

Message Study Guide

(Scriptures & quotes from this week's message are available on [thorncreek.church/live](http://thorncreek.church/live))

**Warming up**

1. If you could make one significant change in your life, what would you change?

**Digging Deeper & Application**

Take your time reading the scripture given. If possible look up the verses in different versions and pause at each verse and discuss it.

2. Saul, who later became Paul, was someone who had a radical change. As you read through this passage, think about someone who needs radical transformation.
  - a. Do you think God has the ability to change any person?
  - b. Who was Saul in Acts 7:58?
3. Read Acts 9:1-2.
  - a. What does this passage say about the character of Saul?
  - b. Who are those followers of "The Way?"
  - c. Do you have any people in your life that are full of hate?
  - d. Do you know anyone who blasts others on social media?
4. According to Acts 9:3-5, what came down from heaven?
  - a. Who asked the question in verse four?
  - b. What does verse four say about the relationship between Jesus and His church and Christians?
  - c. Have you ever considered, when you hurt the church, you hurt Jesus?
  - d. When you help the church, you help Jesus. Does this change your view of the church? Does it change your commitment to the church? Talk about it!
5. Read Acts 9:6-9.
  - a. Who heard the voice?
  - b. What do you think Saul was thinking about during these three days?
  - c. God cut Saul off from the physical world so that he could understand the spiritual world. Sometimes to understand spiritual truth, you need to separate yourself from this world. Is there something that you need to cut out of your life to hear God's voice more clearly and understand His will?
6. According to Acts 9:10-12, who enters the scene?
  - a. What was the name of the street?
  - b. What was Ananias response to God in Acts 9:13-14?
  - c. Ananias seems to be educating God on who Saul was. Have you ever found yourself telling God how things work "down here" in this world?
7. According to Acts 9:15-16, what is the mission Jesus has for Saul?
  - a. Who will Saul be preaching to?

- b. What do you think about the word “suffer?”
  - c. Are there times when Christians suffer?
  - d. How is this different from our consumer mentality?
  - e. What do you typically do when you face suffering?
8. According to Acts 9:17, what did Ananias do?
- a. What happened to Saul?
  - b. Who filled Saul?
  - c. According to Acts 9:18, what fell from Saul’s eyes?
  - d. What did these scales represent? Was it literal or figurative?
  - e. What happened next? Based on Acts 9:19, what did Saul do?
  - f. Jim Cymbala said, “Christianity is about change, and God can change anybody!” Is there anyone in your life that needs to be changed? Do you need to change?
9. According to Acts 9:20-22, what did Saul start to do? What was Saul’s message? Can you see God using you like he used Saul? Why or why not?

### **Application**

Below are some of the points shared in the message. Discuss how they apply to your life.

- HEAR THIS...Whenever you hurt the church, you hurt Jesus.
- Whenever you hurt a member of the church, you hurt Jesus.
- Whenever you help someone in the church, you help Jesus.
- God cut Saul off from the PHYSICAL WORLD so that he could understand the SPIRITUAL WORLD.
- “I suggest to you that it is because God loves us that he gives us the gift of suffering. Pain is God's megaphone to rouse a deaf world. You see, we are like blocks of stone out of which the Sculptor carves the forms of men. The blows of his chisel, which hurt us so much are what make us perfect.”- C.S. Lewis
- GOD CAN CHANGE ANYBODY!!