

SMALL GROUP REFLECTION QUESTIONS

4 May 2025, Scottsville Community Church, 9 am

SERIES:

Resurrection Life – a new dimension for human existence

TOPIC:

WHAT WOULD THEOPHILUS MAKE OF OUR CONTEMPORARY STORIES OF CONVERSION?

READING: Acts 9:1- 6 (7-20)

OUTLINE

- The Way's persecution then and today
- The Way's persecutor then and today
- The Way's triumph today

ICEBREAKER

Have you met people who ask one question that they think will give them an insight into the question they really want to ask but do not want to sound intrusive?

How do you deal with such questions?

How do you feel about such questions?

THE TEXT: Acts 9:1-6 (7-20)

1. The Way's persecution then and today

Paul's conversion takes place in the context of the church's persecution. The message of Christ's resurrection, the only message the apostles preached, was met with resistance from the chief priests, the Jews...and 'omaqinase' baseAfrika!

(a) In what way are Christians still being persecuted today?

(b) Are you currently (or in the past) going through persecution that you are free to talk about?

- (c) How are you dealing with the situation in (b) above, and what help do you need?
- (d) Do you think your strategy in (c) will be useful to your answer in (a)? If not, how can you be of help to the people facing persecution today?

2. The Way's persecutor then and today

Luke's intention in today's story is to show that the resurrection power Christ, the Holy Spirit, was at work beyond the historical facts of the cross and the empty tomb. He wanted Theophilus to know beyond doubt that Christ was at work in his life and in the world. The sinners, like Saul, were finding new life in the resurrected Christ. The exalted Lord had power even to change hearts.

- (a) Do you think the healing testimonies we see on TV are true? Would Theophilus believe them?
- (b) Do you know of anyone whose life dramatically changed when he began going to church?
- (c) Would you say God is powerfully at work in our little church? What is it that differentiates us from political parties who also do a lot of good work in communities?

3. The Way's triumph today

Imagine Theophilus visiting our little church today in Scottsville in 2025.

- (a) Would he classify you as an 'almost Christian', a mere church goer, or as an 'altogether Christian', one who is truly converted/saved?
- (b) Complete the sentence:
I know I will not go to hell because.....
- (c) What role can you practically play to bring others to a living relationship with Jesus Christ?