

w/b 4th February 2018

THEME: SAUL ENCOUNTERS JESUS LIFE APPLICATION

PASSAGE: ACTS 9 1-31

LAUNCH

As you look back over your life can you think of a life changing and significant event (does not have to be spiritual). Why was it life changing, and what effect did it have?

DISCOVERY & UNDERSTANDING

Try to put yourself in Saul's position on the road to Damascus. What thoughts and emotions would have been going on inside you as you journeyed?

Why would Jesus's words to you have been so shocking? (still putting yourself in Saul's position).

Saul had been persecuting Christian believers so why did Jesus say persecuting 'me' instead? What does this tell us about the importance of the church to Jesus? Is the church important to you? Why or why not?

Why did Christ decide to blind Saul during this encounter? (several possible reasons).

What do you think might have been going on in Paul's mind as he was presumably led away by his servants?

How would this thinking and attitude have differed from the previous thinking?

How did your thinking differ before you were a Christian and afterwards?

What key elements of the gospel resulted in that change?

Have there been other examples of God overturning your thinking in a sharp and dramatic way?

(An impossible question to answer but:) Why did God choose Saul?

Or what are some of the possible reasons that God decided to choose Saul?

What type of person do you think God would never choose to save?

Why is that thinking so ridiculous in the light of this passage?

How might the Spirit be challenging you to be more open about bringing the gospel to this type of person? How practically could you be more open about doing this?

Rory challenged us to all get out there and 'do the work of an evangelist'.

Do you agree with him? Why or why not?

What other scriptures are out there to support or deny his exhortation?

## APPLICATION

Pray that God by his Spirit would open you up to reaching out to all sorts of people with the good news of the gospel

Pray with fresh faith using the example of Saul for people that have stubbornly held out against the Spirit over many years

*Questions sourced from: Tom Wright Acts for everyone SPCK, Acts 1-12 Christensen, Acts Life application study series. Some questions amended.*