

Small Group Guide

- Topic: Saul Sees the Light – Becoming a New Creation in Christ

Opening Question:

Have you ever experienced a moment that completely changed the direction of your life? What happened, and how did you respond?

Key Scripture:

- I. Acts 9:1-19 (NIV) – Saul’s conversion on the road to Damascus
- II. 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV) – “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!”

Main Points:

- I. Jesus can radically transform anyone, no matter their past.
- II. When we encounter Jesus, our lives and hearts are changed.
- III. Following Jesus means becoming a new creation and living with a renewed purpose.

Discussion Questions:

- I. Have you ever encountered Jesus in a way that transformed your perspective, like Saul? What did that change look like for you?
- II. Read Acts 9:1-19 together. How did Saul’s encounter with Jesus lead to his transformation? What stands out to you in this passage?
- III. In what ways do you see your life differently since deciding to follow Christ? How can you continue living out that transformation daily?
- IV. How can our group support one another in embracing and living like a “new creation?”
- V. What step can you take this week to let go of your “old self” and embrace life as a new creation in Christ?

Key Takeaways:

- I. Jesus can reach anyone, regardless of their past mistakes or beliefs.
- II. Encountering Jesus leads to a complete transformation of the heart.
- III. We are not defined by who we were but by who we are in Christ.
- IV. Living as a new creation involves purpose, obedience, and community.
- V. Our stories of transformation can encourage others to follow Jesus.

Next Steps:

- I. Identify one area in your life where you sense God is calling you to change and take a concrete action this week.

- II. Memorize 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV) as a reminder of your new identity in Christ.
- III. Pair up with someone from the group to pray and encourage each other through your transformation journey.
- IV. Set aside time each day to pray and ask God to renew your heart and mind.
- V. Look for opportunities to share your testimony of transformation with someone who needs hope this week.

Small Group Guide

- Topic: Paul's Great Escape

Opening Question:

Have you ever found yourself in a situation where you needed courage to stand up for your faith or beliefs? What gave you the strength to do it?

Key Scripture:

- Acts 9:19-31 (Paul's escape and early ministry)
- Acts 1:8 (Key Verse: Empowerment by the Holy Spirit)

Main Points:

- I. The transformation of Saul to Paul: From persecutor to preacher through God's grace.
- II. The courage to proclaim Jesus, even in the face of danger, comes from the Holy Spirit.
- III. The importance of Christian community in supporting and protecting one another.

Discussion Questions:

- I. How does Paul's story inspire you to be bold in your faith?
- II. What does Acts 1:8 reveal about the source of our strength and courage as Christians?
- III. In practical terms, how can we rely on the Holy Spirit when we face difficult conversations or opposition?
- IV. When have you needed help from other believers to stand firm in your faith? How did that affect your journey?

V. What is one area of your life where you want to be more courageous in sharing the good news? What step could you take this week?

Key Takeaways:

- I. God can radically change anyone's life, no matter their past.
- II. The Holy Spirit empowers us to share Jesus boldly.
- III. We are not alone—God gives us a spiritual family for support and encouragement.
- IV. Courage in our faith often requires action, not just belief.
- V. Trusting God's guidance opens doors for His mission through us.

Next Steps:

- I. Individually, identify one person with whom you can share your faith this week and pray for boldness.
- II. Memorize Acts 1:8 (NIV): "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."
- III. Pair up with someone in your group to encourage each other in sharing the gospel this week; check in mid-week.
- IV. Spend time each day praying for the Holy Spirit's guidance and courage.
- V. As a group, look for an opportunity to serve or share the gospel in your community together this month.