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Adulting */ GOTTHIS

December 30 & 31

Living Out a New Direction

WEEK 1 • ACTS 9:1-30

OPENING QUESTIONS

- 1. Do you like making New Year's Resolutions? How well do they work for you?
- 2. Can you remember a time when you tried to put up a good front so that others wouldn't be able to tell you were inexperienced, out of touch, not in control, etc.?

IN THE WORD

- 1. A long time after his conversion, Paul summarized his story to a large, rebellious crowd in Jerusalem. Acts 22:14-16 provides a little more detail on Ananias' instructions to him. Discuss the meaning of the points Ananias is making in these remarks.
- 2. Do you think that the intense light, three days of blindness, and healing have anything to do with the possibility that Paul's thorn in the flesh (2 Corinthians 12:7-9, Galatians 4:13-15, Galatians 6:11) may have been poor eyesight? If this was his problem, why would this be humbling to him?
- 3. 1 Corinthians 15:3-10 summarizes many of the resurrection appearances of Jesus. Most, if not all, seem to have occurred before he ascended. But his appearance to Paul is after Jesus has ascended...do you think this is significant?
- 4. What do you think of Paul's unique role as an apostle?
- 5. Acts 9:20-21 reveals that it was difficult for others to believe that Paul had undergone such a life-changing transformation. What impact do you think this may have had upon...
 - the believers living there?
 - those living in the city who were not believers?
 - Paul himself?

MAKING IT PERSONAL

- Sometimes change is forced on us by circumstances beyond our control. What's the most recent (major) change that you have experienced in your spiritual life that you willingly chose?
- 2. Do you think you have ever been a discouragement to someone else who is trying to make changes in their life?
- 3. Have you ever felt discouraged by others when you were trying to make an important change? What was that like?
- 4. When God leads you to make changes, do you find it easy to adjust your expectations so that you do not give up?
- 5. Are there areas in your life where pride was once (or is now) a barrier to needed change?
- 6. Have you had someone who encouraged you or accompanied you when you began a new venture or change? (Examples: a new diet, career plans, newborn child, exercise, a spending or savings habit, prayer habit, Bible study/memorization, anger management, etc.) What role did they play? How helpful were they?

Notes & Prayers

