



---

## Aid and Assist

---

**Introduction:** Saul began to boldly proclaim the word of God and people were coming to faith. The Jews did not like the impact that he was having so they sought to kill him. There were three occasions where others came along side Saul and helped him in his ministry.

**Text: Acts 9:22-31**

**Discussion:**

1. Icebreaker: How did your life change when you were saved? How eager were you to share your testimony?
2. Saul increased in strength. What does that mean and how do we increase in strength? What does this say about our walk with Christ?
3. Why were the Jews in Damascus confounded?
4. What was the message that Saul preached? Is this the same message for today?
5. Saul relied on the power of the gospel to change lives. What is the danger in a church relying on gimmicks and/or marketing techniques to attract people to their church rather than relying on the power of the Holy Spirit?
6. Why did the Jews want to kill Saul? Why should we not be surprised by opposition to the faith? Who are the people and groups of people that attack the faith? How do you respond when people want to ridicule Christianity?
7. We should expect the enemy to attack the church. We should never expect the church to attack the church. What is the danger in Christians who constantly bash other churches, pastors, other believers? Have you ever witnessed another believer attacking and slandering another believer? What did you do?
8. We are to aid and assist those who faithfully preach the gospel. How did the disciples in Damascus aid and assist Saul?
9. Many people want to serve in positions that are visible. There is not much glory in lowering a basket . . . but they were a huge part of Saul's ministry—they saved his life! The question was asked in the sermon, "Are you o.k. with being a person who simply lowers the basket?" What does that mean and how would you answer?
10. Why did the apostles accept Saul? What does that say about Barnabas? Why is our character important and what impact does that have in the advancement of the gospel?
11. Have you ever asked someone to serve as a reference for you? Who are the type of people you select to be a reference? Have you ever been a reference for someone? If so, were you able to honestly give a good reference?
12. What blessing came upon the church in Acts 9:31?
13. How are we built up in the faith?
14. What does it mean to walk in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit?

**Think About it:**

We can all play a part in the work of God. You don't have to be a superstar. You don't have to be a preacher. You don't have to be on the stage singing. You simply have to have a servant's heart and a willingness to do whatever for the glory of God. It may not have been fancy or prestigious to lower Saul down in the basket but it was an extremely important service for the kingdom of God! Are you o.k. with lowering the basket?

**Moving Forward:**

Encourage five people this week! Look for opportunities to serve the Lord in the simplest of ways. Pray and read from his word daily!