

LifeGroup Member

Preparing for Life Lesson 6: The Discipleship of the Church February 5, 2012



Key Verse(s): Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias; and the Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord." Acts 9:10

One Church Connection: Disciples are prepared and willing to say, "Here I am, Lord!"

Focal Passage(s): Acts 9:10-31

Context: Saul, a Pharisee, a religious zealot and a persecutor of Christians, was converted on the road to Damascus through a personal encounter with the Lord Jesus Christ. For three days he was left blind in the city, uncertain of his future yet certain that his life had been changed forever. As Saul prayed, a disciple named Ananias received a vision from the Lord. Ananias' response was simply, "Here I am, Lord." He obeyed Christ's command to go to this new believer. Laying his hands upon him, Saul's blindness was healed. He was filled with the Holy Spirit. He was baptized. He began to proclaim Jesus as the Son of God. That is a wonderful picture of discipleship.

Connecting to the Passage

The Discipleship Journey

Matthew 7:13,14

Discipleship is a journey; a journey that begins by making a choice. The great poet, Robert Frost ended his most well known poem, "The Road Not Taken," with these words:

*I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I--
I took the one less travelled by,
And that has made all the difference.*

Jesus made the same point in His Sermon on the Mount, declaring that every person must make a choice. Most will choose the broad way that leads to destruction, while only a few will choose the narrow way that leads to life. Choosing the narrow path leads to a life disciplined by faith in the living Word and by obedience to the written Word. This is the life of a disciple. By choosing the less travelled way, disciples recognize the difference that Jesus Christ and the Bible have made in their lives. Their journey is directed by the Holy Spirit and their testimony is a witness to the truth. Have you made the decision to follow Christ as His disciple? Will you be telling the story of your journey for ages to come? Or will you come to a place where you lament that you did not take the road "less travelled by?"

*Lord Jesus, I choose to be your disciple. Please help me to walk by faith,
study your Word, be led by your Spirit and carry out your will for my life.
I ask in the power of Your name. Amen.*

Investigating the Text

1. Read Acts 9:10-31.
2. What are the key words that stand out to you in this passage?
3. What is the main idea of this passage? Is there more than one theme?
4. What does this passage reveal about who God is?
5. What does this passage reveal about what it means to be a disciple of Christ?
6. Is there a truth or a phrase from this passage that is particularly meaningful to you in your current life circumstances? How can this truth or phrase strengthen your walk with Christ?
7. Is there a word, phrase, or verse that you have questions about? If so, write down your questions. Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to increase your understanding. Read the passage again.
8. Ask God to help you apply the truths of this passage today. If this time of study has brought to mind any prayer requests you can bring to God about your friends, family, church, nation, or world, talk with God about these prayer concerns.



Preparing for LifeGroup Discussions

1. What had God chosen Saul to do (v.15)? What would Saul experience while fulfilling his calling (v.16)?
2. As a new believer, Saul preached Christ and “increased all the more in strength” (v.22). What is usually going on in your life during those times when you are growing stronger spiritually?
3. Who were the people in this passage who had a positive impact on Saul and his ministry? What did they do for him? How do you assist and encourage others in their ministry?
4. What are the words or phrases in verse 31 that describe what the churches were experiencing? How did the health of these churches affect their ability to impact lost people?