



Can You See Him? Week 2

- Describe an experience you that seemed unusual at the time, but turned out to be God working in your life.

Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem.

Acts 9:1-2 (NIV)

- Paul's persecution of Christians made it seem like he would be the least likely to ever become a follower of Christ. Describe someone you know or have heard about that seemed unlikely to follow Christ but ultimately found their lives radically changed by Christ.

As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" "Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked. "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

Acts 9:3-5 (NIV)

- God revealed Himself to Saul with a flash of light on the road to Damascus. In what ways has God revealed Himself to you?

"Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

Acts 9:6 (NIV)

- Describe a time when you believed God was leading you to do something. Why did you believe it was God? How did you respond to that experience?

The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything.

Acts 9:7-9 (NIV)

- Sometimes God works through extreme circumstances to gain our attention such His blinding of Saul. Have you experienced God doing something extreme in your life to gain your attention? If so, describe it.

In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!" "Yes, Lord," he answered. The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying..." "Lord," Ananias answered, "I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your saints in Jerusalem. And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name."

Acts 9: 10-11, 13-14 (NIV)

- Ananias answered the voice of God and said, "Yes, Lord..." implying he was ready and willing to do what God asked. Is there anything God has been leading you to do that you haven't said "yes" to? If so, what is it?

But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel. Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord-Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here — has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again.

Acts 9:15,17-18a (NIV)

- God does not choose the prepared, but rather He prepares the chosen such as Saul. How have you seen God prepare you throughout the various seasons of your life to carry out His purpose? How are you seeing God preparing you now for some purpose He has for you in the future?

Final thought: God has specific purposes for each of us. Open yourselves up to God and ask Him to reveal those purposes to you. Ask God to open your eyes just as He did Saul's and truly reveal Himself to you.



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For Further Study

To use this resource, simply select one or two questions from each category below that you think will help your group discussion. Alternatively, you can use these questions and Scriptures in your own personal devotions during the week.

Open

- What motivates people to make major changes in their lives?

Explore

Read Romans 6:1-14

- What does baptism symbolize about our relationship to Christ? (6:2-4)
- What makes it possible for a person to live a new life? (6:4)
- Before a person is united to Christ, to what is he or she a slave? (6:6)
- How does being united with Christ through His death change our relationship to sin? (6:7)
- How will uniting with Christ in His death change the future of our lives? (6:8-10)

- What change in attitude and action toward God happens in a person who follows Christ? (6:11-13)
- How does being under grace change a person? (6:14)

Reflect

- What does this passage tell us about all people and their relationship to God?
- What kind of changes does God make in our lives when we become Christians?
- How does God help a person discard old habits and tendencies?
- How does God give a person a new self?
- What does it mean to live a new life for God?
- In what ways is a Christian truly free?

Apply

- What are some specific ways you can offer yourself as an instrument of righteousness to God and others this week?



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Can You See Him

God has a purpose for each of us that He is preparing us for in our daily lives. This week focus on your relationship with God and attempt to seek out the purpose He has for you and specific things He wants you to accomplish for His glory. As you undertake this inward journey of discovery this week, here are some specific things you can do to help you uncover the unique plans God has in store for you.

- Spend time in prayer each day seeking His purpose. You might consider using the daily prayer guide that is supplied on this page to help direct your prayers.
- Spend time reading the Bible. Study the passage from Acts 9 or other Scriptures that God is leading you to read.
- Seek counsel from your spiritual elders or accountability partners. Many times God speaks to us through the wisdom of others. Intentionally set aside time this week to meet with that person and seek their advice. Pray with that person.
- Journal your thoughts during your prayer time. If you do not regularly journal during your prayer time, try doing so this week and write down what things God is telling you. At the end of the week review what you have written in your journal and see if you have a better understanding of what God is trying to show you.

Here are some suggestions you may want to use for your time with God this week:

Day 1: Read Acts 9:1-2. Pray for those that you know who are living their lives without God. Pray that God will open their eyes to His truth.

Day 2: Read Acts 9:3-6. Pray and ask God to continue to reveal Himself to you and what purposes He has planned for your life.

Day 3: Read Acts 9:7-14. Continue to ask God to help you understand the role He has for you to play. Make yourself ready and willing to play this role like Ananias was.

Day 4: Read Acts 9:15-18. Ask God to continue preparing you in all areas of your life for the great purposes He has in store for your life.

Day 5: Read Romans 6:1-14. Thank God for opening your eyes to His truth and the transformation in your life.