

w/b 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2018 Theme: ANANIAS - THE FORGOTTEN HERO

PASSAGE: ACTS 9:10-19

*<sup>10</sup> In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!" "Yes, Lord," he answered.*

*<sup>11</sup> The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. <sup>12</sup> In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight."*

*<sup>13</sup> "Lord," Ananias answered, "I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your holy people in Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup> And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name."*

*<sup>15</sup> But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel. <sup>16</sup> I will show him how much he must suffer for my name."*

*<sup>17</sup> Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." <sup>18</sup> Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, <sup>19</sup> and after taking some food, he regained his strength.*

LAUNCH

Can you think of a good friend who has supported you through life and difficult times? What was special about them and the support that they provided?

DISCOVERY

Ananias is a remarkable but relatively unknown believer. What do we learn from this passage about why he is so remarkable?

How does Ananias's conversation with the Lord compare and contrast to Paul's conversation a few verses earlier?

What attributes of God are revealed in this scripture?

What are some of the key elements of discipleship that we can take away from this passage?

UNDERSTANDING

Ananias was in tune with God. When were you last prompted by the Holy Spirit to do something a bit unusual? What was the result?

How do we go about being more open to the promptings of God in our lives on a daily basis?

What is revealed by the fact that Ananias is able to call Saul brother in verse 17?

Ananias had to be tremendously brave to respond to God's instructions. In what areas of the Christian life do you need to be brave right now?

Ananias also needed to be humble in knowing that God was asking him to prepare another Christian for greatness. In what areas do you need to be more humble?

'The Christian church is as obsessed with celebrity as everyone else. This means that everyone wants to become a Paul and not an Ananias'. Do you agree with this assessment?

Ephesians 4:16 talks about every supporting ligament playing its role in looking after the body of Christ. What does a ligament do? How can you be more supportive to fellow Christians around you?

#### APPLICATION

Pray for more people to be saved and added to the church either dramatically like Saul or in other ways

Pray that God will give you and members of your group the grace, strength and courage to look after them

*(NB a big thank you to those who filled in cards offering to disciple others. We may be taking you up on your offer at some point in the future)*