SMITH FOR CHRIST

TEACHING THE WORD · WATCHING THE TIMES

REFLECTION JOURNAL · FIVE DAYS

Acts

Chapter 26

Not Disobedient to the Heavenly Vision

MEMORY VERSE · ACTS 26:18

"to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me."

THIS JOURNAL BELONGS TO _____

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

This week in Acts 26

Paul stands in chains before a king and tells his story: who he was, how Jesus stopped him, and what Jesus sent him to do. This week Jesus wants to remind you of your own story — that He has turned you from darkness to light — and to ask whether there is any part of you that is still only "almost" His.

How to use this journal

1. Each day, read the passage slowly — out loud if you can.
2. Answer the **Observe** question from the text before you write what it means.
3. Write honestly on the **Reflect** questions. No one grades this.
4. Do the **Respond** step today, not someday. Say the memory verse.
5. Bring this journal to the group. The last page is for the table.

The full Deep Dive, the O·I·A study and the slides for this chapter are on the Acts study page.

WHERE I AM AS I START THIS CHAPTER

What is going on in my life right now that I want to bring to God this week?

DAY 1 OF 5

The Hope of the Promise

READ · ACTS 26:1–8

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

How does Paul describe his life before Christ, and what does he say he is really on trial for (26:4–7)?

REFLECT

Paul says he is on trial "for the hope of the promise made by God to our fathers" (26:6). What are you hoping in right now — and is it something God has actually promised?

REFLECT

Paul asks, "Why is it considered incredible among you people if God does raise the dead?" (26:8). What in your life feels too dead for God to raise — a relationship, a habit, a hope?

RESPOND — TODAY

Write down one thing in your life that feels dead, and under it write: "God does raise the dead" (26:8). Pray over it.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 26:18)

DAY 2 OF 5

Saul, Saul

READ · ACTS 26:9–15

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What did Saul do to believers, how did he feel about them, and what did Jesus say to him on the road (26:10–11, 14–15)?

REFLECT

Saul was religious, sincere and "furiously enraged" (26:11). Where has anger or pride hidden inside something that looked like being right or being religious in your life?

REFLECT

Jesus said, "It is hard for you to kick against the goads" (26:14). What has God been using to press on you — a person, a consequence, His Word — and where are you still kicking back?

RESPOND — TODAY

Tell God plainly today where you have been resisting Him, and ask Him to help you stop kicking.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 26:18)

DAY 3 OF 5

From Darkness to Light

READ · ACTS 26:16–18

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What did Jesus tell Paul to do first, and what five things does verse 18 say happen to a man who comes to Christ (26:16, 18)?

REFLECT

Jesus told a man lying in the dirt, "get up and stand on your feet" (26:16), and then gave him a job. What does it mean to you that Jesus has a purpose for you after your failures?

REFLECT

Verse 18 says Jesus turns people "from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God" and gives them "forgiveness of sins" (26:18). Which of those do you most need to believe about yourself today, and why?

RESPOND — TODAY

Memorize Acts 26:18 this week; say it out loud this morning and again before you go to sleep.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 26:18)

DAY 4 OF 5

The Heavenly Vision

READ · ACTS 26:19–23

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What three things did Paul tell people everywhere to do, and what did he say Moses and the Prophets had foretold (26:20, 22–23)?

REFLECT

Paul said, "I did not prove disobedient to the heavenly vision" (26:19). What is one thing you clearly know God wants from you that you have been slow to obey?

REFLECT

Paul preached that people "should repent and turn to God, performing deeds appropriate to repentance" (26:20). Our deeds do not save us, but they show we have turned. What would those deeds look like in your home, your work or your unit this week?

RESPOND — TODAY

Choose one concrete action that fits your repentance — an apology, paying something back, a changed habit — and do it today.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 26:18)

DAY 5 OF 5

Almost

READ · ACTS 26:24–32

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What did Festus say about Paul, how did Agrippa answer Paul's question, and what did Paul wish for everyone listening (26:24, 28–29)?

REFLECT

Festus said, "Paul, you are out of your mind!" (26:24). Have you ever been laughed at or called crazy for following Jesus, and how did you respond?

REFLECT

Agrippa said, "In a short time you will persuade me to become a Christian" (26:28), and then he got up and left (26:30). Is there any area of your life where you are close to giving it to Christ but are still holding back — and what is holding you?

RESPOND — TODAY

Pray Paul's wish for one man you know by name: that he would become "such as I am, except for these chains" (26:29).

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 26:18)

WHEN THE GROUP MEETS

Questions for the table

FOR THE GROUP · 1

Paul told his story the same simple way — who he was, how Jesus met him, what Jesus sent him to do (26:9–18). Take a few minutes each to share your story in those three parts.

FOR THE GROUP · 2

Festus thought Paul was crazy, and Agrippa came close but walked away (26:24–30). Which of those two responses do we run into more often, and how can we keep speaking with "words of sober truth" (26:25)?

FOR THE GROUP · 3

Paul was in chains and still the freest man in the room (26:29). What does real freedom look like for men who have lost their freedom, or who are fighting chains that no one else can see?

MY PRAYER

Lord Jesus, You met me on my own road and turned me from darkness to light, so today I stop kicking against You and ask You to…

CUT OUT · CARRY IT · ACTS 26:18

"to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me."