

Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further ***International Bible Lessons***

Acts 9:19b-31

Sunday October 11, 2015

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Some Bible study groups or classes can further discussion by asking some or all of the **Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** below. Others may want to send the bulletin size *International Bible Lesson* home with their students for further study in the coming week to encourage continuing Bible study. The *Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further* below are not actually intended to be *the answers* to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class. The *Class Preparation Guide* includes the questions below, and it can be given to students at the end of the previous class so they can pray, read, and think ahead to prepare for the next week’s Bible class.

Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further

1. Name three titles of Jesus that Luke used in this lesson. What do they mean to you personally?

Son of God, Messiah, Lord.

Jesus revealed God perfectly because He has the exact character and nature of God as the Son of God.

Jesus is the Messiah that God promised in the Old Testament to send into the world and God fulfills all of His promises.

Jesus is Lord of the universe and my Lord: He deserves my love and obedience. He came into the world to save us from our sins and grant eternal life to those who believe in Him.

2. If you had been a Jew in Damascus, what are some reasons you could give for believing Saul's teaching in the synagogue and becoming a Christian?

If I had been a Jew in Damascus, I would have been amazed at the way Saul changed from being a persecutor of Christians to becoming a bold outspoken Christian. I would have been amazed at how he could use the Old Testament to prove that Jesus was the Messiah that God promised to send. The Holy Spirit would have helped me become a Christian and be obedient to Jesus.

3. Why do you think the unbelieving Jews wanted to kill Saul?

The unbelieving Jews wanted to kill Saul because they could not defeat his arguments with better reasons of their own, nor could they prove he was wrong from the Scriptures.

4. Is it okay for a Christian to flee from persecution sometimes? Give a reason for your answer.

Yes, and we have good examples from the Scriptures. For example, God wanted Saul to be saved from the

unbelieving Jews in Damascus so Paul could write almost 25% of the New Testament and do missionary work from Jerusalem to Rome. As Christians, we need to pray and seek the leading of the Holy Spirit in times of persecution. It is no disgrace, when the Holy Spirit leads us to avoid martyrdom so we can keep serving Jesus on earth.

5. If you were a Christian in Jerusalem, what are some reasons you could give for trusting that Saul was a true Christian?

One reason would be the dramatic change that took place in the life of Saul after he met Jesus on the road to Damascus. Another reason would be his bold witnessing in Damascus which led the Hellenistic Jews to want to kill him. Another reason would be the testimony of Barnabas, a trusted member of the church. If I heard Saul preach and teach, I could compare what he said with the Scriptures and know whether or not he was a true Christian

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