



## Power to Witness in Word and Deed


*The Book of Acts*

**Acts 9:1–19a**

**Read Acts 9:1–19a.**

1. What have we already learned about Saul? (7:57–8:3)
  
2. How does Paul (previously Saul) later describe himself at this earlier time in his life? (Gal. 1:13–14; Phil. 3:4–6)
  
3. Stephen’s sermon and death have emboldened the opposition to the church. What drastic measures are the high priest and Saul now taking to destroy the church? (8:3; 9:1–2)
  
4. Damascus is in Syria, about 135 miles northeast of Jerusalem and is one of the ten cities known, at that time, as the Decapolis. How is it possible that there are followers of Jesus in Damascus? (Mk. 5:18–20; 7:31–37; Acts 8:1, 4)
  
5. The early church was being called “The Way” (v. 2). What does this name tell you about the message that these first Christians were preaching? (Jn. 14:6; Acts 16:17)
  
6. Saul has a dramatic experience on the way to Damascus.
  - a. What does he see and hear? (vv. 3–4)
  
  - b. Whom does he meet? (v. 5)
  
  - c. How are his companions affected? (vv. 7–9)
  
7. What does Saul realize about Jesus as a result of this meeting? (v. 5b; \* Acts 2:32, 36)

\*The  symbol indicates verses for further study.

8. Saul is utterly humbled: physically, emotionally, and spiritually (vv. 4–9).
    - a. How does he spend the three days of blindness? (vv. 9, 11–12)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
    - b. What do you think he might have realized about himself as he thought back on Stephen’s sermon? (Acts 7:51–56;  1 Tim. 1:15)
  
  9. Jesus gives Ananias a shocking command (v. 11). Why does Ananias struggle with this assignment? (vv. 13–14)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  10. How does Jesus seek to reassure Ananias every step of the way? (vv. 10–12, 15–16)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  11. a. What surprising thing does Ananias do when he meets Saul? (v. 17)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. In what surprising way does he address him? (v. 17)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - c. What encourages you about Ananias’ response to this frightening situation?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - d. What truth is Jesus teaching Ananias (and us)? (2 Cor. 5:17)
- 
12. What are the three signs of Saul’s conversion? (vv. 17–18)
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
13. Read Paul’s later account of his conversion in Acts 26:9–18.
  - a. How does Paul describe God’s call on his life? (26:17–18)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. How is Saul’s calling a continuation of Jesus’ ministry? (Lk. 4:14–21)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - c. How is this your calling as well? (1 Pet. 2:9)