

April 22, 2020

A Call to Follow

1. Read about Saul – Acts 9:1-9, 17-22

The Blinding of Saul

9 ¹⁻² All this time Saul was breathing down the necks of the Master’s disciples, out for the kill. He went to the Chief Priest and got arrest warrants to take to the meeting places in Damascus so that if he found anyone there belonging to the Way, whether men or women, he could arrest them and bring them to Jerusalem.

³⁻⁴ He set off. When he got to the outskirts of Damascus, he was suddenly dazed by a blinding flash of light. As he fell to the ground, he heard a voice: “Saul, Saul, why are you out to get me?”

⁵⁻⁶ He said, “Who are you, Master?”

“I am Jesus, the One you’re hunting down. I want you to get up and enter the city. In the city you’ll be told what to do next.”

⁷⁻⁹ His companions stood there dumbstruck—they could hear the sound, but couldn’t see anyone—while Saul, picking himself up off the ground, found himself stone-blind. They had to take him by the hand and lead him into Damascus. He continued blind for three days. He ate nothing, drank nothing.

¹⁷⁻¹⁹ So Ananias went and found the house, placed his hands on blind Saul, and said, “Brother Saul, the Master sent me, the same Jesus you saw on your way here. He sent me so you could see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” No sooner were the words out of his mouth than something like scales fell from Saul’s eyes—he could see again! He got to his feet, was baptized, and sat down with them to a hearty meal.

Plots Against Saul

¹⁹⁻²¹ Saul spent a few days getting acquainted with the Damascus disciples, but then went right to work, wasting no time, preaching in the meeting places that this Jesus was the Son of God. They were caught off guard by this and, not at all sure they could trust him, they kept saying, “Isn’t this the man who wreaked havoc in Jerusalem among the believers? And didn’t

he come here to do the same thing—arrest us and drag us off to jail in Jerusalem for sentencing by the high priests?”

²² But their suspicions didn't slow Saul down for even a minute. His momentum was up now and he plowed straight into the opposition, disarming the Damascus Jews and trying to show them that this Jesus was the Messiah.

The Message (MSG)

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2. Answer these questions:

What was Saul's call from God?

How did God's call impact Saul's life?

What would have happened if Saul had not responded, but ignored God's call?

3. Answer the questions on page 144 in Student Guide under "Reflect".
4. Complete pages 146-147 in Student Guide.

Lesson 36: A Call to Follow

— **EXPLORE** —

Soul—Acts 9:1-9, 17-22

Ananias—Acts 9:10-18

— **REFLECT** —

Tuning in God

Skills: When you begin to understand your skills and how to use them. List the things you are good at.

Excuses: A phrase where you convince yourself you can't do something. List the reasons you have used to get out of using your skills.

Confirmation: God uses other people and experiences to motivate you to respond. Who has encouraged you to discover and use your skills? What skills and passions are they noticing in you?

Desire: When you realize that doing what you're good at brings you joy and God joy. How does it feel to use your skills to help someone else? How does the other person feel?

Opportunity: God provides the time and space to use your skills for God. List three specific ways you can use your skills and passions for God.

— **CREATE** —

Wanted: You
Follow the directions on page 146.

— **NEXT** —

Ideas to Try This Week

At home: Ask a family member whether he or she has ever felt led to do something out of the ordinary. Talk about how his or her decision affected others in the family. Ask whether he or she has ever considered what you might be led to do that is out of the ordinary.

At school: God's call to live for Christ is not something we add on to what we do. It is how we live our life every day. Consider the extracurricular activities you are already involved in related to your school (clubs, sports, ensembles, and so on). How might you be called to share God's love through those activities? Who in those groups might need to hear about God through you?

In your community: Saul (also called Paul) was called by God to serve the people outside his immediate circle. What do you think the world's greatest need is? How might God be calling you to meet that need outside of your immediate circle of church, home, and school?

— **MY IDEAS** —

— **READ MORE** —

More about God's call for your future—Jeremiah 29:11-14

More about God's call to Moses—Exodus 3:1-12

More about Peter's call to bring the good news to people outside his circle—Acts 10

Wanted: You

Write 3 short job descriptions. Look back to the words you wrote in the Reflect section for inspiration and ideas.

- In the first job description, describe the kind of person God is calling you to be.
- In the second one, describe something God is calling you to do right now.
- In the third one, describe something God is calling you to do in the future.

“God doesn't call the equipped....
 God equips the called.”

—Rick Yancey

“The place God calls you to
 is the place where your deep
 gladness and the world's deep
 hunger meet.”

—Frederick Buechner

WHO GOD IS CALLING ME TO BE

WHAT GOD IS CALLING ME TO DO NOW

WHAT GOD IS CALLING ME TO DO IN THE FUTURE