



¹Meanwhile, Saul was uttering threats with every breath and was eager to kill the Lord's followers. So he went to the high priest. ²He requested letters addressed to the synagogues in Damascus, asking for their cooperation in the arrest of any followers of the Way he found there. He wanted to bring them—both men and women—back to Jerusalem in chains. ³As he was approaching Damascus on this mission, a light from heaven suddenly shone down around him. ⁴He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, 'Saul! Saul! Why are you persecuting me?' ⁵'Who are you, lord?' Saul asked. And the voice replied, 'I am Jesus, the one you are persecuting! ⁶Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.' ⁷The men with Saul stood speechless, for they heard the sound of someone's voice but saw no one! ⁸Saul picked himself up off the ground, but when he opened his eyes he was blind. So his companions led him by the hand to Damascus. ⁹He remained there blind for three days and did not eat or drink. ¹⁰Now there was a believer in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord spoke to him in a vision, calling, 'Ananias!' 'Yes, Lord!' he replied. ¹¹The Lord said, 'Go over to Straight Street, to the house of Judas. When you get there, ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul. He is praying to me right now. ¹²I have shown him a vision of a man named Ananias coming in and laying hands on him so he can see again.' ¹³'But Lord,' exclaimed Ananias, 'I've heard many people talk about the terrible things this man has done to the believers in Jerusalem! ¹⁴And he is authorized by the leading priests to arrest everyone who calls upon your name.' ¹⁵But the Lord said, 'Go, for Saul is my chosen instrument to take my message to the Gentiles and to kings, as well as to the people of Israel. ¹⁶And I will show him how much he must suffer for my name's sake.' ¹⁷So Ananias went and found Saul. He laid his hands on him and said, 'Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road, has sent me so that you might regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.' ¹⁸Instantly something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he got up and was baptized. ¹⁹Afterward he ate some food and regained his strength. Saul stayed with the believers in Damascus for a few days. ²⁰And immediately he began preaching about Jesus in the synagogues, saying, 'He is indeed the Son of God!'

Acts 9:1-20

Guess Who's Coming to Church?

Lessons From The Conversion Of Saul

1. You Can Be _____ And Still Be _____

2. When You Persecute _____
You Are Persecuting _____

- A. We're All God's _____ But We're Not All God's _____
- B. Many Base Their Hope Of Heaven On The Word Of _____
Rather Than The Word Of _____
- C. God Offers _____ Into His _____ To Any Who Will _____ It

3. God's Uses His _____ To _____ His _____

Memory Verse

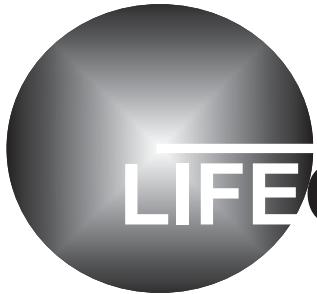
"He came into the very world he created, but the world didn't recognize him. He came to his own people, and even they rejected him. But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God."

John 1:10-12

MY NEXT STEP IS TO...

- Become one of God's children By Accepting Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior for the first time
- Memorize John 1:10-12
- Ask God to show me those around me with whom I can communicate His message
- Get the most out of today's message by attending my Life Group this week





LIFE GROUPS

Discussion Questions - Week #7

QUICK REVIEW

Thinking back to the weekend sermon, "Guess Who's Coming to Church," summarize the main point in a sentence or two.

Looking at your notes, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

Is there any practical step you plan on taking this week in response to the message?

GETTING STARTED

- Think of someone who has hurt you, betrayed you, or left you fearful. What would be your first response if you saw that person walk into church on the weekend?

- What is something you sincerely believed in but later turned out to be sincerely wrong about?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Read 1 John 3:1-10. Imagine a non-believer asked you, "what's so good about being a child of God?" How would you respond?

What do you think it means that the world does not know us (v.1)?

How might this observation be comforting to us?

Is there anything in verses 6 or 10 that makes you uncomfortable?

If the devil's works have been destroyed (v.8), why do you think his schemes continue to work so well?

What do you think this passage invites you to do or apply in your own lives?

2. Read Romans 8:12-24. What stands out to you in this passage?

What does this passage suggest are ways we can identify a child of God?

Why do you think "following the Spirit's leading" is a good way of identifying God's children?

How does our ability to call God's "Abba, Father" differentiate us from other religions and the rest of the world?

What inheritance can we look forward to receiving as God's children?

FOR PRACTICE

The Message translation of 1 John 3:1 states, "What marvelous love the Father has extended to us! Just look at it—we're called children of God!" It's a verse filled with awe and delight, and the correct response that we former enemies, now called children, should evince is worship and celebration. Consider setting aside time this week to reflect on the truth that God has made you his child and worship Him for it. Praise Him for his motive that inspired it (love) and the method with which He did so (Jesus).

SHARE IT

Is there anything you heard or learned in the weekend message or Life Group this week that you want to share with someone you know?

PRAYER REQUESTS

Pray for ERBC-supported missionaries Kevin and Leilani Humble as they witness to Muslims in Indonesia. Pray also for their work of raising up and pouring into indigenous leaders and for these leaders as they share the gospel amongst unreached people groups.