

## *Acts 1 Study and Discussion Questions*

### *Lesson Three: Saul's Conversion and Salvation for the Gentiles – Acts 9-12*

Read Acts 9:1-31.

- 1) Compare the account of Saul's conversion in Acts 9:1-19 with the accounts in Acts 22:6-16 and 26:12-18. Record any information given in the second and third accounts that is not included in the first.
  
- 2) Acts 9:22 says Saul was powerfully effective in proving that Jesus was the Christ. How was Saul trained in the ways and teachings of Jesus? Refer to Acts 22:3, 1 Corinthians 15:4-8, and 2 Corinthians 12:2-4 (some scholars believe the "man" Paul refers to is himself), and Galatians 1:11-17 (where an absence of time from Damascus is implied).
  
- 3) According to Acts 9:1-31, which two men did God use to bring Saul encouragement when he was a new Christian? What exactly did they do that would have encouraged him? What risk will you take this week to bring encouragement to a person who is difficult for you to approach?

Read Acts 9:32 -11:1.

- 4) Who is re-introduced in Acts 9:32-43 (preparing us for the important event recorded in chapter 10) and what was he doing? See Luke 5:18-25; 8:1, 49-55.

- 5) Which verses point out that Cornelius was a Gentile?
  
- 6) Trace the ways God prepared Peter for the outcome of his visit to Cornelius between Acts 9:32 and 10:48.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 7) Can you share a testimony of a time when you became very aware that God had prepared you for some work or event?

Read Acts 10:1-11:1, Ephesians 2:11-22, 3:2-6 and Colossians 1:25-27.

- 8) List at least four evidences from Acts 10:1-48 that Cornelius had been sincerely seeking God before Peter presented the Gospel to him.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 9) Consider the Ephesians and Colossians verses above (written by Paul, formerly Saul) with Acts 9:15, Romans 9:8, 11:13, Galatians 2:7, and Acts 10:34-35. Explain how Saul's conversion (Acts 9) and the events of Acts 10 showcase God's sovereign development of His Church. Make a list of at least three ongoing troubles or issues in your life (however small they may be) that you need to consider in light of God's greater and good plan for your life.

Read Acts 11:1-30.

- 10) According to Acts 11:1-18, Peter was criticized by his fellow apostles.
  - a) How might Peter have responded to the criticism he received in Acts 11:1-18 and how did he actually respond?

- b) On the basis of what authority did Peter explain the salvation of the Gentiles to his critics? Was it his own authority as an apostle?
- c) According to Acts 11:19-30, how did the church in Jerusalem respond to the conversion of Gentiles in Antioch (just a short time after the conversion of Cornelius' household)?

11) What do you learn about the church at Antioch from Acts 11:19-27?

12) How did the churches in Judea and Antioch lend one another support? How are you providing tangible support to Christians outside your own home church?

Read Acts 12.

13) Which verse in Acts 12 suggests something about Peter's mental state the night before he was to be put on trial?

14) In what two ways did God overturn the plans of Herod, according to Acts 12?

15) Compare Acts 12:5 with Acts 12:14-15. Is there something you believe you are praying for earnestly yet would actually be surprised if God answered according to what you have asked?