



the upside down series
week eight: a whole new life plan

1. When God converts you, _____ changes.
2. When God converts you, you become _____.
3. When God converts you, you need new _____.
4. When God converts you, you must _____.
5. When God converts you, it will _____.

If you thought the study was great up until now, you're in for a great surprise! This week we will spend our time in Acts 9 where Saul is converted to the apostle Paul. I cannot wait for you to get into it!



day one: the road to damascus

No conversion is as great or as dramatic as that of the apostle Paul. I hope you're ready to delve into it.

Read Acts 9:1-19.

exploring the text

1. Describe as much about Saul as you can based on vs.1-2.
2. The gospel is called "The way" in vs. 2. What do you think of that name?
3. Describe Saul's experience on the road to Damascus.

4. What do you think it would be like for Saul to meet Jesus in this way?

5. In what ways does Saul's conversion demonstrate the marvelous grace of God?

6. What immediate evidence of transformation do you see in Saul after his encounter with Jesus?

7. What is the significance of Ananias' ministry to Saul? How would you have reacted if you were in Ananias' shoes?

8. In vs. 15, God refers to Saul as a "chosen instrument". What do you think that means?

interesting fact

Saul's conversion is only possible through the Sovereign Grace of Jesus Christ. Reflect on God's grace in your life today. Write down your thoughts in the margin.



day two: misunderstood

Don't forget to begin your time with prayer. Make this a habit every time you start your quiet time.

Today we will focus on vs. 19-25. Read the passage.

exploring the text

1. Why do you think God allowed Saul to have scales on his eyes for 3 days?
2. What was one of the first things that Saul did after his conversion in vs.20? How was that possible?
3. What was the reaction of those who heard Saul? Do you blame them for being skeptical?
4. How was God glorified through the example of Saul?

prayer

Before Christ uses a man he must transform him first. What is God trying to transform in you today?



day three: too good to be true

What an example we have in the early church's reaction to the conversion of the apostle Paul.

Today read Acts 9:26-31.

exploring the text

1. How did the disciples welcome Paul in Jerusalem?
2. Who took care of Paul in Jerusalem? What do you remember about that person from Acts 4:36-37?
3. What does Paul do in Jerusalem in vs.28?
4. Who helped Paul escape in vs.30? How did those folks have a change of heart?

verse

1 Corinthians
15:10-11

But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.



day four: Tabitha, arise!

Paul is saved. The church is safe. At least for a little while!

We will go back to Peter briefly for the next couple of chapters!

Today read Acts 9:32-43.

exploring the text

1. How is the power of God demonstrated in this passage?
2. Who healed Aeneas?
3. What effect did the healing of Aeneas have on the people?
4. Describe Dorcas - and no! she is not a dork!

interesting fact

Simon the Tanner. Peter breaks down cultural barriers by staying with a man whose job was to tan the hides of dead animals; such an occupation was considered unclean to the Jews and no doubt this Simon was shunned by the members of the local synagogue.



day five: extra credit

Since we finished Acts 9, we will use this last day of homework to learn from the apostle Paul.

Today read Philippians 3:1-14. We are going to get a bit more insight into Paul's thinking about his relationship with Christ.

exploring the text

1. What is the real circumcision based on vs.3?
2. Did Paul have reason to put confidence in his flesh? List some of his accomplishments.
3. In vs.8 we read Paul's main thesis of faith. What did Paul lose for the sake of Christ?
4. How does one gain true righteousness according to Paul?

verse

Philippians 3:10

That I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death.

5. Did Paul feel like he'd reached it? How can you tell? (vs. vs. 12-14)

6. How can you know Christ more according to vs. 10?

personal application

7. Think about your life. What have you lost for the sake of Christ?

8. How are you getting to know Christ more through the fellowship of his suffering? Does this idea help you understand the difficult circumstances that you're going through more?

