



# Small Group Guide

## Message Recap 🎬

Life is often messy, and our expectations can clash with the reality we face, especially as we transition into adulthood. Through the story of Paul and Ananias in Acts, we learn that Jesus actively pursues us in our struggles and uses ordinary individuals to bring transformation. Following Jesus' lead requires obedience and a willingness to engage closely with others, showing the power of genuine presence and support. Ultimately, Jesus can turn our mess into a masterpiece, offering hope and purpose in the process.

## Ice Breaker 🧊

How would you describe yourself - organized, unorganized, type A, clean freak, etc.? How would other people describe you?

# Discussion Questions

▼ How does Saul's transformation in Acts 9 illustrate the idea that Jesus can work in the mess of our lives?

- The sermon highlights how Jesus pursued Saul and transformed him despite his messy past of persecution.
- Can you think of a time in your life when you felt your situation was too messy for change? How might knowing Jesus can work in those moments change your view?

▼ Why do you think Ananias was hesitant to go see Saul, and what does that reveal about how we might react to challenging situations?

- Ananias expressed concern about Saul's background and the potential danger he posed, showing that it's natural to feel fear before stepping into messy situations.
- Have you ever felt hesitant to help someone because of their past? How can you challenge yourself to overcome that hesitation?

▼ What does the phrase 'Engage Up Close' mean in the context of the sermon, and how can it be applied in our daily lives?

- The sermon emphasizes the importance of being present and showing up for others in their mess, just as Ananias did for Saul.
- How can you actively engage with someone in your life who might be facing a difficult situation or feeling alone? What steps can you take?

▼ In Luke 15:4, we see how important each individual is to Jesus. How does this relate to the theme of finding hope amidst life's messiness?

- The sermon includes a reference to this verse to illustrate Jesus' love for individuals, even when they are lost or facing difficulties.
- How does knowing that you are valued and pursued by Jesus impact how you view your own mess or the mess of others around you?

▼ What small things can you do to help others in their messy situations, as emphasized in the sermon?

- The sermon concludes with the idea that even small acts can lead to significant transformations, just as Ananias did with Saul.
- Can you identify a small action you can take this week to support someone who is struggling? How could that action contribute to their journey?

# Application 🤔

- Who is Jesus leading you to engage with, but you have been hesitant? Consider how.
- What distractions can you minimize, so you can be more present & engage others?
- Encourage someone who showed up in your mess. Call, write a letter, etc.

# Prayer 🙏

- Ask God to help us see and embrace the messiness in our lives as opportunities for growth.
- Pray for the courage to step towards those who are struggling, just as Ananias did.
- Request guidance on how to follow Jesus' lead in our daily lives.
- Share any specific prayer requests from the group.