

Learning to Grow

Galatians 1:11-24

Ice Breakers

- 1) Think of something you learned recently (big or small). What did you learn, how did you learn it, and how has it changed you since?
- 2) What kinds of things do you tend to put effort into learning (skills, hobbies, Bible, news, etc.) and what do you tend to ignore? What does that reveal about your priorities?

Read Acts 9:3-25

- 3) Imagine being in Paul's shoes on the road to Damascus: your whole belief system is challenged in a moment. What emotions do you think you would feel in those first hours or days?
- 4) If something radically challenged your current view of God or faith, would you be more likely to:
 - a. Dig in and defend your old beliefs
 - b. Go talk to people to unpack or process
 - c. Hide and process alone
 - d. Or rush out and start acting on the new insight

What does that tell you about how you handle change?

- 5) Why do you think Jesus chose to confront Paul so directly and dramatically, instead of through a slower, gentler process?

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- 6) Paul essentially disappears to Arabia for three years after his conversion. Why do you think God might allow such a "hidden" season in the life of such an important leader?
- 7) Have you ever had a season that felt like "Arabia" for you—less visible, slower, maybe even confusing? What might God have been forming in you during that time?
- 8) Paul insists that the gospel he preached was given to him directly by God, even though he later connected with leaders like Peter and James. How do you balance listening to God personally with learning from other Christians and teachers?
- 9) What are some potential dangers of trying to "figure out" theology and faith completely on your own? What are some dangers of only ever copying what others say without wrestling it through yourself?

Discuss the following in smaller groups

- 10) Faithfulness is being constant in belief and practice, no matter who you're with. Where do you most feel the pull to "blend in" instead of being faithful?
- 11) Paul's life after meeting Jesus was completely reoriented around the gospel message. If someone watched your week, what would they say your life is most oriented around?
- 12) Which of these practices are currently part of your life: prayer, Scripture reading, meditation, study, solitude/simplicity, serving, worship, confession, spiritual direction/mentoring, fasting? Which one is God nudging you to lean into next?