



Close and Courageous

Acts 9:1-11, Acts 23-26

Growth Group Discussion Questions for November 12, 2017

Getting Started:

- 1) What is one story from your past that would surprise people?

- 2) Luke relates many stories from Paul's life where he experienced the presence of God in a very up-close and personal way. Acts 9:1-9 and 23:11 are two examples. How did these two encounters impact Paul's life and actions?
 - How did his close relationship with Jesus impact the people around him?

- 3) Looking back, how have you personally encountered God's presence in your life? How have these encounters changed you? Changed those around you?

- 4) Although God is with us all the time and we can experience his presence in many different ways, how do you best experience God's presence?
 - Worshipping together with other believers
 - Being outdoors in nature
 - Reading the Bible and digging deep into its meaning
 - Gathering in fellowship with other believers
 - Being still and quiet in his presence in solitude
 - Sharing my faith story with another person
 - I'm not sure what that even means
 - Other: _____

- 5) When in your life have you felt God was far away? How were you able to work through those feelings?

- 6) Right now, how close does God feel to you?
 - He feels so close it's amazing
 - I feel his presence occasionally
 - I think he's on vacation
 - Other: _____

Going Deeper:

7) **READ:** Psalm 27. Jot down any insights, questions, or key observations.

- What 3 qualities of God does David recall in verse 1? How does each relate to David's confidence in the continual opposition he faced?
- What is the deepest desire of David's heart in in the midst of adversity?
- What is the relationship between "seeking" and "waiting" for God?
- What does this tell you about our relationship with God?

Bringing it Home:

8) What is the deepest desire of your life?

9) How do you need the Holy Spirit to help you this week?