

**Victoria Fellowship Church**  
**International & Interdenominational**  
**Bible Study Worksheet – December 8, 2019**

**Theme:** THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES **Topic:** Saul: Convicted and converted

**Main Text:** Acts 9:1-31.

**Key verse:** Acts 9:5 'And he said, "Who are You, Lord?" Then the Lord said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads."' (NKJV)

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**INTRODUCTION:** Saul was from the Jewish tribe of Benjamin. He describes himself as '... a Hebrew of Hebrews; a Pharisee (to illustrate the extent of his knowledge and grasp of the Mosaic Law); ... as for legalistic righteousness, faultless.' (Philippians 3:4-6). Yet, the opening sentence in Acts 9 says 'Then Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord...' The condition of his heart was terrible – his mind was full of rage and thirsting for blood; not just any blood, but for the blood of the saints. His passion and commitment to this cause was unmistakable. In fact, he considered his crusade to destroy the fledgling Church as an obligation (Acts 26:9). But he would become Apostle Paul, the chief proponent of Jesus Christ.

1. **(a). What could possibly make someone with Saul's background and knowledge to become a sworn enemy of Jesus Christ? (b). Discuss the lessons about God's grace in saving someone like Saul (c). How should this help our attitude towards those who viciously oppose the Gospel and other Christians?**

Saul's campaign against the Church must have been a 'huge success' for him to travel that far. For he said, 'Many times I went from one synagogue to another to have them punished... I even hunted them down in foreign cities' (Acts 26:11). But on this very day, on one of such overseas terror campaigns, he came face to face with the One whom he was up against – Jesus Christ (Acts 9:3-6). The presence of Jesus Christ was so awesome that Saul was thrown to the ground and His brilliance blinded him. No wonder that his first words were 'Who are you, Lord?' The Hebrew of Hebrews and Pharisee of Pharisees couldn't ask for miracles and signs like he would have done before (Matthew 12:38; John 2:18; 4:48). What Stephen's beautiful exposition of Scripture couldn't accomplish was achieved in a 'flash.'

2. **(a). Let participants identify some key elements in the conversion of Saul (see Acts 9:3-6; 2 Corinthians 4:4,6) (b). In what ways does the conversion of such a sworn enemy of the Church encourage or convict us in our thinking about the salvation of a Jihadist; or any other hardened criminal or addict? E.g. Romans 1:16 (c). How should we, therefore, be praying for such individuals?**

The scales really fell from Saul's eyes. Every time he had to share his testimony, he never failed to mention his past foolish zeal. Hear him: '*Indeed, I myself thought I must do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth. ...; and being exceedingly enraged against them, I persecuted them even to foreign cities ... and when they were put to death, I cast my vote against them.*' Acts 26:9-11 NKJV). His testimony about his conversion also always included his Damascus road encounter (Acts 22:6-10; 26:12-18). There was no doubt in Saul's mind concerning what happened to him and its implications for his life, going forward. Once Saul knew the truth about Jesus, the direction of his life changed – from a burning desire to stop Jesus Christ to one of promoting that same Jesus with every breath of his life. He channeled the same zeal with which he persecuted the Church into promoting the same to the amazement of all (Acts 9:21). Saul (Paul) would spend the rest of his life going from country to country and town to town proclaiming Jesus as the Messiah (Romans 15:19). Jesus' greatest antagonist became His biggest advocate!

3. **(a). What are some of the tangible evidence of Saul's conversion? See Acts 9:6-10, 19-22, 26-28; 26:19 (b). Let participants discuss the possible implications of someone who claims to have been converted but showing no tangible evidence of that conversion (c) Ananias and Barnabas were key players in the life of the young convert, Saul. How should the church, like VFC, build up the ministry of discipleship and support new converts in the Christian body?**

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**Prayer:** Father God, help me to daily see Jesus as Lord so that I may grow in knowing, loving and serving You with all my heart and soul and strength. In Jesus Name, amen.