

QUESTIONS FOR CG'S AND PERSONAL REFLECTION

Acts 9:23-31

1. Read the passage together. Is there anything that stood out in the reading or the sermon?
2. Why do you think it was that Saul was so fiercely opposed by the Jewish leaders of his time? How do you think you'd respond to threats against your life for preaching the gospel?
3. What's the difference between suffering in general, and suffering *for the* gospel? Can you think of a time when you (or someone you know) have suffered *for the* gospel?
4. Would you agree that in Canada, we don't really see a lot of suffering for the gospel? Why do you think it is that there is so much suffering in other places?
5. Can you think of a time when you were or someone you know was dissuaded from talking about Jesus for fear of the suffering that might come as a result?
6. Bolshevik revolutionary, Yemelyan Yaroslavsky, said that, "*Christianity is like a nail. The harder you strike it, the deeper it goes.*" How is it that suffering for the gospel deepens our faith? In this way, could suffering for the gospel also be a blessing?
7. What's the difference between blessing in general (common grace), and blessing that comes from following Jesus? In what ways have you seen following Jesus lead to blessing in your life or the lives of those around you?
8. What's the difference between blessing in this life and the blessing that is to come in eternity? How do these affect the way you live out the gospel today?
9. Describe the relationship you see between the level of maturity in one's faith and the amount of both suffering and blessing one sees while following Jesus.
10. Pray together for opportunities to boldly preach the gospel in your circle of influence. Ask the Spirit to open your eyes to these opportunities, and to the blessings that come from following Jesus.