

# DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

*Our Mission: To win, build and send Department of Defense leaders to live for Jesus Christ*

3-7 March 2003

## ACTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT #8 – UNCOMMON CONVERSION

### INTRODUCTION:

- Who do you know that unlikely to accept Christ as their personal savior? Why are they so unreachable?

### OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION:

*Note: Paul has a remarkable heritage of religion and a bright future as a spiritual leader in Israel. (Acts 23:6, Phil 3:5,6) He has heard the gospel message often, most recently from Stephen. (Acts 8:1) But he wasn't willing to accept the truth of Christianity. His dramatic conversion forced him to come to grips with a relationship, rather than a religion.*

### Read Acts 9:1-22

- What do we know about Saul up to now?
- Saul's former teacher was Gamaliel. (Read Acts 5:34-39) How well is Saul heeding Gamaliel's advice? What does this say about Saul?
- Why didn't Saul recognize Jesus before? (5)
- What question does Paul ask that shows that he is confronted with a *relationship* (person) rather than a *religion*? (5) How does this question, "Who are you?" express the reality of the gospel that everyone must face?
- What do you think was going through Saul's mind while he waited for 3 days? (9)
- What did the Lord say to Ananias? Why did Ananias hesitate? (13)
- Even though Saul had personally met Jesus, why do you think that God used a person to go to him now?
- What is significant about the way that Ananias addresses Saul? (17)
- Why were people astonished at Saul's speech? (21)
- How does your conversion compare to Saul's?

### APPLICATION:

- In what areas of your life have you seen the most change? What other changes do you want?
- Write the name of 2 people that are unlikely to accept Christ. Pray how to share with them.

*To be a witness does not consist in engaging in propaganda, nor even in stirring up people, but in being a living mystery. It means to live in such a way that one's life would not make sense if God did not exist.*

*Cardinal Emmanuel Suhard*

*I identified myself completely with him. Indeed, I have been crucified with Christ. My ego is no longer central. It is no longer important that I appear righteous before you or have your good opinion, and I am no longer trying to impress God. Christ lives in me. The life you see me living is not "mine," but it is lived by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*

*Gal 2:20 (The Message)*