

**Enjoy Acts: Faith in Action**  
**Session 4 – Ends of the Earth: The Conversion of Saul (Chapter 9)**

**First Taste of the Ends of the Earth (Acts 8:26-40)**

- Philip is sent from his thriving ministry in Samaria to the middle of nowhere
- Obeying, he encounters a senior official of the Ethiopian government
- This man loves God, but can't become a baptized Jew
- Philip explains how the man's reading in Isaiah points to Jesus
- The man receives Jesus gladly, asks if he can be baptized, and is

**Saul's Conversion (Acts 9:1-9)**

- Saul is still on fire to destroy the church, expanding his work to Damascus
- On the way, he's stopped by the risen Christ
- Jesus says Saul's persecution of the church is persecution of Him
- Saul was blinded and had to be led to Damascus
- He spends 3 days blind and fasting, reflecting on his life-transforming encounter

### **Saul's Baptism (Acts 9:10-19a)**

- Jesus tells Ananias to go to Saul and heal his blindness
- Ananias is afraid for the church and for himself because of Saul's past!
- Saul is Jesus' "chosen instrument" for the rest of Acts – to take the gospel to gentiles, kings, and Jewish people
- Saul regains sight, receives the Spirit (authenticating his conversion), then was baptized

### **Saul's Early Ministry (Acts 9:19b-31)**

- Saul immediately began preaching Jesus which surprised everyone!
- Saul began growing in Christ and encountered the first threat to his life
- He'll go to Arabia for 3 years between verses 25 and 26
- The church struggled to embrace Saul because of his personal history
- Barnabas played a key role in introducing Saul to the apostles
- Saul continues to fulfill Acts 4 – preaching boldly and making enemies
- He'll go to Tarsus for several years before he re-enters Acts

**Next Week: Ends of the Earth: Gentile Inclusion – Acts 10-11**