



Conversion of Saul

Handout

Session Theme: Birth Stories

Activity: Rope Shapes

Scripture Story: *Acts 9:1-19*

Video Clip: *Dairy of a Mad Black Woman*

1 Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest in Jerusalem 2 and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way of Jesus, men or women, he could arrest them and send them to Jerusalem to be put in jail.

3 Now as Saul was riding along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. 4 He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" 5 He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. 6 Get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." 7 The men who were traveling with Saul stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. 8 Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. 9 For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

10 Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord." 11 The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, 12 and 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." 13 But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your followers in Jerusalem; 14 and here he has authority from the chief priests to arrest all who invoke your name." 15 But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel."

17 So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." 18 And immediately something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, 19 and after taking some food, he regained his strength. For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, and then headed back to Jerusalem.

NOTES:

- Last week we talked about how Moses was born and how Moses started out expendable/killable as a baby before becoming a prince of Egypt and then the leader of the people of Israel.
- Saul's conversion story is a spiritual birth story. He's becoming a new person. And as this new person, Saul helps to lead the church out of oppression/confusion/infancy in much the same way that Moses led Israel out of oppression/confusion/infancy.