

JESUS ENCOUNTERS

JOURNEY WAYPOINTS

June 8-14, 2025

A stop along the journey to study, share, and support one another while we learn the way of Jesus.

This Week's Big Idea:

Saul deeply loved God and was fervent about spiritual matters, but until he met Jesus, his zeal was misdirected and harmful. Passion and zeal are vital for living in God's Kingdom, but only when we continually allow Jesus to transform us through our encounters with Him.

Scripture and Study:

KEY TEXT: Acts 9:1-22; John 1:14; 2 Corinthians 5:17 [Click here to access this week's scripture](#)

Saul, a zealous Pharisee, was passionate about God, yet his fervor led him to persecute the early church, believing he was defending divine truth (Acts 8:1-3). Steeped in Scripture and trained under Gamaliel, Saul thought he had it "right," but his zeal was blind to the Messiah. On the Damascus road, Jesus met him—not with rebuke for getting it wrong, but with grace, asking, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" (Acts 9:4). This encounter didn't require Saul to be perfect; it required his willingness to meet Jesus in his brokenness. Blinded physically to reveal his spiritual blindness (Acts 9:8-9), Saul became Paul, his passion was redirected to proclaim Jesus to whole world!

Our testimonies, like Paul's, are powerful not because we get everything right, but because Jesus meets us where we are—flawed, zealous, or misguided—and transforms us by His grace. "The Word became flesh... full of grace and truth." Jesus' glory shines through our encounters with Him. Whether in pride, shame, confusion or pain, Jesus invites us to come as we are, transforming our misdirected efforts into testimonies that glorify Him (Psalm 66:16). Paul's story, from persecutor to apostle, declares, "Christ Jesus came to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost" (1 Timothy 1:15). No one is beyond His reach.

Sharing our testimonies is a Kingdom act, not about perfection but about proclaiming Jesus' transformative love. Like the woman at the well or Peter, whose stories revealed Jesus' heart (John 4:29; Acts 2:14), our encounters—big or small—become powerful when shared, inspiring others to meet Jesus where they are (Psalm 96:3). We don't need to "get it right" first; we need only be willing to encounter Him. As we share how Jesus has redirected our zeal, we glorify Him and invite others into His transforming grace, building His Kingdom through our stories.

Discussion Questions:

- How does Saul's story show that encountering Jesus, not "getting it right," leads to transformation? How can Acts 9:4-5 encourage you to meet Jesus in your imperfections?
- What moments of misdirected zeal or failure in your life has Jesus transformed?
- Why is sharing your testimony powerful, even if you feel it's imperfect? How can focusing on Jesus' grace, as in 2 Corinthians 5:17, embolden you to share?

Apply It:

- Reflect: Recall a time when you felt you "got it wrong." Pray for courage to encounter Jesus' grace there, trusting Hebrews 13:8 that He never changes.
- Journal: Meditate on Psalm 66:16 or Philippians 3:8. Write about how Jesus met you where you were and how sharing that could glorify Him.
- Act: Share a story of Jesus' transformative grace with someone this week, emphasizing His love, not your perfection, to encourage their own encounter with Him.