

Acts 9

Community Group Discussion Questions

Opening Question: What is one thing in the future you are really looking forward to?

Tell them: This week Pastor Michael ordained Eric Moreno. He used Acts 9 to talk about ordination and how God chooses His people.

Ask them: *Does anyone remember how much time passed between Saul's conversion (Acts 9) and his ordination by the Apostles (Acts 13)? (14 years)*

Tell them: Pastor Michael often says, "We serve a promise-keeping God of perfectly timed delay. We make plans and God laughs."

Ask them: *How many of you are goal setters and plan makers? How do you react when things don't go as planned?*

Tell them: Let's take a look at Proverbs 16:9; "A person plans their course, but the LORD directs their steps."

Ask them: *What does this tell you about how your plans?*

Tell them: Pastor Michael said that when things don't go as planned it can be easy to blame Satan.

Ask them: *What do you think he meant by that?*

When we give credit to Satan for controlling or messing with our lives, we can miss out on the fact that God is the one doing the controlling. Scripture reminds us who is really in charge. Let's remind ourselves by looking at a few of these verses:

"But to this very day the LORD has not given you an understanding mind, perceptive eyes, or discerning ears!" (Deuteronomy 29:4, NET)

“I, the Lord, say: ‘O nation of Israel, can I not deal with you as this potter deals with the clay? In my hands, you, O nation of Israel, are just like the clay in this potter’s hand.’” (Jeremiah 18:6, NET)

“For I, the Lord, say: ‘I will surely bring on these people all the good fortune that I am hereby promising them. I will be just as sure to do that as I have been in bringing all this great disaster on them.’” (Jeremiah 32:42, NET)

“All the inhabitants of the earth are regarded as nothing. He does as he wishes with the army of heaven and with those who inhabit the earth. No one slaps his hand and says to him, ‘What have you done?’” (Daniel 4:35, NET)

Tell them: When it comes to our plans and goals, our ideas for timing, it is clear that God has the final say on it all.

Pastor Michael listed a few areas where we tend to think we are in control of timing. He said we rush to maturity, we don’t allow restoration to take time, we drag our feet on the call God has on our lives.

Ask them: *Knowing that, what timing would you say that you have been coveting that you need to let go of?*

Tell them: Pastor Michael told us that God calls people, or as it says in Acts 9, chooses people with diversity. If we are honest with ourselves, we all struggle with diversity in some way or other. We are comfortable with what we know, and that means that without knowing it, we can hold unloving or unfaithful ideas about people who aren’t like us.

Ask them: *In what way might we in our community struggle with encouraging diversity in our lives?*

Tell them: Pastor Michael also told us that God calls people with skeletons.

Ask them: *Why do you think he told us that Satan wants us to keep those skeletons in the closet?*

Tell them: Satan wins when we keep our sins in the dark. 1 John explains this very well: *“Now this is the gospel message we have heard from him and announce to you: God is light, and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say we*

have fellowship with him and yet keep on walking in the darkness, we are lying and not practicing the truth. But if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we do not bear the guilt of sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous, forgiving us our sins and cleansing us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar and his word is not in us.” (1 John 1:5–10, NET)

Tell them: Pastor Michael went on to say that as humans, we tend to protect our pride. We hide things that might make us look bad, embarrass us, or “hurt our witness” we tell ourselves. But God chooses to use people, not because of their work history or accomplishments, but because of their daily death of pride and an ample portion of his grace. It is said that pride is the foundation of all sin, and so fearlessly letting go of our pride loosens sins grip on our lives.

Ask them: *In what ways have you seen or experienced pride interfering with faithfulness?*

Tweetable Quotes and thoughts to Ponder

1. God chooses to use people, not because of their work history or accomplishments, but because of their daily death of pride and an ample portion of his grace.
2. When we give credit to Satan for controlling or messing with our lives, we can miss out on the fact that God is the one doing the controlling.

Remind them: We still need candy for the Candy Cruise-In and November 1st will be our next drive-in service.