

Weekly Sermon Discussion Guide

Who Has God Put in Your Path?

January 21, 2024

HOW WE CHANGE

Acts 9:10-19

EXPLORING THE SERMON

- * What did you hear?
- * What did you think or feel about what you heard?
- * What is one thing you can take away from the sermon this week?

KEY VERSES

¹⁰Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord." ¹¹The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, ¹²and he has seen in a vision^[a] a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." ¹³But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem, ¹⁴and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name." ¹⁵But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; ¹⁶I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." ¹⁷So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul^[b] and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." ¹⁸And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, ¹⁹and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

We began this series thinking about how change begins with God, not us. The second week, we were reminded we gain clarity in community, as Ananias does for Saul. This week, we look at the same passage through the eyes of Ananias. **How have you thought about change differently for your life over these last three weeks? How is your community helping you discern this? Who have been the Ananiases in your life? How would you react if God shows up in your home and gives you such a strange assignment?**

The very nature of God is that He is a sending God - through His incarnation He brought grace and salvation to all people. God sends Jesus to Saul on the road to Damascus, then sends Ananias to Saul, and then sends Saul to bring the Gospel to the Gentiles. In the same way, God's vision for each of us in 2024 is to be part of a story bigger than ourselves. As C.S. Lewis said, "joy is the presence of purpose." When we figure out how God is specifically sending us, we come alive with this kind of joy. **This week, sit with the question, "who might God be putting in your path in 2024?" Who might need to receive healing through you? Do any names immediately come to mind?**