*Day 1*

*February 4*

*Pray | Tell God you are confident in his abilities*

ONE OF the most dramatic conversion stories in all of history is Saul’s, later known as Paul.

The God who sends collided with Saul on the road to Damascus. His life was completely transformed, and he was sent on a lifelong mission for God.

*Read |* [*Acts 8:1-2, Acts 9:1-9*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+8%3A1-2%3B+Acts+9%3A1-9&version=NIV)

*Reflect | Spend some time reflecting on the following questions.*

God was willing to meet Saul and use him to make disciples even though Saul’s heart was hardened toward Jesus. Has God been willing to meet you when you have been hardened or discouraged toward him? How has your life changed?

After his encounter with Jesus, Saul would go on to witness the gospels to multitudes of people around the world. Why do you think God chose Saul, of all people, for his mission? What does this say about what God might have in store for some of the people in today’s world, people who may seem farthest from him?

God’s choosing of Saul is consistent with many other stories in the Bible with God using unexpected and ordinary people for his mission. Has God ever shown up for you at an unexpected momen?t Has he ever made you feel special, even though you are “ordinary?”

*Day 2*

*February 5*

*Pray | | Ask God for the strength to love the unlovable*

FOLLOWING JESUS was never meant to make his followers feel comfortable. Following Jesus often requires his followers to step out of their comfort zones.

The glory of Jesus Christ shines through every uncomfortable situation his followers are put in.

*Read |* [*Acts 9:10-19, Matthew 28:16-20*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+9%3A10-19%3B+Matthew+28%3A16-20&version=NIV)

*Reflect | Spend some time reflecting on the following questions.*

It is uncomfortable simply reading today’s scripture verses about Ananias being told to go to Saul and minister to him. Reflect on how you might feel if you were in Ananias’ place. How would you react if you felt God prompting you to minister to the person or people in your life whom you feel are the most unlovable?

Just as Jesus told the disciples to “go” and make other disciples, he told Ananias to “go” and minister to Saul. Where has God told you to “go?”

What is the most uncomfortable aspect of following Christ for you? Spend time in prayer, embrace the discomfort, and tell God you will obey him in everything.

*Day 3*

*February 6*

*Pray | Tell God you trust him*

FEELINGS OF disbelief or mistrust can sometimes manifest themselves when we encounter someone who is radically changed.

Saul is no exception. The disciples were afraid of him and reluctant to accept him. They may have thought his transformation was a ruse to infiltrate them.

*Read |* [*Acts 9:20-26*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+9%3A20-26&version=NIV)

*Reflect | Spend some time reflecting on the following questions.*

If you have seen weight loss or hair growth commercials, it’s unbelievable to see someone’s body transformation after losing dozens of pounds or gaining a full head of hair. You can see it, yet it’s unbelievable. What about transformations you can’t see? How do you react when someone confesses a radical change in their philosophy, political beliefs, or religious beliefs?

Why do think the disciples followed through with accepting and helping Saul? What transformations might they have been going through to prevent them from simply casting Saul out, killing him themselves, or handing him over to those who were looking for him with intent to kill him?

*Day 4*

*February 7*

*Pray | For the strength to act out in faith*

IT TOOK bold faith for the followers of Christ to trust Saul just after Saul’s conversion, and they were understandably reluctant to do so.

Barnabas proved to be instrumental in encouraging the apostles to accept Saul. It required a tremendous leap of faith for Barnabas to come alongside Saul.

*Read |* [*Acts 9:27-31*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+9%3A27-31&version=NIV)

*Reflect | Spend some time reflecting on the following questions.*

If you are not yet a follower of Jesus, spend some time in prayer today. Take Barnabas-like actions for yourself. Love yourself enough to ask Jesus into your heart. Ask Jesus to come alongside you and be your partner. If you want some help knowing what or how to pray, ask a trusted friend who is a follower of Christ, or reach out to staff at Five Oaks.

How have you acted like Barnabas for others in your life? Have you ever invited someone to a church service, a small group, and special church event? When you invite someone, you are advocating for them, showing them love, and letting them know that Jesus will accept them.

Who been like Barnabas for you in our faith journey? Reach out to that person and tell them how instrumental they have been in your faith journey.

*Day 5*

*February 8*

*Pray | For endurance in your faith*

NOTHING IN anyone’s faith journey or any one ministry would be possible without Jesus loving us first!

Saul’s conversion would not be possible without Jesus loving him and sending him on mission. Everyone who turned their hearts to Christ is sent on mission.

*Read |* [*John 1:1-15*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+1%3A1-15&version=NIV)

*Reflect | Spend some time reflecting on the following questions.*

For some people, being “on mission” seems like a lot of hard and dramatic work, such as selling all possessions, going overseas, building churches, and converting multitudes. However, this is not the case for many Christ followers. If you don’t yet know or understand your mission, spend time in prayer and ask God for clarity. Your mission might be as close as your own home or neighborhood.

It is a universal truth that Jesus was with God from the very beginning of time. Jesus wants to have a personal relationship with you. Jesus doesn’t just send you on mission; he goes on mission with you. Pray about how you can use truth this to encourage yourself and others for the glory of God.

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