

JESUS AT THE CORE

LOVING THEIR NEW LIFE

JOY FILLED COMMUNITIES

EVERY OPPORTUNITY

SUMMER
2023

SUNDAYS
9am & 10:30am
9am LIVE

UNSTOPPABLE

WHAT WE LEARN FROM THE CHURCH IN ACTS.

1 In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, 2 until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. 3 He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appealing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. 4 And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but

to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me; 5 for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." The Ascension 6 So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" 7 He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. 8

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." 9 And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. 10 And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, 11 and said, "Men of Galilee,

MAP OF THE WORLD
THE WORD



MOVE THAT BUS!

ACTS 9:1-31

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WHAT WE LEARN FROM THE CHURCH IN ACTS.



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WORLD



BEFORE



AFTER



UNSTOPPABLE

WORLD



TOPPABLE



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Big Idea:

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Big Idea:

No one is too far from God's transforming power.

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Acts 9:1-31

¹ But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ² and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. ³ Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven shone around him. ⁴ And falling to the ground, he heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?” ⁵ And he said, “Who are you, Lord?” And he said, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ⁶ But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.” ⁷ The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one.

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Acts 9:1-31

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Acts 7:59-8:3

⁵⁹ And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰ And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

¹ **And Saul approved of his execution.** And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of *Judea* and *Samaria*, except the apostles. ² Devout men buried Stephen and made great lamentation over him. ³ **But Saul was ravaging the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison.**

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I. No matter our condition, God can *save* us

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I. No matter our condition, God can *save* us

a. God saved Saul, changing his ultimate direction in life

Acts 9:1-31

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Travel // Hawaii

Hawaii tourists follow GPS into water, sink van, just like in 'The Office'



Olivia Harden, SFGATE

May 3, 2023 | Updated: May 3, 2023 4:29 p.m.



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In true Michael Scott fashion, two Hawaii tourists followed their GPS right into the water.



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Travel // Hawaii

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Silas Valentino, SFGATE

May 30, 2023



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Acts 9:1-31

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Acts 9:1-31

⁸ Saul rose from the ground, and although his eyes were opened, he saw nothing. So they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. ⁹ And for three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank. ¹⁰ **Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, “Ananias.” And he said, “Here I am, Lord.”** ¹¹ And the Lord said to him, “Rise and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying, ¹² and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.” ¹³ But Ananias answered, “Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem.

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Acts 9:1-31

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 instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel.** ¹⁶ For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.” ¹⁷ So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” ¹⁸ And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized;

Acts 9:1-31

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- I. No matter our condition, God can *save* us**
 - a. God saved Saul, changing his ultimate direction in life**

- I. No matter our condition, God can *save* us**
 - a. God saved Saul, changing his ultimate direction in life**
 - b. God can save us, even from the darkest of places**

Ephesians 2:1-6

¹ And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ² in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—³ among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. ⁴ But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—⁶ and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus...

- I. No matter our condition, God can *save* us
- II. **No matter our condition, God can *use* us**

- II. No matter our condition, God can *use* us**
- a. God gave *Saul* a new purpose**

Acts 9:1-31

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Acts 9:1-31

¹⁹ and taking food, he was strengthened. For some days he was with the disciples at Damascus. ²⁰ **And immediately he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God."** ²¹ And all who heard him were amazed and said, "Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem of those who called upon this name? **And has he not come here for this purpose, to bring them bound before the chief priests?"** ²² But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Christ. ²³ When many days had passed, the Jews plotted to kill him, ²⁴ but their plot became known to Saul. They were watching the gates day and night in order to kill him,

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Saul's Old Purpose

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Saul's Old Purpose

-Ravage the Church

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- Ravage the Church
- Wreak Havoc

Saul's New Purpose

Saul's Old Purpose

- Ravage the Church
- Wreak Havoc
- Bind and kill followers of
“the Way”

Saul's New Purpose

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- Ravage the Church
 - Wreak Havoc
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Saul's New Purpose

- Preach “Jesus is the Son
of God”

Saul's Old Purpose

- Ravage the Church
 - Wreak Havoc
- Bind and kill followers of
“the Way”

Saul's New Purpose

- Preach “Jesus is the Son
of God”
- Win gentiles over to “the
Way”

- II. No matter our condition, God can *use* us**
- a. God gave *Saul* a new purpose**

II. No matter our condition, God can *use* us

a. God gave *Saul* a new purpose

-not without resistance

Acts 9:1-31

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Acts 9:1-31

²⁵ but his disciples took him by night and let him down through an opening in the wall, lowering him in a basket. ²⁶ And when he had come to Jerusalem, he attempted to join the disciples. And they were all afraid of him, for they did not believe that he was a disciple. ²⁷ But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles and declared to them how on the road he had seen the Lord, who spoke to him, and how at Damascus he had preached boldly in the name of Jesus. ²⁸ So he went in and out among them at Jerusalem, preaching boldly in the name of the Lord. ²⁹ **And he spoke and disputed against the Hellenists. But they were seeking to kill him.** ³⁰ And when the brothers learned this, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus.

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Saul's Recent Life History

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Saul's Recent Life History

Persecuting the Church → Encounters Jesus → Blind

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Persecuting the Church → Encounters Jesus → Blind

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Preaches Jesus → Hellenists Want Him Dead

Saul Runs For His Life → Off to Caesarea & Tarsus

II. No matter our condition, God can *use* us

a. God gave *Saul* a new purpose

b. **When God saves us, He gives *us* new purpose**

II. No matter our condition, God can *use* us

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II. No matter our condition, God can *use* us

- a. God gave *Saul* a new purpose
- b. When God saves us, He gives *us* new purpose
- c. **God uses *us* to impact others**

Acts 9:1-31

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II. No matter our condition, God can *use* us

- a. God gave *Saul* a new purpose
- b. When God saves us, He gives *us* new purpose
- c. **God uses *us* to impact others**
 - He moves

II. No matter our condition, God can *use* us

- a. God gave *Saul* a new purpose
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 - He moves
 - We move**

- I. No matter our condition, God can *save* us
- II. No matter our condition, God can *use* us
- III. God is always *moving* among us

Acts 9:1-31

31 So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied.

- III. God is always *moving* among us**
- a. ...to bring us peace & comfort**

III. God is always *moving* among us

- a. ...to bring us peace & comfort
- b. ...to build His church**

Acts 9:1-31

³¹ So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and **was being built up**. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, **it multiplied**.

III. God is always *moving* among us

- a. ...to bring us peace & comfort
- b. ...to build His church

**So we move, trusting that *no one* is outside of His
transforming reach**

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