

# ATHE APOSTLE TO THE GENTILES (THE CONVERSION OF SAUL)

**Acts 9:1–16**

BIBLICAL PASSAGE

**Acts 9:4–6**

MEMORY VERSE

He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?” “Who are you, Lord?” Saul asked. “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,” he replied. “Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.” Acts 9:4–6

If you’ve ever wondered if God could use you in spite of your sin, take a biblical reality check. You’ll discover people like Abraham, Jacob, Moses, David, Solomon, Isaiah, Peter, and Saul (Paul), all had some pretty major blunders. But God never turned away from these men of faith. Instead, God whittled away at their lives, conforming them to be more and more like Himself, using them for His purposes.

Read Acts 9:1–16. Saul believed that what he was doing was the right thing to do. He was a Pharisee, and as such, he wanted to purge Israel of sin. To him, the followers of Christ were sinners and were in the way. Saul, who would later become Paul, didn’t know that what he was doing to believers was sinful, but God channeled his passion to take the good news to the Gentiles.

Sometimes we can’t look at the personality traits of our kids and see how God might use them. If you have a strong-willed child, maybe all that’s needed is some

good direction and prayer. What you may see as obstinacy, God may see as bold leadership He can use. Apparently, this is what God saw in Paul—someone who was devoted to a cause with a passion, but needed re-direction. Paul was also someone who became driven by his love for God and by God’s assignment on his life. He seemed fearless of what men might do to him, but rather focused on running the race, though it might ultimately bring death.

Whatever characteristics God has implanted in your teenager, God has a purpose in mind of how that personality may be channeled. God may want to use you in the shaping process. Start by praying that God would give you eyes to see potential in your child that you’ve never seen before. Next, start listening to your teen with your heart, and not just with your ears. You may begin to see just what God sees, and He may use you, also, for His purposes.

## FAMILY DEVOTION TIME

### Connect . . .

Family members take turns sharing what they like about the personality traits of other family members present, and how they see God work through those characteristics.

### Explore . . .

Family members share the reading of Acts 9:1–16. Next, the family discusses: **What are some characteristics of Saul (Paul) that God would use in carrying the gospel of Christ to the Gentiles? Why would Paul turn out to be such a good candidate for this job?**

### Transform . . .

A family member reads: **God has made us the way we are for a reason. We are all different, with different qualities and characteristics. How might God use your characteristics for His purposes?** Each family member shares his or her thoughts.

*Pray together that God will use your family in spite of its shortcomings, causing you to grow in character, developing the personality traits He has granted, as well as the spiritual gifts with which He has equipped each member.*