

Acts 9:10-19

¹⁰Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord." ¹¹And the Lord said to him, "Rise and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying, ¹²and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." ¹³But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem. ¹⁴And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name." ¹⁵But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. ¹⁶For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." ¹⁷So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." ¹⁸And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized; ¹⁹and taking food, he was strengthened. For some days he was with the disciples at Damascus.

Background

Paul is one of the most recognized figures in all of Scripture. His story, though, might look differently had it not been for the obedience and influence of a lesser-known man named Ananias. We do not have many details about Ananias, but we know the impact he had on the life of Saul (Paul). Since Ananias was listening for Jesus, made himself available to Jesus, and obeyed the instructions of Jesus, he became the answer to the prayer of Saul (Paul) and was able to serve, instruct, and send out the greatest missionary who ever lived. Today, Pastor David will show us from the life of Ananias that we might never know the depth of impact our acts of obedience can have on the kingdom of God!

Service Notes

1. Don't _____.
2. Don't _____.
3. Don't _____.

What is your biggest takeaway from today's message?

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Instructions

This discussion guide is to help you facilitate a conversation with your small group. The “Getting Started” section serves as a quick opener and introduction to the group conversation. In the “Talk it Over” section, feel free to use all or only some of the questions. Again, our hope is to have meaningful and encouraging conversations around the passage used in the sermon, not simply answer all the questions. Give each member of your group opportunity to respond. Take your time. Finally, the “Live it Out” section is to help identify a specific next step. Use these questions as a guide to find practical ways to apply the passage to our everyday life.

Getting Started

- ▼ What stood out to you in this week’s sermon? What is one thought from the message that made you hopeful? What prompted questions? How can you pray for you this week?

Talk it Over

- ▼ **Read Acts 9:10-14.** Ananias heard the voice of Jesus clearly and made himself available to be used (vs. 10-11). What is the most common thing that keeps us from hearing Jesus clearly? How is hearing and obeying closely connected? What are some practical ways we can better hear from Jesus and make ourselves available to be used by him? Why was Ananias hesitant to do what Jesus told him to do (vs. 14)? What are some of the reasons we give when we hesitate in our own obedience to God?
- ▼ **Read Acts 9:15-22.** Why do you believe Ananias “laid hands” on Saul (Paul)? Why do you think Ananias addressed Saul (Paul) as ‘brother?’ How do you think these actions affected Saul? What role do you believe the unnamed disciples at Damascus played in Saul (Paul) in his transformation from murderer to missionary (vs. 18-22)? What is the most practical lesson we can apply from this passage?
- ▼ In what ways could God use you right now as an “answer” to someone else’s prayer? Who in your life right now might be one encounter with Jesus away from radical life change? How are you currently praying for them? How can we be more attentive to what God is doing in the lives of others around us?

Live it Out

- ▼ Other than yourself, whose life would radically change if God immediately answered your prayers today?