



Small Group Discussion Guide

January 21, 2018

Sermon Title:

"Lasting Change"

Sermon Text: Acts 9:1-19

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 4:17-24

Leader: *Please allow a moment for introductions/visiting. Have someone offer a brief prayer inviting God to speak and lead using the group's discussion.*

Getting Started: Did you make any New Year's resolutions? Share one or two of them. Have you broken them yet? Are you still committed to those changes?

Why are people so intrigued by making changes at the beginning of a new year? Why is it so hard to make these changes last?

Discussion:

Lasting change requires:

- 1. Catalyst** (vs 3-6). Think of a significant change you have made in your life. What precipitated or caused the change? Absent the cause, would you have made the change anyway? What things can you name that would be catalysts of important change in someone's life?
- 2. Help** (vs 7-8, 17-19). Seldom does change happen in isolation. Change most often requires the help of others. What function to other people play in the change we want to see in our own life?
- 3. Vision** (v 15). Are catalyst and vision the same thing? What is the distinction between the two? Why is vision, purpose, so beneficial to achieving lasting change? Was Saul's vision his own? Could he have imagined such a vision when he first encountered Jesus? Do you think he saw the full picture concerning his life's impact? What encouragement do your answers about Saul give you regarding potential changes in your life?
- 4. Perseverance** (vs 16, 20ff). Change is difficult and requires great commitment. When have you given up on change? Why? When did you persevere and find success at change? What gave you strength to persevere and succeed? Which is harder, persevering through our own doubts or the obstacles other people put in our way?

Closing: *Close by sharing prayer requests.*

Pray for each another and for the needs that were shared.

GO SHARE JESUS!