

11 ENCOUNTERING JESUS

KEY TEXT: ACTS 22:6-21

CENTRAL truth

When Paul was given the opportunity to defend himself in front of an angry crowd in Jerusalem, he began by sharing his story. Reading about the way Paul shared his story will help us learn about the importance of **sharing our stories of how we encountered Jesus. God uses our stories to draw others to Himself.**

key question

What can we learn about Christian community from this passage?

Paul recalled that Ananias had referred to him as “Brother” when the disciple visited him—a truly beautiful moment. Paul was no longer a persecutor of the church but a fellow sibling within the family of God. The church plays an instrumental role in our development as followers of Jesus. God uses Christian community to nurture, encourage, and challenge us.

keep in mind

- Ananias’s words in Acts 22:16 may lead some students to believe that the practice of water baptism itself cleanses us of our sins. Use the **Theology note** in this session to help you communicate that while baptism is an important practice, it does not wash away our sins – we’re forgiven by God’s grace alone through Jesus alone.
- Before sharing about his encounter with Jesus, Paul gave insight into his life prior to meeting the Lord. As you challenge students to talk about their faith in Jesus with others, encourage them to share what their life looked like before encountering Him, as well as His transformative work in their lives.

application

Why is it important to share with others about our encounters with Jesus?

the win

FOR THE STUDENT: Our stories play a small part in the greater story God is telling. Students should feel encouraged to sharing about their encounters with Jesus. The Lord can use these stories to draw people to Him.

FOR THE LEADER: All followers of Jesus are called to obey the Great Commission (see Matt. 29:19-20). Remind students that the Holy Spirit works in and through them, even at this stage of their lives.