

November 6

Acts 8:26-40

This passage tells of the baptism of an Ethiopian government official.

Question to Consider:

This was an important event in the history of the early church because it marks the first time that someone in a powerful position outside Israel was converted to Christianity. Recall your own conversion. When did you receive Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord? What do you recall about your baptism?

Prayer:

Father God, I thank you for sending Jesus and I thank you for offering the gift of forgiveness and salvation through him. I pray that I will be like Phillip and seize the moment when someone says he/she is ready to accept the gift of salvation in Christ. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

November 7

Acts 9:1-19

This passage tells a story of huge significance to the Christian faith – the conversion of Saul.

Question to Consider:

Saul's life changed dramatically when he encountered Jesus. Do you believe that you have ever encountered Jesus? When? What happened? How has that encounter shaped your faith?

Prayer:

Gracious God, I pray that I will always be open to an encounter with Jesus. Help me to believe that such an encounter is possible, and help me to be receptive to it when such an encounter comes. It is in the name of Jesus that I pray, Amen.

November 8

Acts 9:20-31

In these verses, we read that Saul, by now a committed follower of Christ, was beginning to preach – to the amazement of all who had known him before.

Question to Consider:

Have you ever known somebody who changed radically, from one who was deep in sinful behavior to a committed Christ follower? How did you react to the change?

Prayer:

Almighty God, I know that you can work miracles and that you can turn someone's life around completely. Whenever I see that, help me to remember your power to change lives, to let go of my memories of the person's past, and to love the person for what he/she has become. I pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

November 9

Acts 10:1-23a (the first part of verse 23)

This passage tells the first part of the story of Peter's encounter with Cornelius.

Question to Consider:

Both Peter and Cornelius had communications from God that directed them to do something unusual. Have you ever felt that God was calling you to do something strange? Did you do it?

Prayer:

Loving God, the day will come when you call on me to step out in faith and do something unusual or unexpected. When that day comes, I pray that I will react the same way Peter and Cornelius did. I pray that I will say "Yes, Lord." In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

November 10

Acts 10:23b-48

This passage tells the second part of the story of Peter's encounter with Cornelius.

Question to Consider:

This is a major story for the early church because it was at this moment that Peter realized the gospel of Jesus Christ is not just for the Jews, but it is for the whole world. Can you think of something important to you (maybe a custom or belief) that you came to realize is not just for you, but is for everyone?

Prayer:

Merciful God, you love everyone, even people I don't know and who may be much different from me. Help me to love them as you do, and to celebrate the fact that your love, grace, and blessings are available to all. I pray in Jesus' name, Amen.