

Transition:

From persecuting the Church to "What shall I do Lord?" Paul's conversion, along with many others, is the testament to the saving power of Jesus Christ. This is the life of every disciple who passes from death to life.

Tell the story:

Tell the story (with passion!) Do the best you can, don't stop and teach, try not to make points, just tell the story. Perhaps leave some parts out or make a mistake, just to see if your group catches it!

Rebuild the story:

Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story. Then have someone else tell the story the best they can – just like you modeled the first time.

Discussion Questions:

1. How did Paul know that the person He was speaking to was in fact Jesus?
2. What was Paul's response?
3. If you were a disciple, what would you have done after hearing the news that Saul, now Paul, had been converted? Do you act/think the same way today with people who are converted?

Fundamental:

True conversion – the Bible is clear, the life of someone who has experienced true conversion bears the fruit of it. The normal Christian birth has repentance, belief, water baptism and receiving the Holy Ghost – all of which are seen in Paul's life. If any of these are missing in a convert, you will see abnormal births at best and false conversion at worst. From the time of Jesus and the early Church until now, "Repent and Believe" is still the call to everyone who wishes to follow Jesus.

1. Why must we repent, believe, be baptized and receive the Holy Ghost as part of our Christian experience?
2. If any one of these parts is missing, what happens? How can false converts affect the Body of Christ?
3. Is it ever our job to guarantee that someone is saved – no matter what "fruit" we may see?

Homework/Challenge:

1. 2 Cor 13:5 says to examine yourself to see if you are in the faith – do this.
2. Please read Acts 10 in preparation for next week.

Discipleship Tip:

If you stick to the Bible, you will be okay. But if you cater to your audience and show partiality in regard to this topic, you will experience a lot of frustration and pain when friends walk away and become "religious."

Prayer:

Pray for true repentance and conversion in the lives of your small group.

Extras:

Watch the Normal Christian Birth by David Pawson (6 Parts)