

Week 6 - Prayer Makes Great Change



You Want Me to Talk to Who???

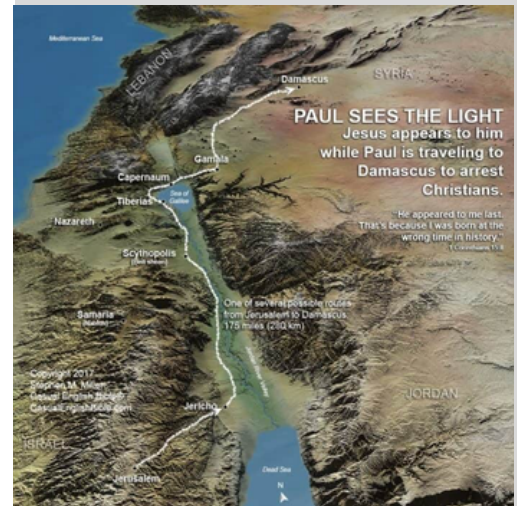
Has God led you to do or say something really difficult? This is actually a fairly common theme in Scripture! This week we consider a surprising encounter that began with a prayer and changed a person, the Church, and the world!

1 - A surprising God! - How do determine if something you feel led to do or say is from God, and not just your own thoughts? What's the most odd or surprising things you've felt led by God to do - and how did it turn out?

2 - Watch the Video for Week 6 with Pastor Scott

3 - Read & Discuss Ananias & Saul -

- **Saul's encounter with the risen Jesus** - The map on the right shows the likely route for the 90-mile journey from Jerusalem to Damascus. Acts chapter 7 describes Stephen's death and Saul's plans for persecuting the Church.
- **Read Acts 9:1-9** - Saul the Pharisee's vision / visit from the Resurrected Jesus
 - What does Jesus say to Saul about his actions? What does it mean that Jesus says "why are you persecuting me"?
- **Read Acts 9:10-14** - Ananias is called to go and visit this Saul who is leading the persecution of Christians!
 - Do you know anyone fervently against the Church and followers of Jesus? What would you think if God asked you go pray for them in person?
- **Read Acts 9:15-19** - God reveals His greater plan for Ananias and Paul.
 - What does God reveal about Saul's calling? How does Ananias play a role in the conversion and calling of Saul/Paul?
 - The text tells us that Saul's eyes were blinded, which often in the Bible indicates a spiritual blindness along with physical. Pauls was passionate for God, but his motivations were severely misguided!
- **Now read Philippians 3:3-10** - In Paul's letter to the believers in Philippi, he recounts some important parts of his faith story, including how his "zeal for the Lord" led him to persecuting the Church.
 - Paul's zeal for God was misguided because it was not accompanied by an accurate knowledge and understanding of Jesus. How does religious zeal without knowledge and understanding actually harm the Church?
 - Paul describes how his self-righteousness and personal pride led him away from God's purposes and to actually work against Him! How do we guard against such attitudes?
 - Ananias showed a different attitude - humility, grace, forgiveness, and calls Saul a "brother" in Jesus. How do we develop this kind of attitude?
- **Pray for each other! Share with your group how they can pray for you, and include any "Saul's" you may know!**



A likely route for Paul's journey from Jerusalem to Damascus would lead him past the Sea of Galilee in Northern Israel. The region of Gambala is today's Golan Heights, and Damascus is still the capital of modern-day Syria.

