Life Group Discussion Questions

Message: Faith that Moves – Saul to Paul
Date: October 18

UP – Knowing Jesus Intimately

1. Before meeting Jesus on the road to Damascus, Saul was extremely religious, learned, and zealous—yet his faith was void of an actual relationship with God. How can modern "religious practices" or legalism get in the way of us truly knowing Jesus intimately?

- *Cross-Reference:* Read **John 5:39–40**. What warning does Jesus give here about studying Scripture without coming to Him for life?

2. In 1 Timothy 1:12–16, Paul calls himself the "worst of sinners," yet emphasizes how abundant grace and mercy met him right there. How does reflecting on God's immense patience toward our own past failures deepen our love and adoration for Him?

3. On the Damascus road, Saul immediately asked, *"Who are you, Lord?"* In what ways does genuine conversion begin with recognizing Jesus' authority and yielding control of our lives over to His Lordship?

- *Cross-Reference:* Read **Philippians 3:7–8**. What does it look like to consider our past accomplishments or self-righteousness "loss" compared to the surpassing worth of knowing Christ?

4. Ananias was given a vision by God and told to go lay hands on Saul—a man who was actively arresting Christians. How did Ananias demonstrate what it means to be a disciple who "hears from God and does what He says," even when it feels risky or scary?

IN – Being Known Authentically

5. When Ananias entered the house, his first words to the feared persecutor Saul were *"Brother Saul..."* How does gospel-centered forgiveness empower us to welcome, restore, and trust people in our church who have complex or difficult pasts?

6. In Philippians 3 and Galatians 1, Paul is open about his past mistakes and previous zeal for self-righteousness. How does sharing our true "before and after" stories in our Life Group create space for authentic vulnerability and relationship?

7. Saul spent three days blind, fasting, and praying before Ananias arrived to pray with him and help the "scales" fall from his eyes. Who has God placed in your life to help you "see clearly" when you are processing big life decisions or spiritual convictions?

- *Cross-Reference:* Read **Acts 9:17–18** and **Galatians 6:1–2**.

8. Evaluating our own hearts: Is your current spiritual walk producing the "Saul" pattern (striving, pride, judgment, anger) or the "Paul" pattern (mercy, grace, faith, love)? How can this group pray for you to experience more of Christ's renewing power this week?

OUT – Making Jesus Known Practically

9. God told Ananias that Saul was His *"chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel"*. Who is someone in your community, workplace, or family that you assume is "too far gone" or unlikely to follow Jesus? How does Paul's story challenge that assumption?

10. Ananias had to overcome his real fear of Saul in order to step out and obey God's call. What fear or hesitation often stops you from reaching out to someone or initiating a spiritual conversation with an unbeliever?

- *Cross-Reference:* Read **2 Timothy 1:7–8**. How does the Spirit give us power and love over fear when sharing the gospel?

11. Paul's radical turn from "Dark Side to Light" became a testimony he shared for the rest of his life. In 2–3 sentences, how would you describe the difference Jesus has made in your life to a neighbor or coworker who doesn't know Him?

12. A disciple is a follower of Jesus who hears from God and does what He says. What is one concrete step of obedience or outreach God is calling you to take in your neighborhood or workplace this week?