Small Group/Sermon Notes based on "Miracles: Part 1"

Remember, small groups are primarily for growing closer relationships with other believers. We can learn wonderful things in this environment but keep relationships first.

- Make sure everyone knows each other's names. Have everyone share a little about themselves and how life is going right now.
- Do you believe in miracles? Have you experienced any or know others who have?
    - Our God is not passive, inactive, or asleep. He intervenes in this world!
    - In this series we are going to look at categories of miracles so that we understand the sorts of things that God does. Then we will believe God to intervene in our lives!
- **Part One: Born Again**
    - There are times when God will intervene in a person's life to change their course.
        - This happened to Pastor Mike.
        - This has happened to many of us.
        - This happened to a young zealot named Saul. (also called Paul)
- **Acts 9:1-9**
    - "Murderous threats!" from v1. What would it have been like to meet pre-conversion Saul?
    - Paul had a traumatic conversion experience. Scary, blinded, helpless. Why do you think?
    - Paul sheds insight into this in **1 Timothy 1:13-16.**
        - Saul was worth saving. Do you believe that you are too?
        - If you have had an experience like this, God has a plan for you!
    - Saul is going to need some help, so this miracle continues into Phase 2:
- **Acts 9:10-19**
    - Ananias needed a vision from God to trust Saul. He even argued with God! Have you ever argued with God about the value of someone else?
    - Ananias must have been very obedient. God tells Saul first that Ananias is coming, then He tells Ananias to go.
        - There is a hart miracle needed in accepting that someone else is born again. This can be a challenge! Don't hinder the gospel!
        - Ananias had the vision and the heart miracle. He calls him "Brother Saul."
    - Saul gets baptized and stays with them. That was quick don't you think?
- **Acts 9:20-25**
    - Saul was obviously changed. He was willing to be obedient to the vision.
        - Paul describes this is **Acts 26:19-20** in his defense to Agrippa.
    - His friends were no longer his friends. They tried to kill him. Unfortunate consequence of turning your life over to Christ. Have you experience anything like this?
    - The disciples risked their own necks by helping Paul. Let's be like that.
    - Paul is still going to need more help. Enter Barnabas in Phase 3:
- **Acts 9:26-31**
    - Paul was changed. The church didn't believe it or accept him.
        - Sad but understandable. Don't be offended that others need time to see your change, even when it has been demonstrated already. Discuss that for a while.
    - Barnabas didn't see a vision. He just believed the gospel. We need more Barnabas's around.
    - Paul proved he was born again over time.
- Paul wrote **2 Corinthians 5:17.**
    - He understood it from personal experience. You can too.
    - This miracle doesn't require a miracle! (unless you are stubborn like…)
        - It requires a sacrifice. That sacrifice has already been made.
        - It also requires faith. Believe in what Christ has done.
    - All you need to do now is believe. God's power is here to make you new again.
- Pray for each other before you finish up!