



SERIES: ACTS - WHEN THE WORLD TURNED UPSIDE DOWN
MESSAGE TITLE: THE ANATOMY OF CONVERSION

SPEAKER: BRAD WILLIAMS
DATE: SUNDAY, JUNE 28, 2020

MESSAGE SUMMARY

BIBLICAL TEXT(S): Acts 8:26-39

In Acts 9, we read about Saul's conversion. While we might not all experience the same dramatic type of encounter with Jesus that causes us to convert, we all follow a similar process to what Saul experienced. First, Saul was confronted. Jesus appeared to him in a way that was unexpected to Saul and challenged everything he believed. Then, Saul had to consider what had happened. What was he going to do? How was he going to understand himself and God after he had this experience? All of those who are converted today typically go through this same process of confrontation and consideration. Though the process may look different for each of us, the faith that is produced through this experience is world-changing.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help lead your group through a progression of engagement with the Bible passage(s) and the speaker's message. These can help your group understand and apply the teaching more profitably

LEAN IN

These are icebreakers and warm ups, mostly just to get the group talking and start the flow of conversation. Choose one and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.

1. When you hear the word "conversion" what's the first thing that comes to mind?
2. What's the biggest change you've made in your life recently (we're looking for something that you've done/chosen to do, not any forced change)?
3. Would you rather lose your sight or your hearing? Why?
4. What example or story stood out to you in Sunday's sermon? Why was it significant to you?

LOOK DOWN

These are questions about the Bible passage(s) and observations about what's been read. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.

1. How would you describe Saul at the beginning of this passage? What defines him? What is his goal/mission?
2. What happened when Saul got near to Damascus? What was said to him?
3. What question does Saul ask the voice? Who answers and what does he say? What does he tell Saul to do?
4. What did the people traveling with Saul experience?
5. What happened when Saul got up? What did he do after this experience?

cont.

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LOOK OUT

These questions help connect the world of the Bible to today. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.

1. make you think he was ready for an encounter with Jesus? Why or why not?
2. What are some ways that Jesus confronts people today? How are they similar or different from what Saul experienced?
3. What are things that people you know (or know of) have had to consider and rethink after meeting Jesus? What did that look like?
4. Saul lost his sight in his encounter with Jesus. What have you seen people lose in their encounters with Jesus? How have you seen God use these losses for a person's good?
5. Pastor Brad mentioned in his sermon that conversion isn't a one and done experience, but that we often experience multiple little conversions in our lifetime. What small conversions have you seen those around you go through?

LOOK IN

These are questions that help you consider personal application. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.

1. God intervened in Saul's life despite Saul's actions. Has God ever intervened in your life in the same way? What happened? How did God use that experience?
2. How did Jesus first confront you? How was it similar or different from Saul's experience?
3. What things did you have to consider when you first met Jesus? What things are you still having to consider and rethink today as God continues to work in your life?
4. Has God ever taken something away from you in order to draw you closer to him? What did he take and what happened as a result?
5. What are some small conversions that you have gone through in your life? Are you in the midst of one now? What does that look like?

LIVE IT OUT

These action steps help apply this week's message to day to day life. Choose one question and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.

1. Is there a person in your life that seems least likely to ever meet and love Jesus (much like Saul)? What's one thing you can do this week to show them

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- the love of Jesus? How can your group pray for this person this week?
2. Is Jesus currently confronting you or making you consider something? How can your group pray for and encourage you as you wrestle through this?
 3. Has God recently taken something away from you? How can your group pray for, encourage, and support you?

Thanks to Ashleigh Rich and the Adult Discipleship Team for this week's notes and questions, as well as Charissa Burns (@charissaburnsstudio on Instagram) for her illustrated notes, which normally appear on the following page.