

**Lesson 5**  
**Change of Heart**  
**Acts 9-10**



MEMORIAL DRIVE  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



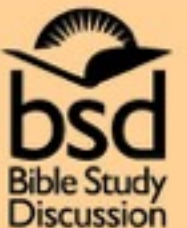


# Opening Music: God is on the Move

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tTzb0SpJfjw>



MEMORIAL DRIVE  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Acts 4:31

**And they were all filled with  
the Holy Spirit and spoke  
the Word of God boldly.**

# Announcement

**We will be emailing to you  
this week a new and  
improved Lesson 6.**





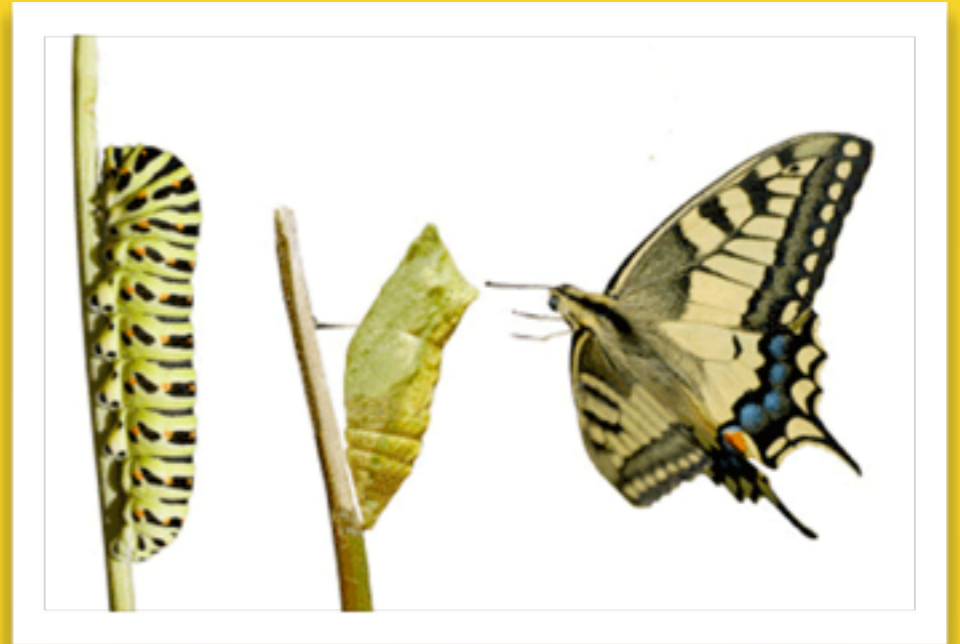
CHANGE





**TODAY**

**Conversion:  
New Life  
in Christ**



**Saul/Paul**

**Peter &  
Cornelius**

**ACTS 9 & 10**





# Conversion: New Life in Christ



Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

2 Corinthians 5:17 ESV

**2 Conversions  
+  
2 Miracles  
yielding many converts**



**Saul to Paul (Jewish Pharisee to Jewish Believer)**

**Cornelius (Gentile Seeker to Gentile Believer)**

**Aeneas Miracle**

**(Paralyzed to Walking: Healing turned people to the Lord.)**

**Tabitha/Dorcas Miracle**

**(Death to Life: The news of her resurrection spread.)**

***In Acts 9 & 10, we see that God is on the move!***



# What does conversion produce?

- 1. Praise:** We are thankful and glorify God for the gift of Jesus.
- 2. Discipleship:** Our lifestyles change. We live to serve.
- 3. Relinquishing our Wills:** We go from independence to dependence.
- 4. Witnessing:** We tell others.
- 5. Growth:** It is the beginning of our Christian journey led by God.



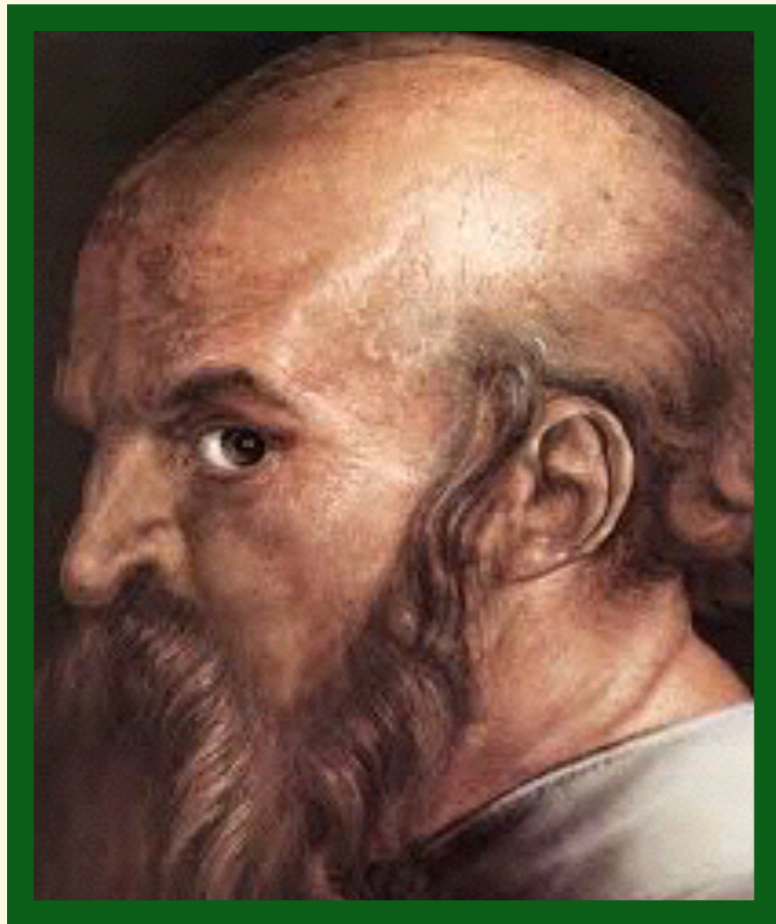
# Saul/Paul



**And immediately he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying, “He is the Son of God.”**

**Acts 9:20 ESV**





## Who is Saul?

**Violent, active, fanatical,  
zealous, and resourceful**

**Hebrew raised in Tarsus**

**Pharisee who wanted to return the world to  
obedience to the Law and Jewish tradition**

**Spoke fluent Greek, Hebrew, and Aramaic**

**Scholar, natural leader, and prejudice!**

***Jesus saw Paul as the perfect person  
to lead the world into knowing Jesus!***



Damascus

Where is Saul?

Jerusalem



# Summary of Acts 9 & 10 in Play Format

**Author: God**  
**Producer: God**  
**Director: God**



**Time:** First Century

**Place:** Road to Damascus

**Scene 1 (Acts 9:1-2):** Saul is not the High Priest but takes initiative to “search and destroy.” Saul is **ENEMY!**

**Scene 2 (v 3-9):** Irony strikes. Paul tries to protect God with persecutions but now sees that Paul is the one who needs protection from God. Meets Jesus on road. Persecutor changes from violent to helpless.

**Scene 3 (v 10-16):** Saul is now **JESUS’ CHOSEN INSTRUMENT.**

**Scene 4 (v 17-19a):** Saul is **BROTHER.** He is transformed through God’s call and leading.

**Blackout.**  
**End of act.**





# 4 Themes found in Paul's Conversion Story

## Theme #1

**God encounters Saul  
from the outside.  
It is not an inner  
struggle.  
Jesus appeared to  
Saul.**



# Post-Resurrectional Appearances of Jesus

**Mary Magdalene and the Women in the Garden:** Matthew 28:8-10, Mark 16:9-11, John 20:11-18

**Peter in Jerusalem:** Luke 24:34, 1 Corinthians 15:5

**Disciples on Road to Emmaus:** Luke 24:13-35, Mark 16:12, 13

**Disciples Behind Locked Doors:** Mark 16:14-18, Luke 24:36-43, John 20:19-31, 1 Corinthians 15:5

**Disciples in Jerusalem:** Luke 24:44-49

**Disciples on the Beach:** John 21

**Before his Ascension:** Matthew 28:16-20, Mark 16:19-20, Luke 24:50-53, Acts 1:3-8

**Crowd of 500:** 1 Corinthians 15:6

**James, his brother:** 1 Corinthians 15:7

**Saul on the Road to Damascus:** Acts 9:3-9



# 4 Themes found in Paul's Conversion Story

## Theme #2

**Conversions are Jesus initiated and not what we do for ourselves. They are gifts from Jesus.**



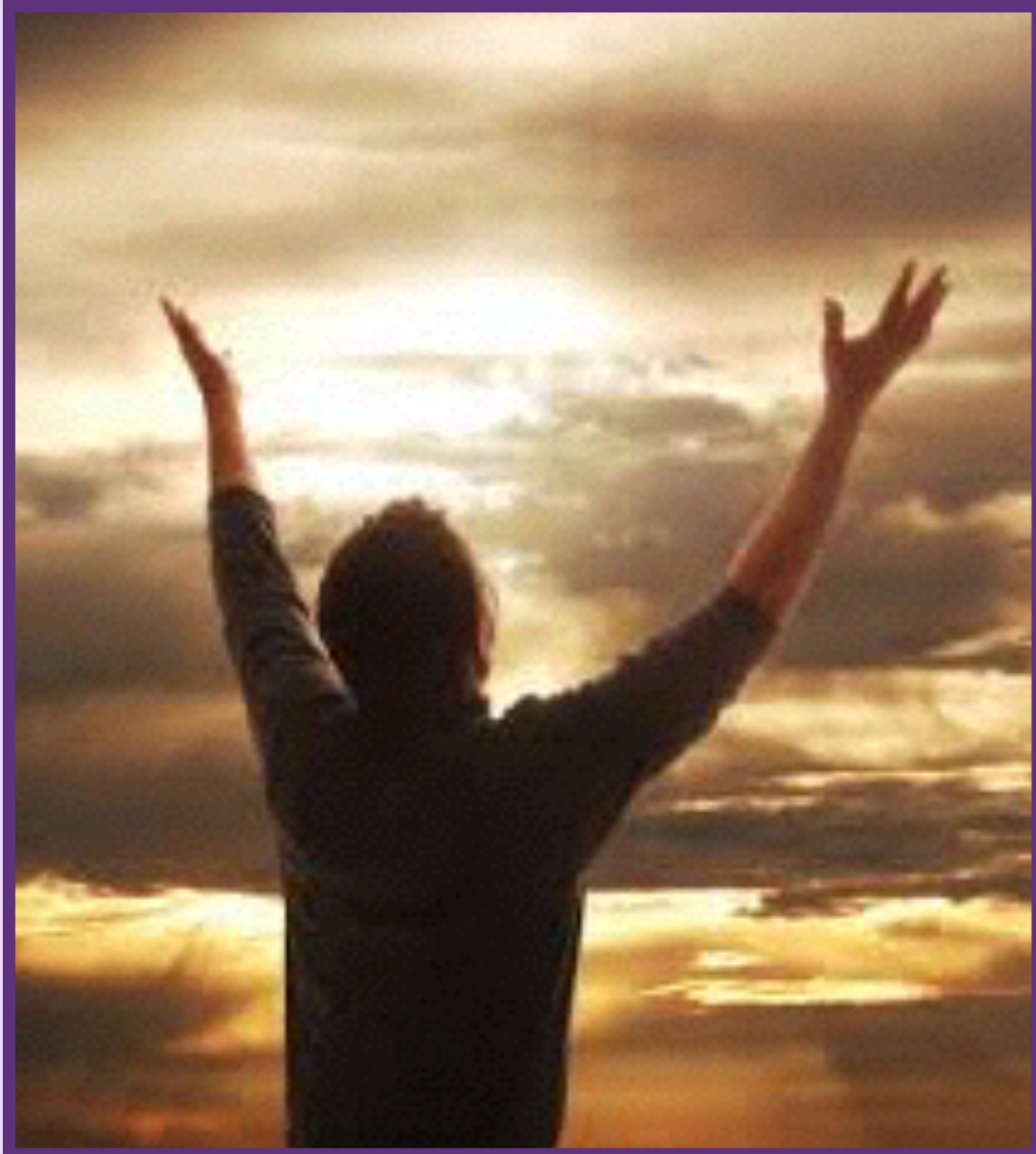
**Saul was chosen because he could be useful  
not because he's a great guy.**

**(Examples: Jacob, Moses, David)**

**Like Paul, God prepares us.**

**Like Paul, God has a plan for our lives.**

# 4 Themes found in Paul's Conversion Story



## Theme #3

**Saul moved from independence to complete dependence on God. We must relinquish our wills for His will.**



# 4 Themes found in Paul's Conversion Story



## Theme #4

**Paul's story is a bridge story where he becomes the bridge between Jew and Gentile.**



# **Ananias**

## **Obedient Follower**

**He was called for a specific task. The Lord told him to go to Saul and lay hands on him so he might regain his sight.**

**He was obedient despite his fear that Saul would arrest or kill him.**

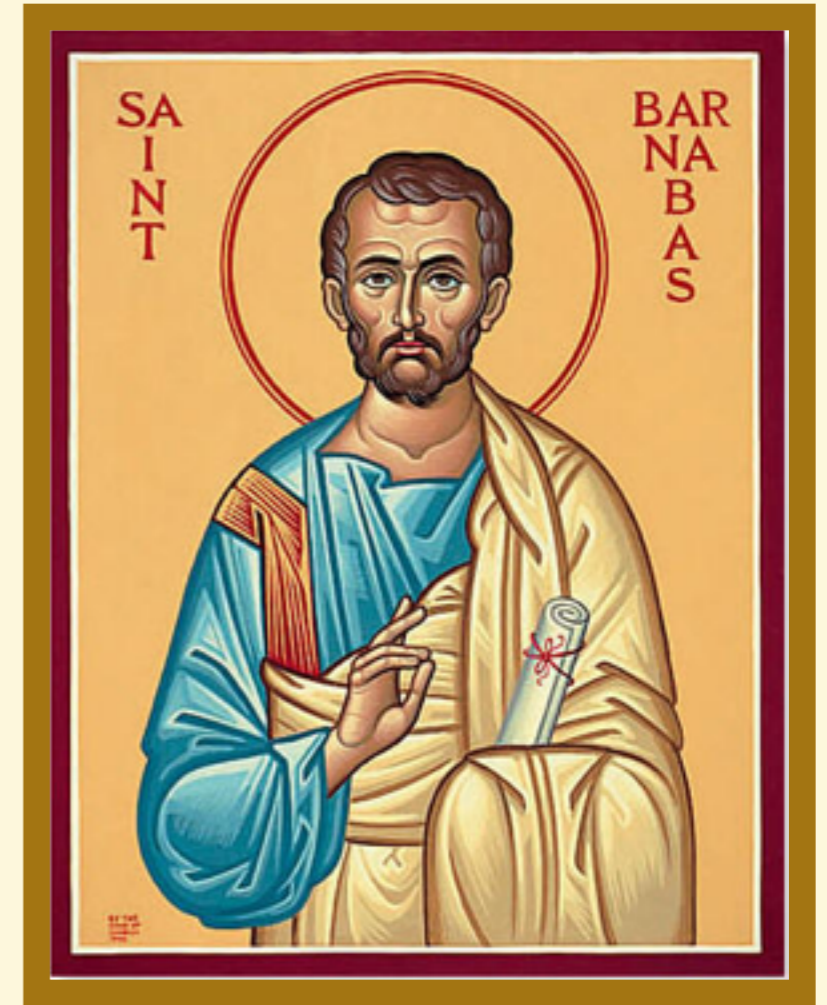
**He showed love and forgiveness.**

**He spoke kindly calling him “Brother Saul”.**



# Barnabas

**Believer, Encourager,  
Reconciler and  
Peacemaker**



**Paul went to Jerusalem to:**

- **validate his ministry with the community of faith.**
- **learn from those who had seen Jesus.**
- **receive encouragement from other believers.**

**But the Jerusalem believers were skeptical of Paul's transformation. Therefore, Barnabas intervened and led Paul to the apostles.**

# Peter & Cornelius



The voice [of the Lord] spoke a second time, “Never consider unclean what God has made pure.”

Acts 10:15 CEB



# Where is Peter?

*with Cornelius*



*with Tabitha/Dorcas  
and Simon the Tanner*



*with Aeneas*



*Jerusalem*



Map of Israel in the New Testament

Bible History Online

**Time:** First Century

**Places:** Lydda, Joppa, and Caesarea

**Scene 1 (Acts 9:32-43):** Jesus through Peter heals Aeneas and resurrects Tabitha. Many converts! Peter stays in Joppa with Simon, the Tanner.

**Scene 2 (Acts 10:1-8):** Roman Commander Cornelius sees vision. Needs Peter. Sends men to get him.

**Scene 3 (v 9-23a):** Peter sees vision. Left confused. Trusted God. Invited Cornelius' Gentile men into his Jewish home.

**Scene 4 (v 24-48):** Peter arrives and preaches. Cornelius accepts Jesus as Savior. Peter accepts that Gentiles are included in salvation. Many baptized.

**Blackout**  
**End of act**







## **Cornelius Who was he?**

**Roman, Gentile, Wealthy,  
Commander stationed in  
Caesarea but likely to  
return to Rome.**

**Reverent, Prayerful, Hospitable, Willing to be  
guided and instructed**

**1st Gentile convert recorded.**

***This was turning point in Christian history as  
Gentiles were included in salvation, and the  
gospel would be sent “to the ends of the earth”.***

**IT'S ALL ABOUT CHANGE!**

**Conversion:  
New Life  
in Christ**



**Saul/Paul**

**ACTS 9 & 10**

**CHANGE OF ❤️**

**Peter &  
Cornelius**





**Invite someone to go with you to a  
Christian gathering.**

**(Worship, Bible Study, Concert,  
Soup Kitchen, Work Day, or Food Pantry)**

**Be prepared to tell him/her why you  
are attending the gathering.**

# Close in Prayer