

# Going Deeper

Your weekly guide to understanding God with others

## Life of Paul - Part 1

Leaving the past behind

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### Introduction

The Apostle Paul is one of the most significant characters of the New Testament, and stands out as an incredible example of discipleship and passion for the gospel. The 'Kairos moment' of his conversion experience completely redirected his life, his ministry, his passion, and ultimately, the broader course of Christian history. As we examine his life, we see how he died to his old self — a Pharisee who persecuted believers — and was regenerated into a new life of zealously serving Jesus.

**Read** Acts 9:1-22, Galatians 1:13-17, 1 Timothy 1:12-16, Philippians 3:7-9.

### Discuss

1. A Kairos moment is a point in time bringing an opportunity to change the trajectory of life by making significant adjustments. Share a Kairos moment that you have experienced. What impact did it have on you? What was the catalyst for your decision?
2. What is your initial reaction to the story of Paul's conversion and transformation? What can we learn from this story about how God works today?
3. Read Acts 9:9. What is the symbolism and significance of Paul's three days of blindness? Why was it necessary?
4. What did Paul need to surrender in order to become a disciple of Jesus? What have you had to surrender in your life for Jesus?
5. Read Acts 9:10-19. What fear did Ananias express? What fear might Paul have felt in this moment? What fear do you face at present in being obedient to what Jesus is calling you to do?

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6. Fear can be completely paralysing or it can be a powerful motivator. What do you do when you experience fear? What can you do to overcome this? Is fear a barrier to your obedience to God?
7. Pride, comfort and social acceptance are major barriers we must surrender when we are called to obey Jesus. Have you experienced this? Was it difficult for you? Which of these barriers were the most challenging for you to surrender? Discuss.

### **Respond**

God used a dramatic conversion experience to reach Saul because he was hard-hearted towards the gospel message. When Paul met Jesus, he was shaken to the core and immediately changed into an all-in, fully obedient disciple. The experience removed Paul's comfort, self-sufficiency and pride, as he learnt to trust in God.

What is one thing God is calling you to change this week that you have been unwilling to surrender to Him? What will it take for you to be obedient to this? Make a commitment to the group to take the necessary step this week.