

Summary of this week's teaching:

We are going on a journey of Saul's post-conversion experience on the road to Damascus. The radical transformation that Saul experienced was not received well by the leaders of the day, nor by those who were once persecuted by Saul. However, through faithfulness and obedience of followers of Jesus, Saul would soon change the course of history for the name of Jesus.

Connect: Relational questions to get conversations started.

1. How have you experienced persecution, alienation, or rejection for following Jesus?

Seed: The Bible, God's inspired Word, is very much like a seed - it contains everything we need to experience life. Please read the following passage of scripture as a group: (perhaps in two different translations) Acts 9:19-31 and Ephesians 2:13-17.

1. What in the passage in Acts is discouraging to you?
2. What in the passage in Acts is encouraging to you?
3. What are ways that trust and faith in Jesus have provided you with supernatural peace?

Roots: Like subterranean tree roots which extend in all directions searching out water, each believer needs to grow and develop spiritual roots that allow us to make personal connections with our God.

1. In our lives, we will face rejection and persecution for choosing to follow Jesus. How do we approach those who reject us or do not accept our new life as a follower of Jesus?

Trunk: Without trunks, plants may be large, useful, and beautiful, but they are not trees. The same is true for our faith - without it we are not saved and cannot please God. These questions will help us grow our faith in Him.

1. Where in our lives are areas that we need the work of the Holy Spirit to prune so we can fully submit to his will and purpose for our life?

Crown: Crowns are the glory of a tree; the culmination of the roots and trunk working in harmony and can be seen for miles around. The crown of a tree represents the visible portion of our faithlife. These questions will encourage us to apply these principles in our everyday lives.

1. Who in your life is a spiritual mentor to you? What do they do to challenge and encourage you to grow in your faith?
2. Who in your life can you be or are you being a spiritual mentor to? What do you do to challenge and encourage them to grow in their faith?

