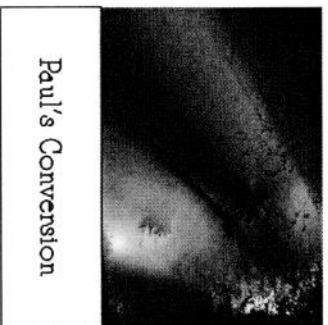


God's Story Our Story™

April 15, 2018

Use this resource at home to guide your household's daily devotions.



Paul's Conversion



Pray: Light a candle and open your devotion time with a prayer.

Mysterious Lord, you choose and use the most unlikely people for your work. Show us the path you have prepared for us, and give us all your strength and courage to follow. In Jesus' name, Amen.



Read: Read the key verses from Sunday's reading.

⁴He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"⁵He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting." (Acts 9:4-5)



Reflect: Reflect on the scripture summary.

Saul is one of the best-known—and feared—persecutors of the fledgling Christian church. If there's anyone who knows, without a doubt, what he stands for and what he's about, it's Saul. Surely such a man couldn't be thwarted by one unsettling journey?



Connect: Connect in conversation with others in your household.

What was a high point of your day? What was a low point? Tell of a time you thought you were headed in one direction, and then life threw you a curveball, and you found yourself headed in an entirely different direction.

Wonder: What would you have done if you had been Ananias, called to go straight to a man known to persecute and kill Christians?



Bless: Close your devotion with a blessing.
May God give you courage to face scary things. Amen.



Do: By acting on what we learn, we make God's word come alive. Do the following activity this week.

Write a love letter to a person or people you hate or fear the most. Consider how God feels about them.



Go Deeper: Go to clergystuff.com/daily-devotions for devotions on the daily readings.

Sunday, Acts 9:1-19a, Paul's Conversion
Monday, Acts 9:19b-22, Saul Preaches in Damascus
Tuesday, Acts 9:23-31, Saul Escapes from the Jews
Wednesday, Acts 9:36-43, Peter in Lydda and Joppa
Thursday, Acts 10:1-16, Peter and Cornelius
Friday, Acts 10:17-23a, Peter and Cornelius
Saturday, Acts 10:23b-33, Peter and Cornelius

Questions to ponder this week about this scripture:

What does this passage say to you about...

- your life?
- the life of River of Hope or your church or The Church?
- God and the world?

When do you wish God would have shown up for you in the last week?

How can this scripture be meaningful to your life this week?

What difference will this scripture make in your life?

What does this passage mean to you?

What might this passage create or set in motion? What change might this passage create?

What impact does this scripture have on you?

What claim does it make about God?

Where do you see God active in this scripture?

You are invited into the practice of reading scripture daily.

Don't worry about having the right answers or feeling the right feelings when you pick up the Bible. Instead, how do you respond to what you read? Dig in. Participate. Find yourself in this story. Push back on it. Dive into it. This is your story and God's story.

Here are some resources to encourage daily Bible reading and Prayer

- Take this sheet home. The one you're holding right now. Yes, that one. Read this scripture in the morning or in the evening or whenever. See what happens.
- Take the *other* yellow sheet home with you. The one with prayers on one side and scripture readings on the other. Leave it out some place where you'll see it.
- Daily Scripture readings that follow River of Hope's schedule:
<http://clergystuff.com/daily-devotions?view=calendar&month=July-2016>
- God Pause from Luther Seminary. Sign up for a daily devotion to be emailed to you: <https://www.luthersem.edu/godpause/>
- River of Hope Prayer and Daily Bible Reading insert from worship (yellow sheet):
<http://riverofhopehutchinson.org/im-new/worship/worship-bulletins/>
- Here's a great on-line Bible resource: <https://www.biblegateway.com>

Free Apps for yer phone (a mix of Android and iOS)



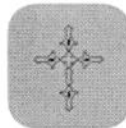
Bible Gateway



Book of Common Prayer:
Daily Office Readings



Read Scripture



Book of Common Prayer



Prayer Prompter



Bible.com/app



Blue Letter Bible



And-Bible

