

## DAILY BIBLE STUDY SHEET

*Daily meditation on the Word of God is imperative to our growth. As the people of God we should commitment to reading Scripture every day. There are questions to help prompt your meditation. If you do not have a Bible, please contact the church office and one will be given to you. To locate the passages, use the Table of Contents to find the page number. The number before the colon will tell you the chapter to find. The numbers after the colon are the superscript numbers in your Bible indicating the verses to read. Our Lenten meditations are based on Warren Wiersbe's book "Jesus in the Present Tense."*

### **Monday, April 4<sup>th</sup> – Acts 9:3; 22:6; 26:13**

We finish our study of the I AM's with a look at Saul's conversion. It is within this conversion that we hear Jesus state an answer to Paul's question as to whom this voice belonged: "I am Jesus, the one you persecute." The conversion of Paul is recorded three times in the book of Acts. In Chapter 9, we hear Luke's rendition. In Chapters 22 and 26, we hear Paul tell his story. As we read we will note similarities and differences. We will also discover the elements of transformation. We begin with seeing the light surround Paul and his men. As you read, what do you see that is the same? What is different about this light? How many in the first two readings does it surround? How many in Chapter 26? Remember that Jesus said he was the Light of the World that gave life. How was this going to be a life giving moment for Saul? In the light we are shown what we truly look like. We see clearly our unrighteousness compared to Christ's perfection. Sometimes we must be blinded, so that we can see exactly who we are truthfully, with no ability to boast or brag. We must just repent for where we are wrong. God's light on our lives gives us this display and stops us from comparing ourselves to others. Rather, it makes us accountable for whom we are and what we have done. Are you letting Christ's light shine on your life choices? If not, why not? How does this tie into becoming a new creation and the original creation?

### **Tuesday, April 5<sup>th</sup> – Acts 9:4; 22:7; 26:14; Proverbs 16:18**

We move forward in the story of transformation. Again, notice the similarities and differences. We see two things happening here in these passages. First we see that Saul falls to the ground, face down, after seeing the light. Notice what Proverbs 16:18 has to say about who gets knocked down. We cannot stand proud in front of Christ, but are humbled by the reality of who we are compared to Him when his light shines on us. What does Jesus say is Saul's sin? Saul was a devout and faithful Jew, protecting the faith of Jews. How did Saul's pride in this get him into trouble? Consider what religious pride that you might have in your life. What are you fighting so hard against that Jesus might be asking you the same as he did Saul? How do you know if you are fighting against Christ or working with him? Although being convicted of his sin so that he could repent, Saul shows that our encounters with Christ this way do not lead us into condemnation before God, but rather into salvation and new life. What is Christ convicting you of today?

### **Wednesday, April 6<sup>th</sup> – Acts 9:5-6; 22:8-9; 26:15**

Today we will look at the question asked of Saul, as well as those who were with Saul. Tomorrow we will look at Jesus' response to the question. How did Paul respond to the voice that made the accusation of persecution? Jesus does answer Saul's question. Note that in Chapters 9 and 22 that Saul's traveling companions also hear the voice. Notice in chapter 9 they hear the voice and are left speechless. In 22, they hear something, but cannot understand. Some say this is because Jesus spoke Hebrew and the Romans did not understand it. Others say that they only heard a loud noise and were unsure what made it. When it comes to Jesus speaking to you, how do you respond? Like Saul? Like the Roman soldiers? Is it easier to just not listen for Jesus' voice? Consider what might happen if you do not hear and adhere to Jesus' voice. What is at stake? To hear the voice of Christ calling to us takes practice. It starts with the small things in life and as larger things come about, we will hear Christ's calling us into the right direction then as well. Spend time listening for Jesus calling to you today.

**Thursday, April 7<sup>th</sup> – Acts 9:5-6; 22:8-10; 26:15-18**

Today we turn to Jesus' response to Saul's question and call on Saul's life. As you read each story, notice again the similarities and subtle differences. Jesus is quick to tell Saul that it is Jesus of Nazareth or Jesus the one you're persecuting. The distinction is made because Jesus was a popular name of the time. It reminded many of Joshua from the Old Testament. It wasn't until the second century that the name became less used. But Jesus does not only reveal himself to Saul, but commands Saul to rise and go to Damascus, where he will get further marching orders. There is now a call on Saul's life by the Jesus whom he was persecuting. Saul is now going to be an instrument in this new faith, the faith which he so adamantly opposed. Where is Christ calling you to be a servant like Saul in His kingdom work? If you are not able to hear Christ's voice, will you be able to hear the call? And if you hear the call, are you willing to be used, no matter what? Everyone who says they believe is given a Spiritual Gift that they are to use for the Kingdom of God. What Christ gift do you have to serve?

**Friday, April 8<sup>th</sup> – Acts 22:11-16; 26:19-20**

We close this week with a look at Paul's response. It is total surrender—partly because he is blind, but also because he has encountered the living Jesus Christ. When you have a Christ encounter, you are never the same. Your life is opened to all sorts of transformation and age has nothing to do with it. Amazingly enough, Saul (who became Paul) never needed anything more than the story that changed his life. He witnessed about the Christ who saves from his own salvation experience. Not every one's experience will be this dramatic, but everyone who is saved has a salvation story. Do you know your story? Do you see God's fingerprints of transformation in your life? Begin today writing down these stories so you can begin to learn your story to share as a witness to others. Learn to be obedient like Saul.

**Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup> – *In preparation for tomorrow's worship, please read Psalm 1.***