

# Connecting Group Study Guide

## *Knowing, Growing, Going*

Week of September 4-10, 2016

### Follow-up

1. Start by checking in with each other about your previous week.

The sermon from this past Sunday ended with these words: “It is not a matter of *if* we are contagious, but rather *what* are we spreading? Our behavior and attitude are always having some sort of ripple effect upon others around us. We can see how this is true throughout the stories and accounts of the Bible. Today we will look deeper into this by examining the conversion of a man named Saul (but you might know him better as Paul).

Read Acts 9:1-31.

### Knowing

We are first introduced to the man named Saul of Tarsus in Acts 7:58. When Stephen was stoned by the Jewish leaders, Saul stood there guarding their gear. Again in Acts 8:3 we are told that Saul began “destroying the church.”

1. According to Acts 9:1-2, how does Luke portray Saul and his behavior/attitude?
2. What do you think may have been guiding Saul in his behavior/attitude toward the Christians (cf. Galatians 1:13-14)?

### Growing

Things change drastically and suddenly for Saul while traveling the road to the city of Damascus.

1. According to Acts 9:3-19a, what are all the elements that God used to grab ahold of Saul’s heart? (List out as many things as your group can see in the passage).
2. Looking at Acts 19b-22, describe the behavioral/attitude change that Saul experienced?

### Going

When Jesus changes and transforms a person’s heart and life this is usually something that involves some tangible changes in the person’s life.

1. Looking at Acts 9:19b-31, compare and contrast Saul’s present experience with his previous experience before encountering Christ. (Again, list out as many things as your group can see in the passage).
2. What contagious relationships did God use in Saul’s experience? What was a result of this transformation?
3. Was there a behavior/attitude that Jesus transformed in you when you encountered him? Is there a behavior/attitude that Jesus is currently working on transforming in you?
4. Is there any way your Connecting Group can be a positive “contagion” to help you with this?

Close in Prayer:

Break up into groups of two and pray specifically for one another—ask God to specifically make you aware of how you can be “contagious” in a positive way for those around you.