

## Getting Started

What do you know now that you didn't understand 10 or 20 years ago?

**Word** Read aloud Acts 9:1-19

1. Saul will soon become known as "Paul" (see Acts 13:9). *Saul* was his Jewish name, *Paul* his Roman name. Perhaps because his ministry would eventually focus on Gentiles, his Roman name is what he becomes known by.
2. Saul first appears in "God's Story" at the end of the narrative about the stoning of Stephen in Acts 7. Saul is first referenced in 7:58, 8:1, and 8:3. What do you learn about him in these verses?
3. For more background to the story of Saul's conversion, read 8:1-4. What happens because of the persecution? What good comes from it?
4. Now review Saul's story in 9:1-19. What do you notice? What do you wonder about?
5. Spend time looking at Ananias. What do we learn from his piece of the story about how remarkable this conversion was?
6. Because of Saul's conversion story, the phrase "Damascus Road experience" is often used. What would you say a "Damascus Road experience" is? Do you think this kind of conversion experience is normative or unusual in our time? Compare it to the 100 Word stories you've heard in your group and on Sunday mornings. Have you heard many Damascus Road kind of stories in our series?
7. Invite two people in your group to share their **Faith Story in 100 Words** using the series questions as a guide (see other side of this sheet for the questions). Reflect together on what you hear—how are the stories similar? Different? Ask the people sharing their stories to talk about what the process of writing their stories was like. What did they discover?

**Share** Invite the people in your group to share any blessings or concerns they have from the past week.

**Prayer** Pray for each other in sentence prayers. Please include these prayers of the New Hope family:

1. Men's Retreat, Feb. 23-24
2. Women's Retreat, Mar. 2-3

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February 4, 2018

*My Faith Story in 100 Words: Saul*

Acts 9:1-19

## Sermon Notes

1. Why did Saul's name change to Paul?
2. What is a "Damascus Road experience"?
3. Are Damascus Road experiences normative in our time?

### ***My Faith Story in 100 Words*** Questions:

1. When did Jesus Christ begin to get more of your attention?
2. Who or what played a part in this increased attention?
3. How is your life different today because of your faith in Jesus Christ?

People you want to pray for:

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