



elev8

life on another level

Student Workbook

YEAR 2

**The Acts of
the Apostles**
A Huge Turnaround

Bible Readings
Acts 8-14



Learning Outcomes

At the end of this week you will be able to:

- See how God transforms people lives.
- Understand the need for supportive friends.
- See how God turns evil to good.

Notes from Bible Reading

Scripture A word or phrase that stood out to me:

Observation What is happening in this Bible reading?

Application Something that I learned about who I am or how I should live:

Prayer What I would like to say to God, ask of God, or what I think God is saying to me:

Key Question When did God break through into your life?

Engage

Go around the group and share one thing for each heading that has happened since you last met:

- Plus – What has been good or enjoyable?
- Minus – What has been difficult or painful?
- Interesting – What has been unusual or thought provoking?

Discuss one time when you thought something was going to end up a certain way but it was the total opposite.

Maybe a sporting event that you thought was all over but there was a turnaround.

Or a time where you thought you were going to move house but didn't – or whatever.

Explore – Locate

- *What stood out to you in the Bible readings this week?*
- *What did you find meaningful or significant?*
- *Is there anything that you didn't understand or found confusing?*
- *Any questions or comments you may have?*

Read together: Acts 9 : 1–19

This week we are looking at the story entitled Saul's Conversion. Conversion, in a Christian sense, is used to describe when a person makes a conscious decision to stop living their life solely for themselves but converts [changes transforms] to a life that follows Christ.

There are conversions of various groups recorded in Acts:

- Jews at Pentecost (2:22-41)
- Samaritans (8:5-25)
- Gentiles (10:44-48)
- disciples of John (19:1-7)

There are also the conversion experiences of individuals.

Some are quite dramatic with accompanying physical manifestations (e.g. Paul, 9:5-18; Cornelius, 10:44-48; also 15:7-35; note 15:19; the Philippian jailer, 16:29-34).

Others are quiet and calm (the man from Ethiopia, 8:26-40; Lydia, 16:14). It is also interesting to note that Luke has three accounts of the conversion of

Paul (9:5-18; 22:6-21; 26:12-23) as well as of the Gentile Cornelius (10:44-48; 11:15-18; 15:7-35).

So you can see that Luke considers the idea of conversion as highly significant.

Some interesting points found in Acts 9 would include:

- Jesus knew Saul by name v.4
- Saul recognised the voice as being from the 'Lord' v. 5
- God didn't reveal himself to everyone that was there. V.7
- God has his people available everywhere v.10
- God chooses people v.15

Explore – Express

Choose one of the conversion stories listed above and read the story out loud as a group.

Then when you read it out again imagine yourself as one of the characters in the story.

Afterwards discuss your thoughts, in character – what you saw, heard and felt.

Explore – Integrate

- Have you had that conversion type of experience? Or do you know anyone that has?
- Other than in the Bible have you read anyone's account of their conversion in a biography or other book?
- Do you feel God knows your name and/or you are chosen?

Extend

Discuss with your group the challenges you are tackling. Use the time to ask for any help you might need.

Questions that may be helpful include:

- What challenges are you working on at the moment?
- Do you need any support or assistance?
- Are there any challenges that you have completed that we need to recognise and celebrate?
- Are there any new challenges that you want to work on?

Encourage

Tell another student in your group something you value or appreciate about them.

Share one thing you would like to pray for and pray for one another.

Pray together

Father, thank you that you knew Saul and that you loved him enough to challenge him to convert, and then you used him in mighty and powerful ways.

Thank you for knowing my name and I pray you will use me in significant ways.

Amen