

Check-in and Prayer

Check-in with everyone's highs and lows from the previous week.

Topic Introduction

This series is about understanding how God's redemptive hand is at work in your personality.

- Encourage Group Members to take a big 5 personality test for next week:
 - Free: <https://bigfive-test.com/>
 - \$10: understandmyself.com

Read Text ~10min (Acts 7:58-8:3, 9:1-22)

- **Read Together:** Acts 7:58-8:3, 9:1-22
- **Read Alone:** Underline or mark: questions, contrasts, repetition, commands, topic changes, ooh/ahh moments, other verses come to mind?
- **Personal Paraphrase:** Have a volunteer *paraphrase* the story from what they remember after reading (without looking at the text!). Repetition is the goal, after going through the story 3 times, we are ready to analyze/interpret it.

Content Questions

- In what ways did Paul change post-conversion and in what ways did he stay the same?
 - What might that tell us about Paul's personality?
- Compare Paul's personality to Peter's. In what ways were their personalities similar? Different?
- What were some strengths of Paul's (and Peter's) personality?
- What were some weaknesses of his personality (and Peter's) or potential dark side of his strengths (See: Acts 15:36-40)?
- How does God refocus Paul's strengths post-conversion?
- How does God redeem Paul's weakness/dark sides of Paul's strengths (See: 2 Corinthians 12:7-12)?
- From analyzing God's redemptive hand in Paul's personality, what are you learning about personality and God's redemptive plans for it?
 - What does he tend to change?
 - What does he tend to leave the same or refocus?
- In what ways is this liberating and free us from the snare of comparison?
- What does this tell us about the character of God?

Application & Prayer

Apply: Journal or continue discussing the following questions

- Why is it important to be self-aware?
- How might self-awareness be an aid to our spiritual growth? How might it help us be more effective workers in God's kingdom?
- Why might we be reluctant/afraid to become more self-aware?
- How can the good news of the gospel help us become more open to seeing ourselves clearly as we currently are rather than idealistically as we wished?
- How might this group help you on this journey?

Pray together over being open to becoming more self-aware and using strengths for God's kingdom.

Homework -- Before the next study: Encourage members to take one of the two tests mentioned above and use it to identify and share next week 1) one strength and 2) one weakness or potential dark side of strength