

STUDY GUIDE

for the week of 7/14 thru 7/20
Acts 9:10-19



WHATS THE STORY?

Ananias, despite his reservations, trusts in God and goes to the man Saul of Tarsus, who is already infamous for his persecution of the Christian movement. God uses Ananias to heal Saul, and Ananias even goes so far as to call Saul “brother”, baptizing him into the church.

LECTIO DEVINA

Prepare: Find a calm and quiet place to read and absorb the passage.

Read: Read through the passage. Listen for any words or phrases that jump out and listen for what God has to say.

Reflect: Try to understand what God could be saying to you through this passage.

Respond: Journal or pray to God, communicating about what you think God was telling you through Scripture.

Rest: Spend time contemplating, allowing God to work.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Who might God be calling you to be an instrument of reconciliation towards?
- Do we have the faith to trust in God, even when it's scary?



FAMILY STUDY

Discuss: What does the word redemption mean?

How did Ananias follow Gods directions?

Why did Ananias call Paul his brother?

A Deeper Look

Our passage for this week continues Paul's conversion story. He is told to continue on his way to Damascus, a town that was about a week's journey to the North East of Jerusalem. We are introduced to a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. A man who, according to Luke in Acts 22:12, was "...a devout observer of the law and highly respected by all the Jews living there." Outside of this story and some ancient historians, there isn't much information on Ananias. He is, however, a small yet interesting parallel to the Chief Priest Ananias that Paul runs into in Acts 23.

Ananias was spoken to in a vision by God, and is given instructions to "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight." This isn't a request; rather, it is God calling Ananias to the mission he has set up for him. He tells Ananias that Paul has already seen a man named Ananias. And even though Ananias had immediate and understandable nervousness, God leaves him with no choice other than to fulfill Paul's vision. God assures him anyway that he "...will show him how much he must suffer for my name."

Ananias goes into the house of Judas and his first word to the popular Christian persecutor is 'Brother' (v17) as he lays hands on Paul to give him the gift of the Holy Spirit. The scales fall from Paul's eyes and he is baptized into Christ and into the Church. The story of Ananias is an amazingly powerful story of the breadth of Christ's redemptive power.