



"The Persecutor"
06/27/21

Paul the Missionary
...was also Saul the Persecutor of the Church

The Repeats (required)

They are the same, but *WE* change, so please discuss these with your group

- [Share the announcements (on FB thread) with your group]
- At mc3, God Moments are a chance for us to *be intentional* about noticing what God is doing in our lives. This is our last meeting for the Spring cycle. Go around your group and share your God Moments: how have you seen God working, either in your life or in the life of another over this cycle?
- Is there anything that you want to share that has stood out to you so far from the current Point series?

The Review (optional)

Use this section only if you want to review for those who were not in the Point

- Have someone explain the Point in their own words.*
- What object lesson or illustration was used to communicate the Point this week? How did this apply to the Point?*
- Have someone summarize (but not necessarily read) the main Bible passage/story from the Point: **Acts 9:1-22**.*
- How did this Bible passage teach the Point?*

**someone who was in the Point may need to explain this*

The Reflection (required)

Discuss these to go deeper, *and more personal*, into applying the Point

- Do you have a funny wedding story?
- In **Acts 9:1-22**, we read how God transformed Saul from a persecutor of the church, to Paul a missionary *for* the church. When we talk about persecuting the church, what did that look like in Paul's time?
- While we probably haven't killed or imprisoned anyone for being a part of the church, we have "persecuted" the church in other ways. Discuss these ways ***We Tear Down Jesus' Church***:
 - ***by What We Think*** Read **Matthew 16:18; Ephesians 5:26-27**
 - Whose church is it? Why is understanding this so important?
 - How would you feel if someone insulted your bride/spouse?
 - ***by What We Do*** Read **Matthew 5:14-16; Philippians 2:15b**
 - Who is watching? How can our actions tear down Jesus' church?
 - ***by What We Say*** Read **Ephesians 4:29-30; 1 Thessalonians 5:11**
 - List the ways that we use our words to persecute Jesus' church.
 - ***by When We Connect*** Read **Hebrews 10:25**
 - How can you tell if someone thinks that something is important?
 - How does our "attendance" show how we feel about His church?
- Which of the above "persecutions" is *your* biggest struggle, & why?
- Despite Saul persecuting His church, God still used him! Have your group explain these passages of what God did though Paul:
 - ***God Used Him to Spread the Church*** Read **Acts 8:1-3; 13:1-3**
 - ***God Used Him to Separate the Church*** Read **Acts 15:1-2,19**
 - ***God Used Him to Sharpen the Church*** Read **Rom. 1:1; Philemon 1:1**
- This is the end of the *B-Sides* series, that was all about God using people despite their failures. Take a moment to review all of the characters and their B-Sides from the past two months. [there are 7]
- So for one final time, we're going to ask the similar question: Looking back over the entire series, how does God using these people despite their B-Sides, make you feel about God in *your* life?