

# BEHIND THE SCENES // Week 1

INTRO // Hey Welcome to Faith Students! Tell the person next to you, you belong here.

*HEART OF SERIES // Have you ever had a hard time believing in something that you can't physically see? For example, maybe it's something that takes place in the future that you don't know how it will play out or maybe a promise of some sort that someone gave you that you don't one hundred percent trust. Our default answer in these situations are usually "I will believe it when I see it". In the same way, it can be hard to trust in a God that you can't physically see. Even harder to see what He is doing? It can sometimes leave us asking the tough moments of life, where is God? How is he moving? But that's the catch, we serve a God who often works behind the scenes to work all things together for good. Through this series, we will be walking through moments in the bible, when God works behind the scenes, works things together for good, and what we can take away from it.*

**ILLUSTRATION // Example of a time you got lost and tried to find your way back. (Engaging or funny story)**

**TENSION // Just like this example of getting lost, we all have been in a situation where we may feel lost in life. Where do I start to get back on track? Maybe you're new here or maybe you have been in church your whole life but feel stagnant. Today we will be answering the questions: Where do I start? How do I get back on track?**

**SCRIPTURE // Acts 9:1-9; 15-19**

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.

15 But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel. 16 I will show him how much he must suffer for my name."

17 Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." 18 Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, 19 and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

**\*Paraphrase if needed\***

**BREAKDOWN //**

- Saul is killing and imprisoning anyone belonging to the Way (followers of Jesus)
- A light flashed and we realized God was speaking to Saul.
- Jesus tells Saul why are you persecuting me and my people?
- Saul goes blind for 3 days

- Jesus leads Ananias to Saul to heal him.
- Saul regains his vision and gets baptized!
- Crazy, a man who once cursed Jesus now is living for him!
- So what is the point? How is God working behind the scenes?

**MAIN POINT // Before you even get it, God got you!**

**EMPHASIS 1 // God Chose You In Your Brokenness.**

**ILLUSTRATION // Give an example of when you got picked last.**

- We see in this story that Saul was a last picked type of person.
- He was a murderer of Christ followers, threw Christians in jail (he sucked!)
- But Jesus showed himself to him and chose Saul.

**APPLICATION // Where do I start?**

- Knowing that no matter how you feel or what you've done, you are picked by God.
- **Roman 5:8 - While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**
- **John 15:18 - You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit**
- If you feel far from God today, just know God chose to be close to you.

**CHALLENGE // So start with this:**

- This week take your brokenness to Jesus. (spend time in his presence, pray for 5-10 min)
- Connect with a leader or someone with faith in your life to help you.

**EMPHASIS 2 // God Leads You To The Broken.**

**ILLUSTRATION // Give an example of when you got called on to lead in some capacity.**

- We see in the story that God was choosing Saul in his brokenness.
- But we also see that God was calling Ananias to the broken.
- Ananias listened and obeyed what God called him to do which was to find Saul and help him to see again and all he had to do was SHOW UP

**APPLICATION // How do I get back on track?**

- If you are stagnant in your faith walk, it may be because you stopped at deliverance when God was calling you to the next step, a disciple.
- Disciples understand the weight and magnitude of Christ bringing them from death to life.
- Disciples understand that though they are not perfect, that God uses imperfect people to minister to other imperfect people for His glory.
- Disciples understand that deliverance is what He did for me, while discipleship is what He can do through me.
- **Romans 10:14 - "How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!'"**
- **JUST LIKE ANANIAS, IF WE SHOW UP GOD WILL SHOW OUT!**

**CHALLENGE // So this is how to move:**

**JUST SHOW UP!**

- Stand for Christ (Read your bible, stand on the truth)

- Spread the Gospel (Tell about God's goodness this week to someone in school)
- Represent! (Everywhere you go be a representation of Christ)

ALTARS WITH ACTION //

- Salvation
- Call that involves everyone (re-commission students)