

Small Group Homework

LEADER'S GUIDE

For the Week of May 3, 2015
(Questions and Scriptures for Small Group Time)

MAIN IDEA: Using Saul's/Paul's conversion story, consider the similarities between his and ours so we understand the goal of conversion is to become more "Christ-like".

GETTING STARTED

1. If someone asked you what were the two most interesting ideas, concepts, or principles about this weekend's message, what would you tell them?

2. Answer any that apply:

How did you get your name?

What does your name mean to you?

How did you choose your kids names?

***This is just a fun exercise to see the different outlooks and opinions on names. Some may have deep meaning and purpose, others will overlook it.**

BIBLE STUDY

3. How do you make a bad name good? Check out the story of how Saul the man who persecuted Christians became Paul, the man who planted Churches. Read the following passage:

Acts 9:1-31

Acts 13:1-12

Do you relate to any part of Saul's conversion story? If so, what?

***People may say "no" because Jesus didn't show up physically and blind their eyes, but try to help people see deeper into the conversion story here. Jesus used Ananias, He said Saul was His "chosen instrument" giving him a purpose, and Jesus probably showed up at the least likely moment in Saul's life. When we think about it more deeply, our conversion is similar to Saul's, all glory going to Jesus for showing up and not letting us continue in our sin.**

4. Saul's conversion was immediately followed by him telling others about Christ (Acts 9:20). In your opinion, why did Saul immediately begin preaching?

***A good add-on to this question: When it comes to sharing your faith, when are you more quiet and when are you more vocal. Why?**

DIGGING DEEPER

5. Do you think that being more vocal with others about Christ would help you grow spiritually? In what ways could that help you grow?

***There are a lot of possibilities here. Sharing Christ with others produces boldness, helps us sharpen our own beliefs, helps us examine ourselves by sharing the details of the Gospel message, and helps us build a reputation with others so if they have questions about Jesus in the future they know they can come to us.**

6. What is an area in your life where you see yourself becoming less like "the world" and more like Christ?

7. If Paul had three lines to his testimony, they might be: Hated and persecuted Christians. Saved by Jesus. Planted Churches and helped Christians grow.

What would your three lines be?

***As the leader, this would be a good time to share your lines first so others feel comfortable to share. Also, if you have more than three lines, of course that's ok!**

TAKING IT HOME

8. Thinking about your character and personality, what change in your life for the better, would people close to you notice the most?

Ask Jesus to send His Holy Spirit to lead you.

PRAYER REQUESTS

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