

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**FUNDOCY Homework: The Damascus Road**

Lesson Taught on November 12, 2017

Homework Due: November 26, 2017

*No matter who you are or what you've done, God is waiting to forgive, restore and send you out to witness to God's grace. In spite of your sin, God bought your forgiveness and freedom with the blood of Jesus Christ.*

**Part I: The Lesson**

1. Today we are studying the conversion experience of a man who was originally named Saul. Using a dictionary, define "conversion":

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2. As best we know, Saul was born approximately 10 years after Jesus was born. Saul was a strict Pharisee (a kind of Jew who was very attentive to the law and sought to follow the Old Testament laws as closely as possible). Saul was a well-educated man who was also a Roman citizen. As a Roman citizen, Saul had many more rights and privileges than the common person.

3. As a Pharisee, Saul viewed the early Christian movement as a dangerous cult. Why might he have thought Christianity was dangerous?

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4. Read Acts 7:58-8:1. This tells of the stoning of a faithful Christian named Stephen. What did Saul think when Stephen was killed?

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5. Read Acts 9:1-9.

- "the Way" refers to Christianity...Saul was on a mission to find and enslave Christians!
- Where does the light Saul see come from? (see Acts 9:4) \_\_\_\_\_
- What does the voice say to Saul? \_\_\_\_\_

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- Who is the voice? \_\_\_\_\_
  - Saul is commanded to get up and go into the city...as he gets up to go, what does he discover? \_\_\_\_\_
6. When Saul cried out, "Who are you, Lord?," the voice in the blinding vision said:
    - a) "I am your mother, who you never write!"
    - b) "I am the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham and Isaac and Jacob!"
    - c) "I am Jesus who you are persecuting!"
    - d) "I am who I am!"
  7. When Saul reaches the city, God sends a Christian named Ananias to meet him. Ananias doesn't understand why God would look favorably upon someone like Saul (remember, Saul has done terrible things to Christians!)
  8. Read Acts 9:15-19.
    - a) Why has God chosen Saul? (What will Saul's task be?) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
    - b) What happens to Saul's sight when Ananias lays his hands on him? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  9. The moment Saul believed in Jesus:
    - a) Something like scales fell from his eyes and he could see,
    - b) Something like snails fell from his eyes and he could see,
    - c) Something like whales fell from his eyes and he could see,
    - d) A and he changed his name to Paul
  10. Though we don't know *how* or *when* it happened, we know that Saul's name was changed to Paul.
  11. Read Acts 9:26. Did the disciples believe that Paul was *really* a Christian? \_\_\_\_\_  
Would you have believed him? \_\_\_\_\_
  12. Barnabas, a trusted disciple, helps the others to believe Paul and Paul became a very important man in the early church. He traveled from city to city telling everyone who would listen about Christ. He was eventually killed for his faith.

What do you think gave Paul the strength he needed to be such a powerful witness for Christ? \_\_\_\_\_

13. Why do you think God chose to use someone like Saul/Paul to spread the Christian message? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you believe God is a God of second (and third and fourth...) chances? \_\_\_\_\_

**Part II: Reflection Questions**

1. Tell about a recent time when you experienced grace (when someone gave you a break, forgave you, or presented you with a gift you didn't deserve).

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Why did the person do it?

\_\_\_\_\_

How did it make you feel?

\_\_\_\_\_

How is that like what God gives to us in Jesus?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Have *you* ever given someone else a break, forgiven them, or presented them with a gift they didn't deserve? \_\_\_\_\_ Why did you do it? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Based on your answers to 1 and 2, what is grace? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Now, stop, fill in the blanks and pray...

Dear God,

Thank you for the gift of your forgiveness and grace. You continue to give us second, third, fourth (and so on) chances. You continue to love me just the way I am. Help me to share that forgiveness and grace with others. I ask you this day to help me forgive or extend grace to (a person or a group of people) \_\_\_\_\_.

I lift up my prayers this day some joys or some worries \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_. Hear my prayers spoken or silent, in Jesus' name I pray.

Amen.