

OBEY THE LORD, BEGIN YOUR MISSION

LAST WEEK'S MESSAGE

Saul was a man on a mission to imprison and kill all who follow Christ. However, everything changed when Jesus appears to him on his way to fulfill this dark mission. This encounter transforms Saul's life, and he becomes the Apostle Paul. Jesus instructs him to go into the city, where he will receive further guidance. As a result of this Damascus Road experience, Saul is left physically blind but gains spiritual insight.

There are two reasons why Saul was blind. First, God wanted to prevent him from causing harm to others, like how God blinded the men of Sodom in Genesis 19:11. Second, Saul was spiritually blind due to his hardened heart, which was gradually softening (Isaiah 42:7, 16). Jesus' vision doesn't convert Paul outright; instead, it confronts him to draw him closer to Himself. This is a pattern we see with all people, as Jesus aims to draw everyone to Him (John 12:32-33, 2 Peter 3:9). Therefore, Paul's story is crafted this way to emphasize that God's plan involves using people, like Ananias, to lead others to Christ.

Ananias, an obedient believer, is called upon by God to go and minister to Paul, despite the danger involved. Ananias obeys, and through his actions, God's plan unfolds. God softens Paul's hardened heart, and his mission of violence comes to an end. Paul's baptism signifies his conversion (Acts 8:35-38). It is remarkable that God used Ananias, someone relatively unknown, to lead Paul, who would become one of the greatest evangelists of all time, to Christ. This exemplifies a recurring theme in Acts, where God works through the obedience of believers to bring others to Christ.

Today, many people worldwide have visions of Jesus, and in these encounters, Jesus often directs them to meet a missionary who will share the gospel with them. Jesus appears not only to non-Christians but also to Christians, commissioning them to reach out to unbelievers.

The account in Acts 9:1-25 teaches us several important points:

- 1. God draws individuals to Himself.** It reminds us that no one is beyond the reach of God's grace

LAST WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE

And immediately [Paul] proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God."

ACTS 9:20

DISCUSS THIS MESSAGE

Read Acts 9:1-25. What encouraged you from this passage? What challenged you?

What do you learn from following Jesus?

What practical steps can you take this week to begin your mission and make disciple-makers who will reach the nations?

and that even the most hardened hearts can be softened through a personal encounter with Jesus.

- 2. God sends obedient believers to lead others to Christ and disciple them.** God often works through the obedience of His followers to bring about His purposes. It also underscores the significance of ordinary believers, like Ananias, in God's grand plan of reaching others with the gospel.
- 3. God's purpose is for new believers to immediately begin sharing their faith and making disciples.** It's a call to action for every believer to be actively involved in the Great Commission and play a part in the chain reaction of disciple-making that can reach the whole world with the Gospel.

This story also relates to missions. In Acts 9:15, Paul is chosen to carry God's name to the Gentiles, kings, and Israelites, which encompasses all nations. This aligns with the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20), where Jesus commands us to make disciples of all nations. Our mission is to share the gospel with people, lead them to Jesus, and help them become disciple-makers themselves. This chain reaction of disciple-making can spread the Gospel across the world.

To fulfill our mission, we need to:

- Make disciple-makers.
- Intentionally befriend non-Christians.
- Stay focused on Christ.
- Share the gospel consistently.
- Intercede for non-Christians.
- Obey all of Christ's commands.
- Remember God's global perspective.

The normal Christian life involves being active in making disciples and raising up disciple-makers. By obeying Jesus' mission, we can see a transformative impact on the world today. Let's start helping others explore their faith, grow in Jesus, serve others, and experience transformed lives. The harvest is plentiful, but there is a need for more workers (Matthew 9:37). So, let's be obedient to the Lord's call and begin our mission to change the world!

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WOMEN2WOMEN

ALL WOMEN

HEY, BRO. JOE!

How-To: ReVision

with Tiffany del Rosario

August 3, Thursday, 10:00 AM, MPH

ALSO STREAMED LIVE ONLINE

 ccfwomen2women

 CCFWomen2WomenMinistry

B1G MINISTRY

SINGLES

BIG HANGOUT

exclusive for facilitators and participants

August 4, Friday, 7:30 PM, BS Rooms 1-2

NXTGEN

KIDS FROM 4-12 YEARS OLD

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A NXTGEN Series on 1 Corinthians

Sundays, 10:00 AM and 3:00 PM

G/F North Wing, CCF Center

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  ccfnxtgen for ages 4-12

 zoom for ages 7-12



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scan here!

JOIN US THIS SEPTEMBER 16, 2023

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE FAITH

Continue to be equipped in your discipleship journey.

JOIN A GLC TRAINING TODAY!

GLC Level 1 — Face-to-Face
new training cycle starts September 3

GLC Level 2 — Face to Face
August 6, Sunday, 1:00 PM, Room 3A
Book 6: Basic Doctrines, Session 1

GLC Level 2 — Zoom Cycle 1
Book 6: Basic Doctrines, Session 1
August 10, Thursday, 7:30 PM

GLC Level 3 Lead — Zoom Cycle 1
Module 4: Spiritual Warfare
August 17, Thursday, 7:30 PM

Go to bit.ly/GLCTraining2023 to register

TAKE YOUR NEXT FAITH STEPS!

Sign up for GLC's Baptism Class and Rites!

August 12, CCF Center

LIMITED SLOTS ONLY

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JOIN AND PARTICIPATE

Come together with the community to learn and grow, or to retreat and recharge!

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LOOKING FOR ANSWERS? THINK YOUR VISIT IS A COINCIDENCE? YOUR BEING HERE TODAY IS NO ACCIDENT!

God brought you here for His purpose.

1 God loves you.

He desires for you to have a meaningful life with Him in the present and gain eternal life with Him in the future.

*Know therefore that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God, who **keeps His covenant and His lovingkindness** to a thousandth generation with those who love Him and keep His commandments — Deuteronomy 7:9*

2 God is holy.

We are sinful, and our sin separates us from Him.

Everyone has sinned and is far away from God's saving presence. — Romans 3:23

3 God is merciful.

In His love, He made the only way for us to be reconciled to Him: through His son, Jesus Christ. Jesus had to die on the cross for our sins and be raised to life for eternity.

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. — Romans 5:8

I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me. — John 14:6

4 God is gracious.

By placing our faith in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven of our sins and saved from eternal death.

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. — John 3:16

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. — Ephesians 2:8-9

5 God keeps His promises.

You can be sure that you have eternal life when you trust in Jesus.

And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life. — 1 John 5:11-13



SERVICES AT THE CCF CENTER

SATURDAY NIGHT SERVICE AT THE MPH 5:00 PM

SUNDAY SERVICES AT THE MAIN AUDITORIUM 10:00 AM (English), 3:00 PM (Filipino)

ONLINE LIVESTREAMS 10:00 AM, 12:00 NN, 3:00 PM, 6:00 PM

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