

# Spiritual Journey

## The goals of this study are the following:

1. To affirm that God has been working in the lives of all human beings.
2. To embrace the power of story-telling as a process of connecting through mutual dialogue. This study is an opportunity to be active in sharing your faith (Philemon 6).
3. To create a narrative framework to support the facilitation of future Bible study.

Study the spiritual journey of the Apostle Paul

## Acts 9:1-31 Saul's Conversion

- The story of Saul begins in Acts 9; where Saul is against God's movement. In short, God can use anybody.
- Verse 3: we are all on a journey [for Jesus as disciple or against Jesus]
- Jesus sent Paul to Ananias to "*be told what to do*". How did Ananias help Saul?
- Saul was obedient to the instructions from Jesus
- He fasted and prayed for 3 days; which means this was a very spiritual event for him. He took this calling very seriously.

## Acts 22:1-21 Saul's Re-telling of his Conversion

- Some years later, Paul has now embraced his "story" as being called by God; certainly not his thoughts in Acts 9.
- Notice how Paul has now added his natural birth and spiritual, theological training to his story.
- Paul also affirms that he was "against" Jesus in his former life
- His new life is evidenced by his "new name" [Saul to Paul]
- Paul affirms the role of Ananias in his life and conversion [Acts 22:12-13]

## Acts 25:23—26:32 Saul's Re-telling of his Conversion to King Agrippa

- Now Paul has fully embraced his "story" by confirmation of God working in his life and ministry.
- Notice his confidence in speaking with King Agrippa [Acts 26].
- Paul clearly wants to persuade everyone to become a Christian.
- Paul can confidently ask people to become "like him". Do you feel like you can confidently ask people to become like you [as Christian]?

*Note: Make a list of everything Saul (Paul) did on the way to salvation.*

- Saw a light
- Heard the voice of Jesus
- Believed in Jesus
- Confessed Jesus as Lord
- Obeyed Jesus' command
- Fasted three days
- Prayed three days
- Had a vision
- Received a miracle
- Got baptized

**Question[s] to Consider:**

- What does Revelation 12:10-12 say about experiencing victory?
- How does your spiritual journey compare and/or contrast to the journey we just explored?
- How have you experienced God's presence in your life up this point in time?