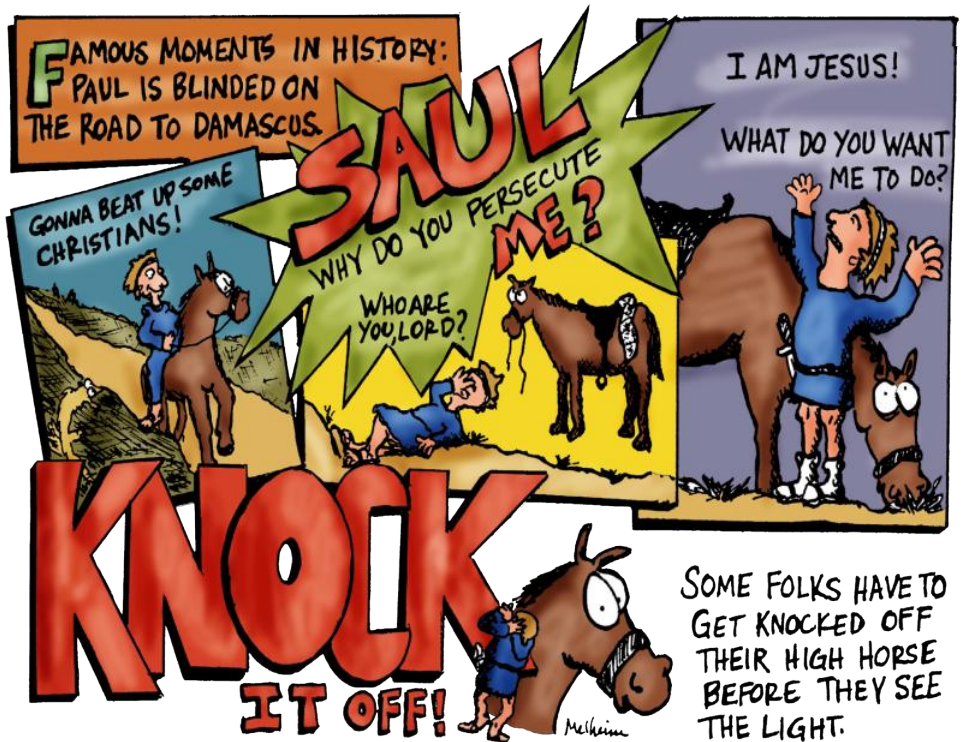




The Damascus Road



SHARE

your highs and lows

Break into pairs.
Listen carefully and
record your partner's
thoughts in the space
provided. Then return
to small group and
share your friend's
highs and lows.

MY HIGH THIS WEEK

MY LOW THIS WEEK

MY FRIEND'S HIGH THIS WEEK

MY FRIEND'S LOW THIS WEEK



READ

**and highlight
the theme verse
in your Bible**

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats of murder against the disciples of the Lord.... as he was going along... suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus..."

Acts 9:1a, 3-5



TALK

**about how the
Bible reading
might relate to
your highs
and lows**

Choose from the options below to enrich your Talk Time. Invite group members to take turns leading one or more of the following:

IMAGES

1. Choose either the cover photo, cartoon or painting by Dr. He Qi (back page).
2. Where are you in this work of art?
3. How might the art and the theme verse relate to each other?
4. How might the art relate to your highs and lows?

ROLE PLAY

Assign roles and take turns acting out the following:

1. Imagine being a disciple of Jesus in 35 A.D. Some of your friends have been arrested, beaten, and jailed. You are gathering in a home to worship and pray when suddenly the door bursts open. Saul walks in, claiming to have seen a vision of Jesus. He now wants to know everything he can about the Lord. What do you tell him? What do you ask him? How do you feel? Can you trust him?
2. A teen from another church tells you, "Unless you can tell us the day and hour you were saved, you aren't." Respond.

QUESTIONS TO PONDER

1. Have you experienced grace lately? Has someone given you a break, forgiven you, or presented you with a gift you didn't deserve? Why did that person do it? How did it feel?
2. Have you given someone a break, forgiven them, or presented them with a gift they didn't deserve lately? Why did you do it?
3. Based on your answers to 1 and 2 above, what is grace? How is human grace similar to God's grace? How is it different?

QUOTATIONS

Choose a quotation (right column) and share your thoughts and questions about it.

God bless those pagans.

Homer Simpson

The word that I stand here proclaiming must be fleshed out—made incarnate—or I'm just a travel agent handing out brochures to a place I've never been.

Brennan Manning

God, give us grace to accept with serenity the things that cannot be changed, courage to change the things which should be changed, and the wisdom to distinguish the one from the other.

Reinhold Niebuhr

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me...

John Newton

We never know how high we are till we are called to rise; And then, if we are true to plan, our statures touch the skies.

Emily Dickinson



Write a definition...

DAMASCUS

PAUL

PERSECUTE

SAUL

THE WAY



Damascus Road by Dr. He Qi (www.heqigallery.com)



PRAY

for one another's
highs and lows

Gather in a circle. Praise and thank God for your highs. Ask the Holy Spirit to be with you in your lows. Pray for your friend's highs and lows and for your world. Close in Jesus' name.

Prayers for Highs

Prayers for Lows



BLESS

one another

Trace the sign of the cross on one another's foreheads or palms.

REMEMBER 1 THING

Our understanding of God, grace and much of salvation history has been profoundly influenced, interpreted, and shaped by this one man, the Apostle Paul, who was blinded by the light of Christ and finally came to see!



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