

## **Acts 9:1-19a**

### **Read Acts 9:1-19a**

This is perhaps the most famous of Christian conversions, that of Saul to Paul. Our current sermon series on belonging, extending hospitality, invites us to reflect primarily on Ananias as the one who extends hospitality to an enemy.

1. From the details of the text locate how Saul and Ananias may be thinking / feeling leading up to their interaction.
2. It appears that Ananias took his feeling and his thinking and made the gospel a conversation partner. What likely was his internal conversation with the gospel to lead him to come to Saul with confidence and familial affection?
3. What does Paul learn about the core of the gospel in the interaction between them?

### **Read Luke 10:25-37**

In a way this parable of Jesus gives us a similar picture. A man beaten, mugged and left for dead opens his eyes to behold his enemy, the Samaritan, wiping blood from his face and attending to his every need.

4. For Jesus the picture of an enemy coming in love was at the core of the gospel. Discuss.
5. Ananias reveals to us that extending hospitality is about becoming an embodiment of the gospel to another. Discuss
6. What does our reflection on Ananias teach us about how we might be shaped to be an embodiment of the gospel for others? What will be the impact upon us as we do?