

Note: Chapter 9 describes two awakenings. First, Saul, a fervent Jew, began his day persecuting fellow Jews for preaching blasphemy, but ended up believing something even more blasphemous to any Jew. Second, Peter began a day in Joppa by bringing a dead woman back to life. He then spent several days by the sea in the home of a Gentile, who practiced a profession that Jews considered despicable.

1. Saul, one of the Freedmen who cooperated in the killing of Stephen, is a few years older now, but more committed to the cause of removing all those who follow “The Way” of Jesus. (Acts 8:2-5)
 - a. What is the blasphemous teaching Saul so despises? (Acts 8:1; Acts 7:51-57)
 - b. What activity does Saul become engaged in after the death of Stephen? (Acts 8:2-3)
2. Over the years, Paul will build much of his theology of the Universal Christ from this short verbal encounter with the risen Lord. (Acts 9:4-6) Explain how this simple exchange becomes the basis of Paul’s teaching that Christ lives in me, and I live in Christ. (Galatians 2:19-20)
3. The blinded Saul spent three days in a house on Straight Street in Damascus.
 - a. What did he do during those three days? (Acts 9:9, 11)
 - b. *Reflection:* What do you think you would have done if you had been Saul, the fervent Jew?
4. Describe the Lord’s orders to Ananias. Explain his hesitancy and confusion in carrying out the orders. (Acts 9:10-14)
5. The Lord reveals His great plans and future mission for Saul to Ananias.
 - a. Describe Saul’s mission, and what is new about it. (Acts 9:15-16)
 - b. What qualities do you think the Lord saw in Saul that could transform him from a persecutor of Christians to an Apostle of Christ? Explain.
6. Saul went to the Damascus synagogues preaching that Jesus is the Son of God.
 - a. Describe the confusion the Jews had when Saul first began to preach. (Acts 9:19-22)
 - b. How did the Jews ultimately respond to Saul’s preaching? (Acts 9:23-25)
7. After some time in Damascus, Saul made a trip to Jerusalem to meet the apostles.
 - a. Why were the disciples in Jerusalem afraid of Saul? (Acts 9:26)
 - b. What was Barnabas’ role during Saul’s visit with the apostles? (Acts 9:27)
8. The Church was at peace all over Israel, so Peter, like a good leader, goes around to visit various Christian communities. (Acts 9:31-34) How has this tradition continued in the Church today?
9. Women played an important role in the early Church. Give some examples of women’s roles in the early Church. (Acts 9:36; Romans 16:1-16; Luke 24:1-11)
10. In the last verse in this chapter (Acts 9:43), Luke tells us that while in Joppa (modern day Tel Aviv), Peter stayed at the home of Simon, a tanner and a Gentile. What do you think was Peter’s purpose in staying with him, and is this a new dimension in Peter’s ministry? (See Handout: *Significance of Acts 9:43*)