

# REAL CHURCH GROWING FAITH:

A TEACHING SERIES IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

## Real Truth in a Real World

Receiving and Achieving

Acts 9:20-31

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### DISCUSSION GUIDE

Author and theologian Wayne Grudem describes conversion as “our willing response to the gospel call, in which we sincerely repent of sins and place our trust in Christ for salvation.” What do you point to as your conversion experience? What happened? In what ways does this experience look different for each person? In what ways should it be the same? (cf. John 1:12; Ephesians 2:8)

*The call to achievement for Christ, is based on what we have received from Christ. This call is:*

#### 1. Urgent

- My moment within the Church’s moment

- My story pointing to Jesus’ story

In what ways did Saul leverage his testimony right away for Jesus? What is your particular story? What are some experiences God has brought you through that can be used to point others to Jesus?

#### 2. Irksome (cf. Acts 17:31-32; 24:25)

- It is rightfully aimed.

- It is properly confrontational.

Describe the manner in which Saul was irksome with the message of Jesus in this context.

Generally speaking, what is “irksome” (confrontational, rebuking, irritating) about the message of Jesus?

What are some *wrong* reasons Christians can be irksome? What does it look like to *rightly* offend someone with the gospel? Has this ever happened to you?

#### 3. Shared

- We need the church generally.

In what ways in this text was Saul’s early Christian experience intertwined with other Christians in the early church.

- We need the church specifically.

Read verse 27. Barnabas took, brought, and told about Saul to those who didn’t know him. Who is someone that has done this for you? Have you done this for someone?

(If you can think of someone who has been to you like Barnabas was to Saul, let them know this week.)

For deeper study this week, reread Acts 9:20-31 and consider the following questions:



What is something that shines from these verses, impacts, draws attention?



What is difficult to understand in these verses? What would you like to ask the writer, or the Lord?



What is a point of personal application for your life from these verses?