

**PRAYER**

- Pray that each person in the group will have the courage, words, and faith to share what God has done in their lives to others.

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- Within your group, pray and speak God’s purpose and blessing for each other.

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- Intercede for those who need to be connected to a Victory Group or a local church, that their hearts will be ready and that they will overcome any fear or hesitations that has been keeping them from deciding to relate with fellow believers. Start within your group.

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**ORDINARY** **Ananias and Saul**  
Week 2

**NOTES**

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**CONNECT**

- How would you want to be introduced to someone?
- What is one encouraging remark you received from someone? How did it affect you?
- Who is one person you are close with in church? Tell us something about him/her.

**WORD**

<sup>10</sup>In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!" "Yes, Lord," he answered. <sup>11</sup>The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. <sup>12</sup>In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight."

Acts 9:10-12

**WHAT** What does the Bible say?

After a powerful encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus, Saul who later will become the Apostle Paul was instructed by God to wait in the house of Judas on Straight Street. In this critical moment for Saul, God used a disciple named Ananias, not an apostle or a preacher, to help and disciple Saul. What can we learn from Ananias' discipleship story?

• **Obey God's leading to reach out.**

<sup>13</sup>"Lord," Ananias answered, "I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your saints in Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup>And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name."

Acts 9:13,14

Though Ananias was hesitant to help Saul because of his reputation, he still obeyed God's command to minister to him. Like Ananias, we may also have reservations or hesitations in reaching out to others, but we must trust God and obey His command to disciple them. Who were the people you had a hard time reaching out to at first? What happened as you obeyed God?

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• **Speak words of destiny to the ones we disciple.**

But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel."

Acts 9:15

We need to realize that God has a plan and destiny for every person we disciple. No matter where we are from or what background we have,

God has a redemptive purpose for each of us. And as we disciple people, it is important that we encourage them by speaking words of hope and destiny. Recall a time when someone spoke faith over you. How has it helped you grow in your walk with God?

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• **Connect the ones we disciple to other believers.**

... and after taking some food, he regained his strength. Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus.

Acts 9:19

Though it was not explicitly mentioned, Ananias may have introduced and even vouched for Saul to the other disciples in Damascus. Saul then had an opportunity to spend time and learn from the group (Acts 9:19-27). When we disciple someone, it is also important that we connect them to other believers for their growth. How did belonging to a Victory Group and local church help you grow in your faith?

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**SO WHAT** What is the relevance of the Word to my life?

- What are some of the common hesitations of people why they do not reach out to others?
- How would you feel if you received words that speak of God's great destiny for your life?
- Are you connected with other believers in church? If not, what could be keeping you from relating with them? What are the possible ways for you to get connected to a local church?

**NOW WHAT** How do I apply the Word to my life?

- Who are the people whom you believe God is calling you to reach? What practical things can you do this week to start reaching out to them?
- What ideas do you have on how you can speak hope and destiny to others? Can you share one of them?
- What is one thing you can do now to connect the ones you are discipling to other believers in the church?