

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Alpha Meal Sign-Up

Alpha is a community gathering over a meal while discussing faith and life's big questions. If you would like to provide part of a meal for Alpha (Monday evenings), scan this QR code to learn more.



Middle School & High School Group Upcoming Opportunities

- Monday, October 30: Pumpkin Carving & Costume Party
 - Friday, November 3: All Nighter at the Mall of America
- Contact melinda@newdaycov.org for more info.

NewDay Small Groups Start Today

Small groups will be meeting for 4 weeks, discussing the book *Forgotten God* by Francis Chan. To learn more, contact kari@newdaycov.org.

NewDay Potluck

Our next potluck will be next Sunday, November 5, immediately following the worship gathering. The theme for the potluck will be "International Foods"!

NEWDAY WEEKLY EMAIL

If you would like to receive NewDay's Weekly Email, with information about upcoming community opportunities, write your name and email here, rip it off, and leave this at the Offering Table in the back.

NAME

EMAIL



CONTACT

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info@newdaycov.org



ADDRESS

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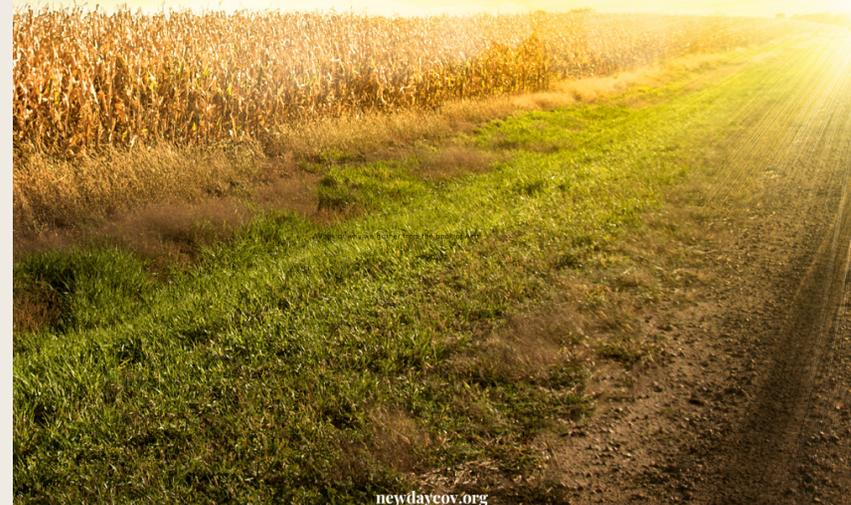
SUNDAY WORSHIP GATHERING

Create in me a pure heart,
O God, and renew a steadfast
spirit within me. [...]
Restore to me the joy of your
salvation and grant me a
willing spirit, to sustain me.
Psalm 51:10,12

NEWDAY COVENANT CHURCH

A New Day for NewDay

A look into why we gather, from the book of Acts



newdaycov.org

October 29, 2023
Pastor Kari Jacott
The Most Unlikely of Converts

SCRIPTURE READING

Select verses from Acts 9:1-31

Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. 3 As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. 4 He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"

5 "Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked.

"I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. 6 "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

7 The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. 8 Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. 9 For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything.

10 In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!"

"Yes, Lord," he answered.

11 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. 12 In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight."

(...)26 When he came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he really was a disciple. 27 But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. He told them how Saul on his journey had seen the Lord and that the Lord had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had preached fearlessly in the name of Jesus. 28 So Saul stayed with them and moved about freely in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord. 29 He talked and debated with the Hellenistic Jews, but they tried to kill him. 30 When the believers learned of this, they took him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus.

31 Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace and was strengthened. Living in the fear of the Lord and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it increased in numbers.

NOTES

SERMON REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Reflect on your moment, when you went from being a Saul (not having relationship with Jesus) to a Paul (believing/known/following Jesus).

When Saul saw the light and heard the voice of Jesus, he asked the question, "Who are you Lord?" Jesus answered him with 2 identifiers: I am Jesus, and I am the one you are persecuting.

- Saul's identity was about to change- from being a persecutor of Jesus, to being a follower of Jesus. Think about your own identity- how has knowing Jesus altered your identity?
- Even if you have always known Jesus, and loved Him, or are most recent to your relationship with Him, what has He changed in your life before you knew Him, to now?
- What is the most powerful part of Paul's story for you?

"The hostility to Christianity of pre-Christian Saul presents both challenge and hope to any non-Christian. The hope is that if God can turn the fiercest opponent of the Lord into his most willing servant, he has the ability to save anyone." (IVP Commentary)

- What did Ananias have to do, in order to do as God asked?
- Have you ever been called to pray for someone, or talk to someone about your faith in Jesus that you were afraid of, or intimidated by, like Ananias was?
- What does this story tell you about the people we believe are the most unlikely people to respond to Jesus?
- Who in your life is currently a Saul? How will you pray for them differently after reading this story today?

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