

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

"BUT GOD" SERIES

These questions are for the **November 12, 2017** sermon, "But the Lord Said." Please read the sermon passage (Acts 9:1-19a) together out loud.

SERMON OUTLINE

AS A RESULT OF CONVERSION, NOTE . . .

1. The new relationship we have with God's Son (1-9)
 - a. Saul had a pattern of oppressing and persecuting God's people.
 - i. Acts 7; 8:1; 9:1. His conversion happened while he was "still breathing threats."
 - ii. God used Saul's threats to scatter the church, spreading its impact far and wide.
 - iii. God used the Stephen's final words of grace and forgiveness (Saul heard them!).
 - iv. God invests our every experience. God never wastes our experiences.
 - b. Saul had an encounter with the one-and-only "Way," the risen Christ.
 - i. Saul had been persecuting anyone numbered among "the Way."
 - ii. Without Christ (but in his own mind, 'for God'), while he went his own way.
 - iii. Note the exclusiveness of Jesus:
 1. Don't ask "Why is there only one way?"
 2. Do ask: "Why is there any way at all?"
 - c. Note that when God pursues someone, he captures their heart, and bends their will.
 - i. God is personal, and he takes the initiative.
 - ii. Christ is risen from the dead.
 - iii. Continue to pray for the one who seemingly knows all the answers.
 - iv. It's not enough that one hears and gives mental assent. The very will must be bent to God's. The true convert says "yes" to the Lord.
2. The new relationship we have with God's people (10-19a)
 - a. God sovereignly orchestrates every event and relationship.
 - i. Before conversion: Saul interacted with Stephen (Acts 7)
 - ii. At conversion: Saul interacted (here) with Ananias.
 - iii. After conversion: Saul interacted with Barnabas (Acts 13)
 - b. Ananias was reluctant, "but God said . . . go."
 - c. Nothing is too hard for the Lord. No one is out of his reach. Ever.
 - d. Ananias risks his own life, the well-being of his family and the security of "the Way" in order to welcome a religious extremist who had truly converted to Jesus Christ.
 - e. God's people have this in common: all of us say "yes" to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: How has the resistance of unbelievers in your past been used of God to make you stronger and send you farther for his purposes?
2. Based on #1, above: Do you have a hardened unbeliever in your life? Does your prayer life reflect a growing trust that God can reach anyone, anywhere at any time? How can we help?
3. Based on #1, above: Jesus claimed to be the only way to the Father. So Christianity is not an arrogant religion that insists that it is right, it is a family of people who believe Jesus' claims. How do the two questions (1. b. iii., above) help you think clearly and reason clearly? Do you have ongoing conversations with friends and co-workers about the claims of Jesus?
4. Based on #2, above: We can see God's sovereignty in conversions more clearly after conversion, than before, partly because we now see with eyes of faith. How did God sovereignly work through your relationships to bend your will to his? Do you sense that God is using you to bring others to faith in Jesus Christ?
5. Based on #2, above: Talk about your relationships with other believers. The Lord says, "Go to them," even though you may have to risk your own personal safety or comfort to do so. Don't focus on how others have treated you, but focus on your expectations (and God's expectation) of you. Where is he saying, "Go" to them? How can you be faithful today?