LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

PRAY TOGETHER

Jesus, thank You for knowing us by name, loving us in our sin, and meeting us in ways that can change our lives forever. As we discuss this message, open our hearts to hear from Your Holy Spirit and recognize where You invite us to respond with faith and obedience. Help us to share the story of what You have done in our lives. Give us courage this week to take one clear action step, especially toward someone who needs to encounter Your love. Amen.

ICE BREAKER

Who was your “hero” when you were growing up—an athlete, musician, movie character, or someone else? Was there ever a moment when they became more human and relatable to you?

SERMON OVERVIEW

SCAN FOR SERMON CLIP

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A single encounter with Jesus Christ has the power to radically transform any life, regardless of past failures, shame, or religious background. This week we are joined by Pastor Kurt Brodbeck as we explore one of the most dramatic transformations in all of Scripture: the story of Saul of Tarsus. Saul was a Pharisee who was working to destroy the early church before a blinding light and a voice calling his name stopped him in his tracks. What strikes us immediately is how personal that moment was. Jesus did not call out to a crowd. He called Saul by name. And that detail matters deeply for us, because it tells us something profound about how God sees each one of us, not as a face in a crowd, but as someone known, valued, and called. The message draws a straight line from Saul's story to our own, reminding us that none of us are too far gone, too broken, or too buried in our past to be used by God. His direction and mission changed; Saul, now called Paul, would later write that he considered himself the worst of sinners, yet God chose him as an instrument to carry the gospel across the Roman world. If that is true of Paul, it is true of us as well. We are not spectators in God's story. We are chosen instruments, crafted with purpose, called to something greater than we might dare to imagine.

READ SCRIPTURE

ACTS 7:57-60, 8:1-3, 9:1-21; 1 TIMOTHY 1:15; EPHESIANS 2:10; ROMANS 7:24-25, 1 CORINTHIANS 2:1-5

CONNECT RELATIONALLY

1) One of the central ideas in the message was, “One encounter with Jesus can change everything.” When you think about Saul's transformation, what do you find most surprising or encouraging about the way Jesus approached him?

2) The sermon emphasized that our past mistakes and regrets don't have to define our future with God. Why can it be difficult to believe that God can still use you after you’ve messed up? What helps you move from feeling disqualified to being open to what God might do through you?

3) Pastor Kurt shared a painful story about avoiding a gospel conversation with his best friend shortly before that friend died unexpectedly. What fears or hesitations most often prevent you from sharing your faith, and what would it take to overcome them?

GROW
SPIRITUALLY

4) In Acts 7:57–8:3, we meet Saul before his encounter with Jesus. He was convinced he was doing the right thing, even as he was hurting other people. What stands out to you about Saul's story, and what does it remind you about how sincerely held beliefs can sometimes lead us in the wrong direction?

5) Ephesians 2:10 describes you as God's workmanship (also translated as His masterpiece), created in Christ Jesus to do good works. How might seeing yourself as someone God desires and has plans to use change the way you approach your everyday relationships, responsibilities, or opportunities to help others?

6) In Acts 9:10–17, Ananias initially hesitated to approach Saul because he knew Saul's reputation. Yet he ultimately went to him and called him “Brother Saul.” What do you think helped Ananias take that step, and what does his response teach you about how you treat people whose pasts or reputations make you hesitant to approach them?

LIVE
GENEROUSLY

7) In 1 Corinthians 2:1–5, Paul describes sharing the message about Jesus without relying on impressive words or superior wisdom. The sermon suggested that we don't need to have every answer before sharing our faith. What are some simple, natural ways you could talk about what Jesus has done in your life without feeling like you need to deliver a sermon or win an argument?

8) The sermon closed with a bold prayer asking God to reveal one specific person to each believer this week who needs to hear their story. Who comes to mind for you, and what is one concrete step you could take this week to share what Jesus has done in your life with that person?

TAKE
ACTION

Based on our conversation today, how do you sense the Holy Spirit inviting you to take a next step in practical application? Please complete this statement,
I am feeling convicted to take the following action (keep it simple):

_____

Please invite each group member to share their action step, if they have one.

PRAY
TOGETHER

Take a few minutes for each person to share a recent joy or praise, as well as something that’s weighing on their heart and in need of intercession. Invite someone to pray over these requests. Be sure to share them with everyone in the group so you can continue praying for one another throughout the week.

ENGAGE
TOGETHER

Go Trips! - Global mission trips are a big way we make Jesus known at Northview. When we go, we have an opportunity to serve others and share the Gospel, but God also does something in us. Serving alongside other believers, depending on one another, praying together, and experiencing another culture creates a bond that is difficult to replicate anywhere else. What would it look like for your group to take the next step in your discipleship journey and serve globally? Our global missions team is here to come alongside you and plan a trip that fits your group's schedule and season of life. Reach out today!