

**Sunday, May 1, 2022 – Easter Hill United Methodist Church**  
**Third Sunday of Easter**

**Bible Study –Acts 9:1-6, (7-20)**  
**“Who Are You Lord?”**

Open with a word of prayer

**Gathering Time** (5-10 minutes)

In groups of two or three, respond to the following, “What is the scariest thing you’ve ever done?”

**Acts 9:1-6, (7-20) Context.** We first encounter Saul (who will eventually take the name Paul and become the “apostle to the Gentiles”) at the stoning of Stephen. Stephen was one of the early leaders of the Christian community and the first to be killed for witnessing to his faith. Stephen proclaimed that God had turned away from the religious leaders of Israel who were more concerned to preserve the Temple and its sacrifices than to obey God, and he accused them of murdering God’s Messiah. Saul approved of Stephen’s execution, and began to persecute other Christians, dragging them off to prison. This week’s reading continues the story of Saul.

**Read Acts 9:1-6, (7-20)**

What touches your heart, what do you hear in the scripture, what questions do you have, or what doesn’t make sense to you in the story?

Write down your thoughts or share your thoughts with the person or group you are with.

**Read Acts 9:1-6, (7-20) again**

**Some reflection questions – Write down your thoughts or share your thoughts with the person or group you are with.**

- What does it mean to say we are followers of Christ?
- What would have been the predominant view of Saul by the first Christians based on verses 1 and 2?
- Who might be more afraid in this story? The men in verse 7 next to Saul hearing the voice but not seeing anyone or the arrogant Saul who has seen a flashing light, heard a voice, and is now blind? What would that walk to Damascus have been like?
- Imagine being Ananias and receiving the vision to visit Saul. What would have been your first thoughts? Would you have obeyed?

- There are at least three people who listen to the voices they've heard and/or the visions that they've seen: Saul, the men with Saul when he sees Jesus, and Ananias. With whom do you most identify? Where might God be calling you to obey?
- While Saul had a vision from Jesus, he also seems to have learned much from the disciples in Damascus (vv. 19-20). How does the community of believers help us to discern God's guidance?
- How would you respond to someone who asked you, "Who is Jesus? What does it mean to follow Christ?"

### **Closing Reflection Question**

How is this scripture calling you to change, to see, to be or what might it be calling you to do?

**Prayer** (10 minutes). Share prayer requests and respond appropriately.

**Sending Forth** (2 minutes). After all, have shared, pray the closing prayer. Ask for a volunteer to lead the group or read the following prayer in unison:

God who called Abram, Isaac, and Jacob, Moses, Ruth, David, Mary, and Saul, we believe you continue to call your people to obey your voice. Give us the willingness to hear where you are calling us as individuals and as a community. Empower us to be your witnesses to those closest to us and to all we encounter. **Amen.**

And now we pray The Lord's Prayer....

Our Father who art in Heaven  
hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in Heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.

Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power  
and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.