

Group Conversation Guide

Week of July 9

SERIES: Ordinary People: Acts of God
TITLE: Doing a 180
Scripture: Acts 9:1–31

BEFORE YOUR MEETING

- Read Acts 9:1–31 before gathering.
- Watch or attend this week's message by Pastor Mark Ragsdal at Church at Viera: churchatviera.com/live/

BEGINNING THE CONVERSATION (ICEBREAKER)

- Have you ever completely changed your mind about someone or something? What happened?

STUDY TOGETHER

Jesus Changes Lives

Read Acts 9:3–9

On the road to Damascus, Saul's life changed forever. The man who had been persecuting Christians came face-to-face with the risen Jesus.

Read Acts 26:14

Jesus tells Saul, *"It is hard for you to kick against the goads."*

A goad was a sharp stick used to guide an ox in the right direction. The more the animal resisted, the more painful the journey became.

- What stands out to you about Saul's encounter with Jesus?
- Why do you think God sometimes uses uncomfortable circumstances to get our attention?
- Is there an area where God may be prompting you to trust or obey Him today?
- God lovingly pursues us, even when we're headed in the wrong direction.

Trust God's Direction

Read Acts 9:10–16

God calls Ananias to visit Saul. From Ananias' perspective, it doesn't make sense. Saul is dangerous.

Yet God simply says, **"Go!"**

- What would have been hardest about obeying God's command if you were Ananias?
- Have you ever sensed God asking you to do something that didn't make sense?

- What keeps us from trusting God's direction?
- God sees what we cannot. His plans are always better than ours.

Join Jesus in Restoring People

Read Acts 9:17–18

Ananias obeys. He doesn't call Saul an enemy. He calls him "**Brother Saul.**"
God restores Saul physically, spiritually, and personally.

Read Acts 9:26–27

Later, when others are afraid to trust Saul, Barnabas steps in. He believes God's work is real and helps Saul become part of the church family.

- Why do you think Barnabas was willing to give Saul a chance?
- Who has encouraged or believed in you when you needed it most?
- How can you help restore someone instead of writing them off?
- God calls us to participate in His work of restoring people.

Our One More

Jesus transformed Saul, the last person anyone expected. No one is beyond God's reach.

- Who is one person you've been tempted to think is "too far gone" for God?
- What might God be asking you to do in that person's story?

WORSHIP TOGETHER

- Graves Into Gardens - <https://youtu.be/kTvv-9zosPs?si=kwsN-CY84IJGHQcV>

PRAYER TOGETHER

Pray for:

- Hearts that respond to Jesus.
- Courage to obey God's leading.
- Eyes to see people the way Jesus sees them.
- Your "One More" who needs Christ.