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## A Jesus Encounter

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**Introduction:** Luke moves to the next main character in the book of Acts, the apostle Paul. Acts 9 tells of the dramatic conversion of Saul. There are two “Jesus Encounters” in this chapter. One to Saul, a non-believer. One to Ananias, a believer. The Lord uses both of these encounters to accomplish His purpose.

**Text: Acts 9:1-22**

**Discussion:**

1. Icebreaker: Describe how the Lord got your attention and made you aware that you needed to be saved?
2. Why was Saul so intent on arresting Christians?
3. It is often stated that perception is reality. That is not true. Perception may be someone’s reality, but not true reality. How do people operate in a false reality? Why is it important for your reality to be based on truth rather than your perception? What was Saul’s false perception of his reality?
4. Sincerity does not equal truth. A person can have a sincere belief and have their sincerity in a false belief. How was Saul an example of someone that was sincere and sincerely wrong? How do you see examples of that in today’s culture?
5. How did the Lord break down Sauls perception of reality and his sincerity in what he believed about God?
6. Write/discuss Saul’s encounter with Jesus and the importance of that moment.
7. How does Jesus view the persecution of His church?
8. Discuss/Write about Ananias’ encounter with Jesus. How willing would you have been to meet Saul?
9. How do we see the sovereignty of God in Acts 9:15-16?
10. Saul was destined to a life of suffering. How does this contradict the prosperity gospel preachers? Why is it important to understand that life is filled with hardships and sufferings as well as the blessings and joys?
11. What evidence in the passage of scripture let’s us know that Saul’s life was changed?
12. How has your life been changed through an encounter with Jesus?
13. As a believer, we are to have moments with Jesus more than just at our conversion. How do you prepare your heart and mind to hear from the Lord?

**Think About it:**

A life encounter with Jesus will transform your life. Saul went from being a radical terrorist to one of the greatest missionaries the world has ever known. He went from fighting against the Lord to furthering the gospel of God. We may not all have a drastic life change as Saul, but every Christian has a life change. The Holy Spirit changes the desires of our heart and we being to live our life to please Jesus. How are you pleasing Jesus with your life?

**Moving Forward:**

Pray and read God’s word every day. Have your mind focused on heavenly things and your heart tender to the voice of the Holy Spirit. Walk in the power of the Spirit and live a life of faithfulness!