

THE BOOK OF *Acts*

|| Group Discussion Guide ||

May 19, 2024

THE BETTER ANANIAS

Acts 9:10-19a

1

How does Ananias's response to the Lord calling his name echo similar responses by Abraham (Genesis 22:1), Jacob (Genesis 31:11), Samuel (1 Samuel 3:4-8), and Isaiah (Isaiah 6:8)? What does this response say about Ananias and his relationship with the Lord?

2

Unlike Abraham, Jacob, Samuel, and Isaiah, Ananias will play a relatively small role in the narrative of scripture. What, however, is the importance of his role?

3

Should Ananias's answer to the Lord in verses 13-14 be seen as "talking back"? How much room is there for questioning the Lord's command?

4

Ananias received extremely specific instructions from the Lord, down to the street where he should go to find Saul. Is this the normative experience for believers today? How do we hear the Lord speak to us and how can we practice obedience?

5

How does Ananias's vision match up with Paul's own account of his conversion and commissioning in Acts 26: 16-18 and Galatians 1:15-16?

6

Saul has been chosen by the Lord for a great ministry—but he would also experience great suffering (v. 15-16). How do we react to the notion that following Jesus will mean suffering? How does the plain reading of scripture refute the teachings of a “prosperity gospel”?

7

What is the process of Saul’s conversion, from the encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus to Ananias laying hands on him? Can we specify the moment at which Saul is saved?

8

Do believers today experience this kind of extended conversion process? Or is Saul’s experience unique?

