

Paul

Early Childhood

PARENT BIBLE STUDY

Read: Acts 9:1-22

What would it take for you to make a radical shift in the way you see the purpose of your life? For Saul, also called Paul, it took a blinding light from Heaven. It took the voice of Jesus telling him to stop what he was doing. It took three days of blindness. It took three days of fasting and prayer. It took a miraculous healing.

What would it take for you to make a radical shift from seeing someone as an enemy to seeing them as a brother? For Ananias, it took a vision from the Lord. This new believer in Jesus must have been shaking as he placed his hands on the eyes of the man he knew to be a torturer of Christians. He was risking imprisonment and death. But he obediently came to heal Saul. Ananias' greeting to the man he knew to be a sworn enemy? "Brother."

Jesus radically shifts everything. Jesus can change an enemy into a brother. He can replace fear with hope and healing. Jesus can change rage to humility; self-righteousness to new purpose. Saul spent the rest of his life spreading the good news of Jesus throughout the Roman world and writing much of the New Testament of the Bible. His radical shift with God changed the world. He became entirely dependent on Jesus because he truly believed in his power. Saul spent the rest of his life encouraging other believers to stand in the radical power of Jesus, too.

"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will," Romans 12:2.

How has God radically changed you?

What parts of your mind, heart, and life do you still need God to renew?