

Jacob's Well

Lesson Title: Where He Finds Us—Confidently Following



Key Concept: Wherever we are, in any situation, God can find us. God finds us even when we think we were already found, and how we respond is up to us.



Scriptures:

¹Meanwhile, Saul was still uttering threats with every breath and was eager to kill the Lord's followers. . . . ⁴He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul! Saul! Why are you persecuting me?"
(Acts 9:1, 4 *New Living Translation*)

¹⁵Before I was born, God chose me and called me by his marvelous grace. *Then* it pleased him ¹⁶to reveal his Son to me. (emphasis added)
(Galatians 1:15–16 *New Living Translation*)

Context Scriptures: Acts 9:1–31; Galatians 1:13–17; Philippians 3:5–6; Romans 8:26; Romans 12:2; 1 Timothy 1:13



Lesson Thoughts:

There was no one more passionate or more devoted to God than Saul of Tarsus. He was born in the perfect scenario, to one of the only tribes of Israel that hadn't been scattered by the Assyrians. He was trained perfectly and lived exactly according to the law, even going above and beyond the law as a perfect Pharisee. He persecuted the church, but even after he knew his persecution was wrong, he still described it as occurring "in my zeal for God" (Philippians 3:5–6).

God didn't have to work to find Saul, because Saul was living loudly and boldly for God. He was not ashamed of his faith, and in fact he was proud to serve the true God of Israel, attacking the threat of Jesus, a man who claimed to be Adonai. Saul was out in public, and he *knew* that he was in the right. But God had a different plan. As Saul was in the middle of a mission for God, Jesus appeared

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and transformed his life. Jesus found Saul, even though Saul thought he wasn't lost.

God finds us wherever we are. Sometimes, that means he finds us when we were lost, or neglected, or hidden. But sometimes, that means he finds us a second time. Saul was already "found" by God: he was a Jew, and a law-abiding one. But Jesus had more for Saul, so he came and told Saul that he wasn't done being found. The same thing can and will occur in the life of any true servant of God. We don't have it perfect, but God does, so he'll show up unexpectedly and transform our lives. Maybe it will be a change in understanding, as it was for Saul. Maybe it will be a new calling, a new ministry, or a new job. Maybe it will be a new friendship Jesus wants us to make. But regardless of where we are, God will find us again. And when he does, we have a choice to make.

Saul thought he knew what was true, and that understanding was destroyed when Jesus appeared. Saul was raised with a very specific understanding of who God was and was not, and it formed the way he looked at the world. Then it was shattered. But Saul responded in an amazing way. He took time, and he prayed. He waited. He listened to the voice of God. And then, after three days, God healed him, and he stood up, walked outside, and began to preach a new message. At the end of the day, when God changes our worldview, it's up to us how we respond. Will we fight back, since God already found us? Or will we act as Saul did, and embrace the truth that comes from the only one who *is* truth?

**Discussion Questions:**

- 1) What is the hardest thing God could ask you to do? Would you do it?
- 2) Why does God find us again? Didn't he already find us when he saved us?
- 3) How can we live stable lives if God could change everything tomorrow?
- 4) When God finds you again, does that mean you were doing something wrong before? Does it mean you were sinning? If so, how do you handle that? If not, why not?

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Notes and Reflections

- 1) Consider what change would most impact your world if God moved in and shook things up. Does God have your permission to do that, or do your priorities take precedence? Are you living as Saul did, willing to listen when God speaks? If you are not, what needs to change for you to reach that point?

- 2) Humans don't know God's plans, so he'll come and find us—and change our lives—as often as he needs to. Are you okay with being imperfect, not knowing what God wants and needs? Consider Saul's example, and how he spoke of his time persecuting the church, a true violation of God's wishes. Galatians 1:13–17 and 1 Timothy 1:12–17 are wonderful examples of how to acknowledge past imperfections without being bogged down by them.

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Notes and Reflections, cont.