



## Adult Life Groups & Care Groups

Shively Baptist Church | Louisville, KY

### Life Group Leaders Handout For Sunday August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014

#### Planned Schedule:

- 0900-0910 – Meet & Greet in Life Groups
- 0910-0915 – Focus (TBD)
- 0915-0930 – Teaching Time (Life Group Leaders)
- 0930-1015 – Care Group Time (Care Group Leaders)



### God's Church on the Move "Have You Been Changed?"

Acts 9:19b-31

#### Message: Have You Been Changed?

- I. **Believers are changed!** (9:19b-30)
  - A. The change is God's work
  - B. The change is immediate but progressive
  - C. The change is obvious to everyone
  - D. The change is steadfast and true
  - E. The change is persecuted but endures
  
- II. **(9:31) The results of changed lives are...** Peace, Community, Growth

#### Commentary

#### PREACHING IN DAMASCUS AND THE FIRST FRUITS OF OPPOSITION - ACTS 9:19B-25

What an amazing time this must have been.

- Saul enjoying the fellowship of other believers in Damascus. (And remember, **these are the very ones he had intended to identify, arrest, and carry off to Jerusalem.**) This is surely a miracle.
- **Saul immediately went to the synagogues and began to preach that Jesus is the Son of God.**
  - These synagogues were expecting Saul – **expecting him to come and rid them of those troublesome followers of Jesus.**
  - Instead, Saul came as a follower of Jesus, and he preached it. No wonder folks were amazed at what they heard. (**Paul's reputation preceded him, so that they knew who he was and why he had come.**)

It wasn't long before some unbelieving Jews had heard enough of Saul's teaching.

- **After a few days, they plotted together to kill Saul.** But Saul heard of their plot and knew that they were waiting for him to leave the city so that they could capture him.



- **Saul already had some “disciples,”** some who had come to faith as a result of his preaching. (These disciples took Saul in the cover of darkness and lowered him in a basket through an opening in the wall, so that he escaped.)

### **JOURNEY TO JERUSALEM - ACTS 9:26-30**

When Saul arrived in Jerusalem he attempted to meet with the church.

- **The term “disciple” is not used of the apostles in Acts.**
- These “disciples” are the new believers in Jerusalem, **the kind of folks that Saul sought to arrest and to kill.** (No wonder they were apprehensive about welcoming Saul into their fellowship.)
- **Saul’s efforts to meet with them had all the earmarks of a trap,** the kind of trap Saul would have used before his conversion.

Barnabas was a man who was both “full of the Holy Spirit” and full “of faith.”

- **He had the faith to believe that Saul could be saved.**
- **He not only knew the story of Saul’s conversion, but also had heard the reports of how Saul had boldly proclaimed Jesus in Damascus.** (Had some of the saints in Damascus accompanied Saul back to Jerusalem?)
- **From this point on, Saul was welcomed into the fellowship of the saints in Jerusalem.**

**He also began to proclaim Jesus and was engaged in debate by the Greek-speaking Jews** (who seem to have taken over the cause of opposing Christianity).

- **Soon, these unbelieving, Greek-speaking Jews were seeking to kill Saul.** It was the only way they could silence him!
- **His fellow-believers learned of those who were seeking to kill Saul. They took Saul to Caesarea and sent him from there to Tarsus, his home town, where he would be safe.**

### **PEACE - ACTS 9:31**

Here is another one of Luke’s “progress reports” in the Book of Acts. What makes it interesting is that it immediately follows the account of Saul’s conversion, not to mention his retreat to Tarsus.

The truth is that peace came only after Paul’s departure from a certain city. It is true in our text, and it is true elsewhere as well (see Acts 13:50; 14:5-6, 19; 17:10, 14; 19:20—20:1). Saul’s conversion resulted in a period of exile, and this contributed greatly to the peace which returned to Judea, Galilee, and Samaria.