



Living Water
Church

Diving Deeper: A Gather Group discussion guide
or personal devotional guide



Press On

Introduction: Saul, an esteemed and ambitious Jewish leader, had a zeal to persecute the early believers. He was on his way to Damascus when his world suddenly changed. He had an encounter with the Lord Jesus and was saved by God's grace. Saul's name was then changed to Paul and he became one of the greatest preachers and church planters in church history.

Text: Read Acts 9:1-31 & Philippians 3

Discussion:

1. Icebreaker: What was your life like before you knew Jesus? What is it like now
2. The early disciples were not sure if Paul had truly been converted. They thought it might be a trick. Discuss/Write how you might have felt. Have you ever been skeptical of someone's conversion to Christ? Why?
3. What evidence is there in the life of Paul that his life was changed by the gospel?
4. Paul warns the church to "look out" three times. Discuss/Write the importance of exercising discernment when you hear people teach and preach. What is the danger of false teaching?
5. According to Philip. 3:3—who are the true circumcision? (Rom. 2:29, John 4:23)
6. Paul clearly states that we can not be saved by the works of the flesh. He then describes his personal works as proof of one who lived strictly by the law. What was Paul's credentials? How do you see evidence that people still put confidence in the works of the flesh, rather than the finished work of Christ through the cross and resurrection?
7. How did Paul view his world gains compared to knowing Christ? How do you view the value of your salvation? Write/ Discuss
8. What are you willing to lay behind to become more like Christ?
9. Paul challenges the believer to press on and to own their faith. He realizes that he is not perfect and has not completely attained it, but he uses that to motivate him to press on towards the upward call! Many people use the excuse that they aren't perfect to give into their sin. This is not the correct response. The fact that we are not yet perfect should cause us to press on and strive towards godliness. What areas in your life have you excused? How will you press on this week?
10. Philip 3:18-19: There are people who walk as enemies of God. They do not love Jesus or his commands. Identify people today who fall in this category. What is the danger in listening to the wrong voices?
11. Philip 3:20: Where is our focus, hope, and future? How will you allow God's voice to guide your life?

Think About it:

The gospel changes lives. The apostle Paul is evidence of a persecutor of the church to a preacher for the church. Your life does not have to be lived for the worldly pursuits and passions that will fade away. You can live a full life that leads to an eternal glory in God's kingdom. So, press on. Keep walking your faith out on a day to day basis. Do not allow the fact that you aren't perfect to cause you to walk backwards. Because we have not attained perfection, we are to keep pressing on. Live today in more obedience than the day before. If you live with that kind of attitude . . . you might be another Paul.

Moving Forward:

Identify areas in your life that you need to leave behind. Focus your attitude and actions forward to God's call on your life. Live free from the power of sin and press on in obedience. Pray for God's strength everyday and look for opportunities to share the gospel. Don't be ashamed of being a Christian. Walk proud of your lifestyle as a believer in Jesus!!