

## WELCOME

Spend a few minutes greeting everyone in the group.

## ICE BREAKER/INTRODUCTION QUESTIONS

How do you tend to respond when someone tells you he or she has changed? What do you think makes it so hard to change? What types of things have you tried, to stop a behavior you regret?

## **DISCUSSION**

- 1. Most of us want to do better to be better friends, employees, spouses, parents...But we often struggle to change. Have you ever felt that your sins were too big for God to forgive? What was that like?
- 2. Saul, who was later called Paul, was very different before he believed in the gospel of Christ. Based on <a href="Philippians3:4-5">Philippians 3:4-5</a>, <a href="Acts 6:8-15">Acts 6:8-15</a>; <a href="Acts 9:1-2">Acts 9:1-2</a>; <a href="Acts 22:2-5">Acts 22:2-5</a> and <a href="Acts 8:1-3">Acts 8:1-3</a>, describe Paul before he met Jesus. (You'll see how Paul is connected once you've read all the passages.)
- 3. **Read Acts 9:3-9.** Who spoke to Paul on the road? What question did the voice ask? What were the immediate consequences of Paul's personal encounter with Jesus on the road? (vss. 4, 8-9.)
- 4. **Read Acts 9:10-14.** What did the Lord ask Ananias to do? What concerns did Ananias have about obeying? How did the Lord respond to his concerns?
- 5. **Read Acts 9:15-22.** How did Ananias obey? How might things have been different if Ananias hadn't obeyed God? Is God calling you to forgive anyone? What good might come out of your obedience? What will you do about it?
- 6. **Read Acts 26:15-18**. Considering his past, what surprises you about the assignment Jesus gave to Paul? Why do you think Jesus appointed Paul to be His servant and witness in spreading the good news of Jesus?
- 7. In addition to the physical healing, what more was taking place when the "scales fell from Saul's eyes?"
- 8. Paul believed in Jesus and received the Holy Spirit. How did God begin to use Paul? What things do you know about the impact Paul had as God's servant and witness after he believed in Jesus?
- 9. Paul met Jesus, and he was changed. Paul believed Jesus, and he did incredible things to spread the gospel. If God can forgive Paul, He can forgive anyone. If God can change Paul, He can change anyone. What behaviors are you tired of trying to fix on your own? What do you need to release to God? What steps will you take this week to make that happen?
- 10. If you have placed your faith in Jesus as your Savior and Lord, describe how knowing Jesus has changed your life.
- 11. **Read <u>1 Corinthians 15:1-11</u>**. What was the gospel that Paul preached? (vss. 3-8) What does Paul say qualifies him to share the good news about Jesus with others? (vs. 10)

## **PRAYER**

- What one truth about God do you need to believe this week? Have you taken the step to believe He died for your sins? Do you need to believe His grace covers your sins? Do you need to believe He can change you? How might others benefit if you believe? Ask your community group to pray with you about this.
- Commit to read and meditate on **Ephesians 2:1-10** this week to learn more about God's grace made available to you through Jesus.