes that restoration isn't about demanding apologies but about being willing to show up and take up space in hard places, trusting that God's love can bind us together.

Conversation Starter: What is something you were once afraid to try but now you're so glad you did? (A new experience or food, or perhaps talking to someone out of the ordinary).

Prayer: Lord, remind us daily: You are with us; grant us the courage to go where Your grace leads us, even to the people and places that frighten us most. Amen.

Read Scripture together: Acts 9:10-19

3-Question Study Method

Use this method to understand the passage.

1. What is the passage about?
2. What do I learn about God?
3. What is the lesson I learn that I can apply to my life?

Discussion Questions:

- Who is "on the other side of the road" for you right now—someone God might be calling you to reach out to, even though it feels uncomfortable or scary?
- Ananias argued with God about going to Saul, naming his legitimate fears. How does it change your perspective to see honest fear as an act of vulnerability rather than a failure of faith?
- By calling Saul "Brother" signified family and restoration without requiring an apology first. When have you experienced or witnessed reconciliation that happened through presence rather than words?
- What does it mean that Jesus said to Saul, "Why are you persecuting me?" rather than "Why are you persecuting my people?" How does this shape how we view harm done to others?
- The sermon emphasizes that "restoration is about presence" and being willing to go into hard places. What makes showing up physically or emotionally so powerful in the work of reconciliation?
- How does gathering together in worship prepare us to be "sent" rather than making church the final destination? What's the difference between a community that gathers versus one that gathers and goes?
- Saul was physically blind for three days after encountering Jesus (Acts 9:9), and God used Ananias to restore his sight through touch and prayer. What does this tell us about God's character—that He doesn't just confront us in our sin, but also provides the very people and means for our healing and restoration?

Memory Verse: Acts 9:15 - "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine."

Closing Prayer: Sovereign God, You go before us into every difficult place and hard conversation, and Your grace is already present where You call us to go. Give us eyes to see Your beloved in every person we encounter, courage to cross the thresholds that frighten us, and faith to trust that You are working all things together for Your glory. You are with us now and forevermore. In Jesus' mighty name, Amen.