

Acts 9: 1-19 Study Guide

Last week, you concluded **Acts 8** which began right after Stephen's stoning at the end of **Acts 7**. At the beginning of **Acts 8**, we leave Saul, who will later be renamed Paul, as the instigator of this

persecution movement. His goal, as **Acts 8:3** shares, is to "destroy the church" by dragging believers from their homes to prison.

Starting in **Acts 8:4** until the end of the chapter, Luke (the author of **Acts**) will focus on 2 incidents that involve Phillip, one of the men chosen in **Acts 6**. The persecution in Jerusalem moves him out to preach the gospel. Like in **Acts 5**, we are shown two different types of converts - Simon the sorcerer who will want it for his own purposes and an Ethiopian eunuch who will fully embrace the gospel.

With that review, let's move on to **Acts 9**.

Scriptures in Study Guide:

To make things easier, the actual verses from **Acts 9:1-19** will be included in your daily lessons to help you with the missing words.

Scriptures included are in the **NKJV (New King James Version)**.

Day 1 (Acts 9:1-2)

Pray God open your heart and understanding to what He would have you learn today from His Word.

Read all of **Acts 9** out loud and answer the following review questions below.

Today's Scriptures:

1 Then Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest **2** and asked letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

Acts 9:1:

• Then ____, still breathing threats ____ murder against the disciples ____ the Lord, went to ____ high priest.

• Questions:

- What was Saul still doing? _____
- Who was he breathing threats and murder against? _____
- Who did Saul go to? _____

Reminder: the high priest was a position of authority within the Jewish culture. Initially, God ordained the high priest to be a descendent of Aaron from the Levite tribe. Their duty was to maintain the temple as well as intercede and offer sacrifices for the nation. At this point in history, this is more of a political office that Rome appointed and controlled. Saul, moves within the power of the high priest to accomplish his goal to destroy the church. As we've discussed before, God's plan however is never altered by man's will.

Acts 9:2:

• and ____ letters from him ____ the synagogues of Damascus, ____ that if he found ____ who were of the Way, whether men ____ women, he might bring ____ bound to Jerusalem.

• Questions:

- What did Saul (who will later be renamed Paul) ask from the high priest? _____
- Who were the letters to? The ____ of _____
- What did Saul want to do if he found any who were of the Way?

• **Note:** at this point, followers of Jesus Christ were referred to as "the Way" instead of Christians. We will learn in later chapters when they are first called Christians.

- Did it matter whether they were men or women? _____

Notice the first word in **Acts 9:1** - "then". Some translations say "meanwhile". As all of the events were going on within the church, this is what was going on with Saul and the church's persecution.

Day 2 (Acts 9:3-6)

Pray God open your heart and understanding to what He would have you learn today from His Word.
Read all of **Acts 9** out loud and answer the following review questions below.

Today's Scriptures:

3 As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. **4** Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?" **5** And he said, "Who are You, Lord?" Then the Lord said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads." **6** So he, trembling and astonished, said, "Lord, what do You want me to do?" Then the Lord *said* to him, "Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

Acts 9:3:

- _____ he journeyed he came _____ Damascus, and suddenly _____ light shone _____ him from heaven.
- **Questions:**
- Where did Saul come near to as he journeyed to persecute Jesus' followers? _____
- **Note:** Damascus was the capital of Syria.
- What shone around Saul from heaven? _____
- How quickly did it happen? _____

Acts 9:4:

- _____ he fell to the ground, _____ heard a voice saying to him, "_____, Saul, why are _____ persecuting Me?"
- **Questions:**
- When the light shown around Saul from heaven, what did he do? _____
- What did Saul hear the voice from heaven say to him? _____

Acts 9:5:

- And he _____, "Who _____ You, Lord?"
- Then _____ Lord said, "I _____ Jesus, whom _____ are persecuting. It is _____ for you to kick _____ the goads."
- **Questions:**
- What did Saul ask? _____
- What was the answer? "I am _____ whom you are _____."
- What did Jesus tell Saul that it was hard for Saul to do? _____
- What do you think it means "to kick against the goads"? (Look up to see what it means) _____

Acts 9:6:

- _____ he, trembling and astonished, said, "Lord, _____ do You want me _____ do?" Then the _____ said to him, "Arise _____ go into the city, and you will be _____ what you must do."
- **Questions:**
- What was Saul's reaction? _____
- What does Saul ask the Lord Jesus? _____
- What did the Lord Jesus tell Saul? _____

Day 3 (Acts 9:7-9)

Pray God open your heart and understanding to what He would have you learn today from His Word.
Read all of **Acts 9** out loud and answer the following review questions below.

7 And the men who journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice but seeing no one.

8 Then Saul arose from the ground, and when his eyes were opened he saw no one. But they led him by the hand and brought *him* into Damascus. **9** And he was three days without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

Acts 9:7:

- And the ____ who journeyed with him ____ speechless, hearing a voice ____ seeing no one.

Questions:

- Did the men who were journeying with Saul hear a voice? _____
- Did these men with Saul see anyone? _____
- How does **Acts 9:7** describe the men's reaction to what Saul has just experienced? _____

Acts 9:8:

- Then Saul ____ from the ground, and ____ his eyes were opened he ____ no one.
- But ____ led him by the hand and ____ him into Damascus.

Questions:

- When Saul arose from the ground, what happened when his eyes were opened? _____
- The men who were with Saul led him by the hand and brought him where? _____

Acts 9:9:

And he ____ three days ____ sight, and ____ ate nor drank.

Questions:

- How long was he without sight? _____
- What did he eat or drink? _____

Write out **Galatians 1:11-12** -

According to **Galatians 1:12**, how did Saul, who was later renamed Paul, receive the gospel?

Write out **Galatians 1:13-14** -

According to **Galatians 1:13**, what did Saul intensely try to do in his previous way of life in Judaism? _____

According to **Galatians 1:14**, as he was advancing Judaism way beyond people his own age, what was he extremely zealous for? _____

To Saul (later Paul), like many in systems of religion, he believed he was serving God. Once God revealed Himself to him, he was never the same.

- **Write** Paul's words to the church in Ephesus - **Ephesians 2:8-9** -

Day 4 (Acts 9:10-16)

Pray God open your heart and understanding to what He would have you learn today from His Word. Read all of **Acts 9** out loud (to keep in context) and answer questions below today's Scriptures.

Today's Scriptures:

10 Now there was a certain disciple at Damascus named Ananias; and to him the Lord said in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord." **11** So the Lord *said* to him, "Arise and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for *one* called Saul of Tarsus, for behold, he is praying. **12** And in a vision he has seen a man named Ananias coming in and putting *his* hand on him, so that he might receive his sight." **13** Then Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much harm he has done to Your saints in Jerusalem. **14** And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on Your name." **15** But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. **16** For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name's sake."

Acts 9:10

- Now _____ was a certain disciple ____ Damascus _____ Ananias; and to him ____ Lord said in ____ vision, "Ananias." _____ he said, "Here I _____, Lord."

Questions:

- What was the name of the certain disciple at Damascus? _____
- When the Lord called out to Ananias, what was Ananias' response?: _____

Acts 9:11

- So the Lord _____ to him, "Arise _____ go to the street _____ Straight, and inquire _____ the house _____ Judas for one _____ Saul of Tarsus, for behold, he _____ praying.

• Questions:

- What did the Lord tell Ananias to do for Him?
 - To arise and go to the street called _____
 - Inquire at the _____ of Judas for one called _____ of _____
- What does the Lord tell Ananias that Saul of Tarsus is doing? _____

Acts 9:12

- And _____ a vision he has _____ a man named Ananias _____ in and putting his _____ on him, so that he _____ receive his sight."

• Questions:

- What does the Lord tell Ananias that Saul of Tarsus has seen in a vision? _____
- What does the Lord tell Ananias will happen when he goes and puts his hand on Saul? He will receive his _____.

Acts 9:13-14

- Then Ananias _____, "Lord, I have heard from _____ about this man, how much _____ he has done _____ Your saints in Jerusalem.
- And here he _____ authority from _____ chief priests to bind _____ who call _____ Your name."

Questions:

- What does Ananias say he has heard about Saul ('this man')? _____
- What does Ananias say that Saul has authority from the chief priests to do? _____

Day 4 continues on the next page

Day 4 (Acts 9:10-16; cont'd)

Acts 9:15

- But _____ Lord said to him, “Go, _____ he is a chosen vessel _____ Mine to bear My _____ before Gentiles, kings, _____ the children of Israel.
- **Questions:**
- What does the Lord say that Saul is of His? He is a chosen _____ of Mine
- What will Saul do as the Lord’s chosen vessel? _____
- According to **Galatians 1:15**, when did God separate Saul (who will be renamed Paul) out for Him? _____
- Where will Saul, bear the Lord Jesus’ name before? _____
- According to **Acts 27:24**, who did the Lord tell Paul that he would stand trial before? _____
- **Note:** Caesar is the ruler of Rome at this time. We see in Scripture many times where Paul, through not only mission work but also trials and sufferings will share the gospel with all levels of society. It makes us consider our own circumstances that we are placed in. There are no accidents with God.
- According to **Acts 27:25**, Paul encourages those who are in trials with him to take heart because of why? Paul believes “_____”.
- How would we describe what Paul has here? (See **Hebrews 11:1**) _____

Acts 9:16

- For I _____ show him _____ many things he must suffer _____ My name’s sake.”
- What does the Lord tell Ananias that He will show Saul?
- Why will Saul suffer? What is the purpose? For _____
- According to **Philippians 1:13-14**, what does Paul write about the outcome of his imprisonment in Rome?
- Write out **Acts 5:41-42** -

Days 5 (Acts 9:17-19)

Pray God open your heart and understanding to what He would have you learn today from His Word. Read all of **Acts 9** out loud (to keep in context) and answer the questions that follow.

Today's Scriptures:

17 And Ananias went his way and entered the house; and laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." **18** Immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he received his sight at once; and he arose and was baptized. **19** So when he had received food, he was strengthened. Then Saul spent some days with the disciples at Damascus.

Acts 9:17:

- And Ananias _____ his way and entered _____ house;
- and laying _____ hands on him he _____, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, _____ appeared to you _____ the road as you came, has _____ me that you may receive _____ sight and be filled _____ the Holy Spirit."
- **Questions:**
- Where did Ananias go? He _____ his way and _____ the house
- Who did Ananias lay his hands on? _____
- What does Ananias call Saul? _____ Saul
- Who does Ananias identify as sending him to Saul? The _____ who _____ to you on the _____ as you came
- What does Ananias say that the Lord Jesus has sent him to do?
 - That you may _____
 - And be _____

Acts 9:18:

- _____ there fell from his eyes something _____ scales, and he received his sight _____ once; and he arose _____ was baptized.
- **Questions:**
- What fell from Saul's eyes? Something like _____
- How quickly did Saul receive his sight? _____
- What happened after Saul arose? He was _____

Acts 9:19:

- So _____ he had received food, _____ was strengthened.
- _____ Saul spent some days _____ the disciples at Damascus.
- **Questions:**
- What happened after Saul received food? _____
- Who did Saul spend some days with? _____

Note: this was a man who was entrenched in the system of the Jewish religion. He was a Pharisee who trained under one of the great Pharisees of his time period.

- Write out **Philippians 3:5-6** to learn more of the earthly credentials this man had:

- According to **Philippians 3:8**, what does he count all of this to gain Christ? _____