

Saul and Peter



MEMORY VERSE: "So be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid and do not panic before them. **For the Lord your God will personally go ahead of you. He will neither fail you nor abandon you.**"

Deuteronomy 3:16



ACTS 9:23-26 An Evil Plot Against Saul

1. How did the Jewish community in Damascus react to Saul and his preaching?
vv. 23-24

2. How did the Jewish Christian community in Jerusalem react to Saul? vv. 25-26

3. There was a wide range of reactions toward Saul, just like there was with Jesus and with the spread of the church. Why do think that is?



ACTS 9:27-31 Encouragement

4. Barnabas means, "son of encouragement." What did he do as a friend and brother in Christ? v. 27

5. What did Saul do in Jerusalem? Why did he have to leave town? vv. 28-29

6. What reasons does verse 31 give for the peace and growth of the church?



ACTS 9:32-41 Power Over Sickness and Death

7. As Peter continued his ministry in Judea, what happened in Lydda? vv. 32-35

8. How is Tabitha (Dorcas) described? vv. 36-37

9. What happened when Peter went to Joppa to see Tabitha? vv. 38-41

10. How did the people respond to Peter's healings? vv. 34, 42 Why do you think God wanted these two miracles recorded in Scripture?

BELIEVE THE TRUTH

Some will see how God has changed you and want to know more about Him, but others will turn away because you love Jesus. If we are living to please God instead of people, our reward will come from Him rather than from the world. If you make it your goal to love, encourage and pray for those God brings into your life, you will one day hear Him say, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

PRAY THE TRUTH

Dear Amazing and Powerful God, Thank You for giving Your Holy Spirit to teach me how to live for You. Help me to be an encourager and to believe in Your power. Let me see wonders from You. May everyone that I meet this week see the love of Jesus in my life. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

WALK IN TRUTH



What inspires you about Saul, Barnabas, Peter or Tabitha from the Scripture in this lesson?



Acts 9:23-42 (NLT)

Acts 9:23-36

23 After a while some of the Jews plotted together to kill him. 24 They were watching for him day and night at the city gate so they could murder him, but Saul was told about their plot. 25 So during the night, some of the other believers lowered him in a large basket through an opening in the city wall. 26 When Saul arrived in Jerusalem, he tried to meet with the believers, but they were all afraid of him. They did not believe he had truly become a believer!

Acts 9:27-31

27 Then Barnabas brought him to the apostles and told them how Saul had seen the Lord on the way to Damascus and how the Lord had spoken to Saul. He also told them that Saul had preached boldly in the name of Jesus in Damascus. 28 So Saul stayed with the apostles and went all around Jerusalem with them, preaching boldly in the name of the Lord. 29 He debated with some Greek-speaking Jews, but they tried to murder him. 30 When the believers heard about this, they took him down to Caesarea and sent him away to Tarsus, his hometown. 31 The church then had peace throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria, and it became stronger as the believers lived in the fear of the Lord. And with the encouragement of the Holy Spirit, it also grew in numbers.

Acts 9:32-42 Peter Heals Aeneas and Raises Dorcas

32 Meanwhile, Peter traveled from place to place, and he came down to visit the believers in the town of Lydda. 33 There he met a man named Aeneas, who had been paralyzed and bedridden for eight years. 34 Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you! Get up, and roll up your sleeping mat!" And he was healed instantly. 35 Then the whole population of Lydda and Sharon saw Aeneas walking around, and they turned to the Lord.

36 There was a believer in Joppa named Tabitha (which in Greek is Dorcas). She was always doing kind things for others and helping the poor. 37 About this time she became ill and died. Her body was washed for burial and laid in an upstairs room. 38 But the believers had heard that Peter was nearby at Lydda, so they sent two men to beg him, "Please come as soon as possible!" 39 So Peter returned with them; and as soon as he arrived, they took him to the upstairs room. The room was filled with widows who were weeping and showing him the coats and other clothes Dorcas had made for them. 40 But Peter asked them all to leave the room; then he knelt and prayed. Turning to the body he said, "Get up, Tabitha." And she opened her eyes! When she saw Peter, she sat up! 41 He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then he called in the widows and all the believers, and he presented her to them alive.

42 The news spread through the whole town, and many believed in the Lord.

Scripture quotations are taken from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright ©1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, a Division of Tyndale House Ministries, Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved.