Day 1

Faith Fact
God changes my life.

Faith Verse
Acts 1:8 (NLT)
"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Question of the Day: What is life like without God?

Read about It

Read: Acts 9:1–2

You might have known God or been a Christian for most of your whole life, or maybe you only came to know Him recently. Can you imagine what life would be like without God in it? Now, we aren't talking about God not existing; we are talking about Him not being in your life. Imagine living every single day with no one to pray to, no Bible to turn to for help, and no church to be a part of. Many people go through life that way all the time, but they don't have to.

Saul was an angry mess and an unhappy person before he had an encounter with Jesus that completely changed his life. He went from hurting the Church to helping them! In fact, he ended up writing more books in the Bible than anyone else.

We should take some time every day to thank God for allowing us to have Him in our lives. Without Him, our lives would feel empty, and we would constantly feel like something big was missing.

Think about It

Question 1. What was Saul eager to do to the Lord's followers?
Answer 1. Kill them. (Acts 9:1)

Question 2. Who did Saul go to requesting letters for permission to arrest Christians?
Answer 2. The high priest (Acts 9:1)

Question 3. Where was Saul planning to go next to find and arrest Christians?
Answer 3. Damascus (Acts 9:2)

***Question 4**. Who wrote more books of the Bible than any other person?
Answer 4. Paul

***Question 5.** Why did Saul of Tarsus go to Damascus?
Answer 5. To arrest Christians (Acts 9:1–2)

Talk about It

- What did today's devotion make you think about?
- When did you ask Jesus to forgive your sins and come into your life?
- Do you remember what life was like without God in it?
- What are some things that are better about having God in your life?
- What are some things that are hard about being a Christian?

Pray about It

God, thank You for giving us the opportunity to have a relationship with You. I would be nothing without You in my life. Amen.

Day 2

Faith Fact
God changes my life.

Faith Verse
Acts 1:8 (NLT)
"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Question of the Day: What is it like to experience God's presence?

Read about It

Read: Acts 9:3–9

Saul had a powerful encounter with God's presence when he was on his way to Damascus. Jesus appeared to him out of nowhere in a light from heaven, spoke to him, and left him blind. Do you think everyone's experience with God's presence is like that? No! An encounter with God's presence will look and feel different for different people and at different times in your life.

When God knows that you need peace, His presence will give you peace. When God knows that you need comfort, His Holy Spirit will comfort you. When God knows that you need wisdom, He will help you find the words to say. God is always there for you. He is waiting for you to take the time to experience His presence.

Think about It

***Question 1.** What happened to Saul of Tarsus near Damascus?
Answer 1. Jesus [Christ] appeared to him in a great light, and Saul accepted Him as Lord. (Acts 9:3–9)

Question 2. How did Jesus introduce Himself to Saul?
Answer 2. "I am Jesus, the one you are persecuting!" (Acts 9:5)

Question 3. What did Jesus tell Saul to do?
Answer 3. Get up, go into the city, and he would be told what to do. (Acts 9:6)

Question 4. What happened when Saul got up off the ground?
Answer 4. He was blind. (Acts 9:8)

Talk about It

- What did today's devotion make you think about?
- Do you remember a time when you experienced the presence of God? What did it feel like?
- What is stopping you from experiencing God's presence every day?

Pray about It

God, thank You for always being available to me. Help me take the time to experience Your presence every day. Amen.

Day 3

Faith Fact
God changes my life.

Faith Verse
Acts 1:8 (NLT)
"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Question of the Day: How can God use you to help others know Him?

Read about It

Read: Acts 9:10–19

Think back to when you accepted Jesus into your life as your Savior. Were you all alone? Were you at church or camp? Did someone else help you understand what you didn't know so you could come to that decision? Most people would say that at least one other person had a part in helping them come to know God. It might be a parent, a pastor, or even a friend. They might have told you about God, invited you to church, or prayed with you.

God can save someone without our help, but He wants us to be involved in the process. Jesus may have appeared to Saul and spoken to him, but God also told someone else to go and pray with Saul. Ananias was an important part of God's plan to change Saul's life and turn it around for good.

Think about It

Question 1. Who did the Lord speak to in a vision in verse 10?
Answer 1. Ananias (Acts 9:10)

Question 2. Where did God tell Ananias to go?
Answer 2. To Straight Street, to the house of Judas where Saul was staying (Acts 9:11)

Question 3. What happened when Ananias laid his hands on Saul and prayed?
Answer 3. Something like scales fell from Saul's eyes and he regained his sight. (Acts 9:18)

Talk about It

- What did today's devotion make you think about?
- Who do you know who isn't a Christian? Have you told them about Jesus? If so, what happened?
- How should you respond if you tell someone about Jesus and they don't accept Him?

Pray about It

God, thank You for allowing me to be a part of the process of others coming to know You. Help me to have the same courage You gave to Ananias to go and tell my friends about You. Amen.

Day 4

Faith Fact
God changes my life.

Faith Verse
Acts 1:8 (NLT)
"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Question of the Day: What changes in your life after you are saved?

Read about It

Read: Acts 9:20–22

Having God in your life is life-changing! If you have known God for awhile or most of your life, you might not realize how different your life would be without God. When someone makes the decision to follow God, a lot of things in their life will change.

Saul's life certainly changed after he encountered Jesus and was saved. His life literally turned around. This kind of change is called repentance, which means having a change of mind, heart, and direction. Saul went from trying to kill Christians to trying to tell people about Jesus! Even the people around Saul were amazed and surprised by the drastic change they saw in him. People should be able to see the change and difference in our life when we decide to follow Jesus.

Think about It

***Question 1.** What does "repentance" mean?
Answer 1. Repentance is having a change of mind, heart, and direction. (Acts 17:30; 20:21)

Question 2. What did Saul do immediately after he was saved and regained his strength?
Answer 2. He began preaching about Jesus in the synagogues (Jewish places of gathering, learning, and worship). (Acts 9:20)

Question 3. What did the people who heard him preaching think about it?
Answer 3. They were amazed. (Acts 9:21)

Question 4. What happened to Saul's preaching as he continued?
Answer 4. It became more and more powerful. (Acts 9:22)

Question 5. What did Saul's preaching prove that Jesus was?
Answer 5. Messiah (which means the anointed one) (Acts 9:22)

Talk about It

- What did today's devotion make you think about?
- What is something that should change when you are saved?
- Do you notice any differences between you and your friends who aren't Christians?
- Do your friends who aren't Christians notice anything different about your life?

Pray about It

God, thank You for changing my life for the better. Please help me to be okay with standing out so others can see a difference in my life because of You. Amen.