



Discussion Guide

Date: 6/22/2025

Sermon Title: Is God trying to get my attention?

Scripture: Acts 9:1-9

This discussion guide is a layout to be used with a group or class. We have included opening and closing prayers to start and end your group. The guide may be used for personal or family reflection as well.

OPENING PRAYER

Gracious God, as we gather today, we open our hearts and minds to You. Help us to recognize the ways You are seeking our attention, even in the unexpected moments of life. May Your grace awaken us as it did Saul, to see the harm we may do and to choose instead the path of healing, love, and truth. Guide our conversation so that we may listen deeply, grow in faith, and be transformed by Your Spirit. -Amen.

Opening Question:

1. Have you ever had a moment when it felt like God was trying to get your attention? What was happening in your life at that time?

Digging into the Word:

1. Read Acts 9:1-9 aloud together. What stands out to you in this passage — a word, phrase, or image?
2. How would you describe Saul before this moment? What do you imagine going through Saul's mind in verses 3–6? Do you see anything for the first time in this encounter with Saul & Jesus?
3. Acts 9:4 says, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" Jesus identifies himself with those being harmed. What does this tell us about the connection between Jesus and the Church? The connection of Jesus and those suffering? How does this challenge us to consider how we treat others?
4. Saul was physically stopped and blinded—how might God use disruption or discomfort to call us to something deeper? After Saul's encounter, his mission changes drastically. What harmful things do you think God might be calling us or our world to stop doing today?

Additional Reading:

5. Read Galatians 1:11–16, where Paul later reflects on this moment: *"But when God, who had set me apart before I was born and called me through his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son to me..."* How does Paul's own reflection help you better understand the road to Damascus moment? What does this say about God's grace working in our lives even before we recognize it?

Sermon Questions:

6. Discuss a time when God got your attention about your life?

7. In what ways have you experienced a shift from independence to dependence on God, and how has it affected your faith journey?
8. Have you ever transformed from being against something to advocating for it, like Paul's shift from persecuting to preaching Christ?
9. Have you seen the transformative spirit of God work in other's lives? What is an example you have seen?
10. What is the message of Jesus all about? How does this message change you and your life?
11. Reflecting on Opal Lee's statement, 'If a person can be taught to hate, they can be taught to love,' how can we actively teach and spread love in our communities?
12. What type of things in life can keep us blind? What is the power that can release us from our blindness? How do you see life differently "with this new sight?"
13. Did Paul stay quiet after receiving his "new sight?" How can his example challenge us today?

Applying it:

14. What's one area in your life where you sense God may be calling you to change direction?
15. Who in your life, like Ananias for Paul, has helped you see more clearly the path God is leading you toward? Who has been the voice of God through others?
16. How can we—as individuals or as a group—be more attentive to God's call to do good in the world?

CLOSING PRAYER

God of light and transformation, thank You for meeting us on the roads of our lives, even when we are headed the wrong way. As You did for Saul, turn our hearts toward Your love and justice. Let us not ignore Your voice when You call, but respond with humility, courage, and obedience. Guide us this week to reflect Your grace to others, and to choose good over harm in all we do. In the name of the Risen Christ we pray, -Amen.

WAYS TO RESPOND (or challenges for you this week)

1. Take time this week to prayerfully examine your life. Are there areas where you need to let go of control and allow God to lead you?
2. Identify one negative attitude or behavior in your life. Brainstorm ways to transform it into a positive, Christ-centered approach.
3. Choose one practical way to demonstrate Christ's love to someone this week, especially to someone you might have previously viewed negatively.