**Bible Study Questions: READ Acts 9 (NASB)**

***Memory Verses:*** *"But the Lord said to him, 'Go, for he is a chosen instrument of Mine, to bear My name before the Gentiles, kings, and the sons of Israel.'"* — Acts 9:15 (NASB)

In Acts Chapter 9, Saul of Tarsus, experiences a dramatic conversion on the road to Damascus leading to his baptism and initiation into the Christian faith; concurrently, the chapter recounts Peter's healing of Aeneas and the resurrection of Tabitha (Dorcas), showcasing the expanding reach and miraculous works of the early church.

**1. Saul’s Encounter with Jesus *(Acts 9:1–9)***

*Saul’s mission of persecution is interrupted by a personal encounter with the risen Christ.*

1. **What was Saul doing at the beginning of this chapter, and what does it reveal about his zeal?** *(v.1–2)*
2. **Where was Saul headed, and why is that location significant?** *(v.2)*
3. **What happened to Saul on the road to Damascus?** *(v.3-4)*
4. **What does Jesus’ question, “Why are you persecuting Me?” reveal about His relationship with the Church?** *(v.4-5)*
5. **What was Saul’s physical condition after the encounter, and why might this be symbolic?** *(v.8-9)*

**2. Ananias’ Obedience and God’s Plan *(Acts 9:10–19)***

*Ananias is called to minister to Saul, showing faith, obedience, and courage.*

1. **How did God speak to Ananias, and what was his initial reaction?** *(v.10-14)*
2. **What did God reveal about His plan for Saul?** *(v.15)*
3. **What can we learn from Ananias’ obedience despite fear?** *(v.17)*
4. **What happened when Ananias laid hands on Saul?** *(v.18)*
5. **Why is this moment important in Saul’s spiritual transformation?**

**3. Saul Begins to Preach *(Acts 9:20–31)***

*The former persecutor becomes a bold preacher, facing skepticism and opposition.*

1. **What was Saul’s immediate response after his conversion?** *(v.20)*
2. **How did people react to Saul’s preaching?** *(v.21)*
3. **What opposition did Saul face in Damascus and Jerusalem?** *(v.23-26)*
4. **What role did Barnabas play in Saul’s acceptance among the believers?** *(v.27)*

**4. The Church Strengthened and Multiplied *(Acts 9:31–43)***

*The Church experiences peace, growth, and continued miracles through Peter.*

1. **What was the condition of the Church after these events?** *(v.31)*

**Reflect**

1. **Transformation Through Divine Encounters:** *Reflect on a moment when a significant event or realization led you to reevaluate your beliefs or actions. How did this experience alter your life's direction? Consider Saul's encounter on the road to Damascus, where he was confronted by a divine light and the voice of Jesus, leading to his profound transformation (Acts 9:3–6).*
2. **Overcoming Reluctance to Embrace Others:** *Have you ever felt hesitant to accept someone into your community due to their past actions or reputation? What steps did you take to overcome this reluctance? Reflect on Ananias's initial hesitation to meet Saul, knowing his history of persecuting Christians, and how he moved past his fears to obey God's command (Acts 9:10–17).*
3. **Responding to New Callings:** *Have you ever been called to take on a role or task that felt unexpected or challenging? How did you respond, and what was the outcome? Think about how Saul, after his conversion, immediately began proclaiming Jesus in the synagogues, despite his past and the astonishment of those who heard him (Acts 9:19–22).*
4. **Extending Forgiveness and Support:** *Can you recall a time when you chose to support or mentor someone who had previously acted against your beliefs or community? What motivated you to offer this support, and what was the result? Consider Barnabas's decision to vouch for Saul and introduce him to the apostles, facilitating his acceptance among the disciples (Acts 9:26–28).*
5. **Experiencing Peace After Turmoil:** *After a period of personal struggle or conflict, have you experienced a sense of peace or stability? What factors contributed to this change?*
*Reflect on the church's experience of peace and growth following a time of persecution, as described in Acts 9:31.*