

# DAMASCUS ROAD

## PRECEPT

### ACTS 9:1-22

<sup>1</sup>Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest <sup>2</sup> and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup> As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. <sup>4</sup> He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" <sup>5</sup> "Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked. "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. <sup>6</sup> "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

(Read the rest of verses 7-22)

## PROMISE

Damascus road refers to Apostle Paul's encounter with Jesus on his way to Damascus, where he intended to capture and murder the followers of Christ. It also refers to a sudden turning point in one's life, which we will find out in Acts 9:1-22. Damascus road is said to be 300 km from Jerusalem, so imagine Saul's passion to travel this long just to put Christians behind bars. As he was traveling, he was blinded by the lights that flashed around him and the Lord talked to him. He was once a prideful man who had many titles on his name who was motivated to kill Christians. When his sight was taken, he is now a helpless man who is to find out who Jesus really is. Noted below are some of the reasons why he was made blind:

**TO HUMBLE HIM.** With Saul being a very prideful and righteous man, his pride comes from his own strength and accomplishments. In order for God to use him, He stripped him off of his power, so that through his weakness, God will be magnified. When Saul humbled himself, He transformed his life.

**TO SURRENDER HIS LIFE TO GOD.** God told Ananias that Paul is His chosen vessel to bear His name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel (verse 15). Before he was called to be a chosen vessel, he was first a broken vessel. Sometimes in life, God breaks us necessarily in order for us to surrender our lives to Him. This means that we are no longer the one in control, but Christ. When we lose some things in our life that we think are important, God knows that what's left for us is to surrender to Him and to obey Him, even when we don't understand or even when it hurts.

**TO HAVE A RENEWED SIGHT.** Spiritually, Saul needed to lose his sight in order to gain it. He wouldn't be able to see God clearly unless his old way of looking at things was taken from him. When he got a renewed sight, he finally knew who Jesus really is and went on to tell everyone about God. He didn't go back to his old life and ways, but instead he dedicated his life to proclaiming the Gospel. He left his old life behind and spent the rest of his life dedicating it to his Lord and Saviour. In Philippians 3:8 he said, *"More than that, I count all things as loss compared to the surpassing excellence of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ."* From Saul of Tarsus who was putting Christians to jail and killing them, to becoming one of the most powerful influencer in the world inspired and changed by God. He was one the most vicious opponent of Christ but He became Apostle Paul who was one of His most faithful servants. It is proof that nobody is beyond hope and nobody is beyond the saving grace of God. He even wrote at least one third of the New Testament. Sometimes, God breaks us in order to make us whole again and even better. Whoever we are and whatever we've done in the past, God can change us and transform us if we allow Him to.

## PRACTICE

**1. Saul of Tarsus.** Why was Saul persecuting the Christians? How do you think he justified his persecution?

**2. God's Grace.** What does Saul/Paul's story teach us about how God can redeem anyone?

## PRAYER

### I. Youth & Young Adults

- Pray for our youth and young adults as they launch their ministry; may they grow in quality and quantity.

### II. Young Couples

- Pray for these couples as they lead the Young Couples: Oliveros, Imperial, & Gu-masing.

### III. North Life Connections

- Pray for these couples as they lead the North groups: Ocampo, Ico, Abellera.

### IV. South Life Connections

- Pray for the Drapeza couple as they lead the South group. Pray that more members will join.

### V. East Life Connections

- Pray for these couples as they lead the East groups: Domingo and Torres.

### VI. West Life Connections

- Pray for these couples as they lead the West groups: Solidum and Fabregas.

### VII. Young Once Life Connections

- Pray for our coordinators Rene & Lita Alipao as they continue to lead this group.