



Sermon Notes

Wi-Fi password for westwoodguestsecured: westwoodguest

**Saul's Preparation for Ministry – And Ours**

Acts 9: 19-31, Galatians 1:11-24 (pew Bible pgs. 917-918, 972)

Last week we saw that, while we may not have a struck-down-in-the-road-blinding-light conversion experience like Saul, there are key components of what happened *to* him, and *in* him, that are true for every genuine follower of Christ. Saul's conversion is, in his own words, an example for every person who trusts Christ as their Lord and Savior: "But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience *as an example* to those who were to believe in him for eternal life" (I Timothy 1:15-16).

Today we continue to walk with Saul/Paul in this new journey of faith as we will follow the account that Luke recorded for us in Acts and hear from Paul in his own words. Saul's impressive abilities and background, even combined with a dramatic conversion experience, did not prepare him for the ministry God had planned. There was still work to do to get him ready for what lay ahead. The last half of Acts 9 gives us a summary of how God prepared Saul for service. Again, while Saul's experience is unique to him, there are key components in the process of spiritual growth and preparation that are necessary for every follower of Christ. Each of these steps, like individual classes in a curriculum of study, are required for you to be trained and equipped for the ministry God has planned for you.

The initial encounter with Christ - where new life in Him begins.

On the mountain with Christ - where the foundations of faith are strengthened.

In the fire with Christ – where opposition tests and stretches our faith.

In the family of Christ – where we experience fellowship, care, and encouragement.

Applications

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## Weekly Discipleship Guide

Use this guide to help you reflect upon and internalize today's passage and message! Using a journal or a notebook, follow the daily prompts below. We also use these guides to guide our discussions in our Life Groups each week as we seek to grow together in the Word!

### Sunday

*In your journal, reflect on today's sermon by answering the following:*

I never knew:

I was challenged:

I was reminded:

I was convicted:

A question I still have:

A truth I could share:

**Know**

### Monday

*Spend some time today doing the following:*

Read the sermon passage again.

Select a portion of this week's sermon passage to memorize this week.

Write your selected portion and read it to yourself at least 10 times throughout the day and meditate on that portion this week.

**Know > Be**

### Tuesday

*In your journal, spend some time writing about the following:*

Read the sermon passage again.

Write a prayer of response, specifically guided by the passage.

(May include adoration, confession/repentance, thanksgiving, petition, etc...)

Continue to meditate on a memorize the selection you chose from yesterday.

**Be**

### Wednesday

*Think about this week's questions for group discussion:*

Pastor Gerald spoke about the need for both Paul and Jesus to depart for the purpose of solitude and prayer. What is your plan for extended times like this? Why is it important?

How does this glimpse of Barnabas challenge and encourage us as to the importance of meaningful membership within the life of the Body here at Westwood?

Who is someone in this Body that has demonstrated Barnabas-type love to you? How can you let them know that and encourage them in the Lord over the coming week?

**Be > Do**

### Thursday

*In your journal, spend some time considering the following:*

What insights have you gained while internalizing this week's passage?

How specifically will you seek to apply its truths in your home/workplace/life in general?

**Do**

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#### Westwood Staff

**Gerald Hodges:** Lead Pastor  
**Jonathan Taylor:** Associate Pastor  
**Jim Fulp:** Counseling Pastor  
**Jason Engle:** Pastor of Students & Discipleship  
**Katie Austin:** Children's Ministry Coordinator

#### Contact Us

336.599.1982  
westwoodroxboro@gmail.com  
www.westwoodfamily.org

#### Upcoming Events

March 20 - Church Conference  
March 24 - Tamales & Tacos Fundraiser  
March 24,31 - Directory Pictures  
March 29 - Parent's Night Out Fundraiser  
April 4 - ODWG Training  
April 6 - One Day with God  
April 12 - Parent's Night Out Fundraiser  
April 12 & 13 - Mom 2 Mom Spring Sale

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