

### To the Teacher

The information below is to help you in teaching the lesson. DO NOT read this page to the students. Instead, teach the information in your own words. Be sure to finish the student's lesson as well. The Scripture references in parentheses are for additional study, to round out the information given in the lesson. Become familiar with these passages as well, to provide additional Scriptures to your students

### Lesson 14 – Man Responds in Faith (Teacher's Lesson)

Opening: Answer the opening question.

#### Study Notes:

#### **Acts 9:1-2**

Where was Saul going? Damascus

What was he planning to do there? Put the Christians in jail

How did Saul's plans collide with God's plans? God wanted the Christians to be free.

Explain that Saul thought he was doing what was right. Our ways of serving God sometimes run counter to what God wants us to do.

#### **Acts 9:3-6**

What did Jesus ask Saul first? Why do you persecute me?

What title did Saul use for Jesus? Lord

Did Saul know who he was talking to? Why or why not?

Saul didn't know exactly who he was talking to, but he knew that the one he was talking to was worthy to be called "Lord." Explain that Saul demonstrated his submission to Jesus, not only by using the title, but also for his obedience to His commands.

#### **Acts 9:10-15**

What did God want Ananias to do? That he would tell Saul about Jesus.

What was Ananias reaction to Jesus' mission? He was scared.

What was Jesus' plan for Saul's life? To be a missionary to the gentiles.

This passage explains how God's plans are not our plans. It also shows that God's plans depend on our obedience when he reveals them to us. Saul was fasting, so there was a time limit on Ananias' obedience. The moment God speaks is the moment He wants us to obey.

Application: Help the students identify what God might possibly want to do through them now. Identify the things that can be barriers to this (lack of faith, obstacles, etc.). Pray for willing hearts.

## Lesson 14 – Man Responds in Faith

### **A Special Invitation**

What is the most luxurious party you have ever been invited to? Did you go?

Having the desire for a relationship with God is not all that is required. He lets us come to Him, but for there to be a relationship, we must respond to His invitation. There are many Biblical examples of how God invited people into a relationship with Him. The one we will study in this lesson is the conversion of Saul of Tarsus, found in Acts, chapter 9:1-19.

In responding to God's invitation, there are some important points to understand. First, *You cannot stay as you are and go with God.* Read verses 1-2 and answer the following:

Where was Saul going?

What was he planning on doing there?

How did Saul's plans collide with God's plans?

Saul believed that serving God meant putting all the Christians in jail, but he was wrong. If Saul desired to be obedient to God, he was going to have to change his ideas about what he thought was good service to the Lord. He was going to have to decide if he would be faithful to a principle, or to the Lord Himself. He could not remain as he was and go with God at the same time.

Another important truth to learn is that the call to a relationship with God is a call to share the mission with Him...to be on mission with Him. Read verses 3-6 and answer the following:

What did Jesus ask Saul first?

What title did Saul use for Jesus?

Did Saul know who he was talking to? Why or why not?

A third important truth is this; *what God wants to do through you is more important than what you want to do for Him.* Read verses 10-14 and answer the following:

What did God want Ananias to do?

What was Ananias reaction to Jesus' mission?

Ananias had a fear of Saul and did not want to go near him. Jesus had another plan. He planned to save Saul and use him for His glory. Whose plans were more important? What would have happened if Ananias had listened to his fears instead of the Lord?

Now read verse 15, Jesus is talking with Ananias about Saul. What was Jesus' plan for Saul's life?

Look, when Jesus called Saul, He had a plan and a mission in mind. He was going to use Saul in His work. Exactly like God had a plan for Saul, He has a plan for each one of us. the most important thing is to learn to recognize the plan of God and to distinguish it from our own plans. We often have great ideas of what we can do for God. We must realize that the ways of God are not our ways, and learn to adjust our lives to Him.

### **To Respond to God's Invitation**

If you have entered into a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ, you have been called to share the mission with God (to be on mission with Him). It is a great privilege, as well as a great responsibility. When God calls us to a task, it will be something that only He can do. What is it that God is asking you to do right now?

Scripture to memorize:

“Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.”

John 14:21