



LIFEGROUPS STUDY GUIDE

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer." Acts 2:42

SERIES:

Metamorphosis

MESSAGE TITLE:

From Persecutor to Persecuted

MESSAGE DATE:

01/19/2025

MESSAGE SUMMARY:

Pastor Matt's sermon focused on the transformative journey of Paul, who experienced a radical change after encountering Jesus on the road to Damascus. He contrasted Paul's zealous persecution of Christians with his newfound mission to spread the Gospel, emphasizing that zeal is valuable when directed towards God's purpose. The sermon highlights the importance of embracing a new community of faith and recognizing one's identity within it while also challenging listeners to understand that true righteousness comes through faith in Christ, not personal merit.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- 1.) What does a 'Damascus Road experience' mean to you, and how does it relate to the transformation that Paul underwent?

Paul's life was drastically changed after his encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus, leading to his transformation from a persecutor to a missionary.

Have you ever had a moment in your life that changed your perspective or direction significantly? How can that experience help you relate to others who might be struggling?

- 2.) How did Paul's early life and background influence his actions before his encounter with Jesus?

Paul's background, including his education and his zealousness in persecuting Christians because he believed he was defending the true faith.

How do you think your own background shapes your beliefs or actions today?

- 3.) Why do you think Ananias was hesitant to meet with Saul, and what does this teach us about fear and faith?

Ananias was afraid to approach Saul because he knew Saul's history of violence against Christians, demonstrating a struggle between fear and faith in God's plan.

Have you ever felt called to do something that scared you? What helped you overcome that fear?



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- 4.) According to Philippians 3:6, Paul believed he was 'righteous' by obeying the law. How did his understanding of righteousness change after he met Jesus?

Paul realized that true righteousness comes through faith in Jesus, not just by following the law.

In what areas of your life do you sometimes find yourself trying to 'earn' acceptance or approval, rather than accepting the grace that is offered through faith?

- 5.) What does the sermon say about a new mission for believers, and how did Paul embody that in his life after conversion?

Paul shifted from persecuting Christians to spreading the Gospel to Gentiles, showing that his zeal was redirected to a new mission after encountering Jesus.

What's a mission or purpose you feel called to in your life? How can you start pursuing that mission actively?