



SeniorTools

OVER THE FENCE: LIVING THE LOVE OF GOD | OPEN UP
FEBRUARY 4 – 5, 2012 | ACTS 9:1-18

Things have changed just a bit since we were little, don't you think? Just the recent onslaught of technology and social media is enough to blow my mind. But when you think about life 50, 60, or even 70 years ago (or more!) ... wow. What an amazing, often unfathomable, difference.

What's also amazing is how God's love and presence stays constant in our lives throughout all of those changes. And throughout all the changes that previous generations experienced, and throughout all the changes that future generations will face. It's the constant throughout all the change. But sometimes we struggle to see it.

In today's text we see Saul/Paul's conversion story. It's as dramatic and charged as any blockbuster movie! The powerful, relentless, brutal Christian-hater encounters the bright light of God and is temporarily blinded. Then, in a twist of fate usually reserved for Hollywood, this changed man travels throughout the known world, fearlessly spreading the good news of Jesus Christ. Ironically, this eventually costs him his life.

It's hard to beat that, isn't it? So often we think our story has to be bigger than life in order to matter. It needs drama and star power, right?

Wrong! Your own story, however big or small, loud or quiet, dramatic or subtle, matters very much. It has shaped you already, and it touches those around you every day. Your life is the canvas upon which God's story is

Painted for others to see! What does it look like?

Don't you love it when someone asks you talk about when you were young, or what it was like for you growing up? How is the story you tell infused with God's presence? We all have a story to tell about what God has done in and through us, but not all of us believe, or even see how, our own story carries God's power.

Take a blank sheet of paper and draw a horizontal line along the bottom, a few inches up from the edge of the paper. Use it to create a timeline from when you were born until now. Mark your significant moments along the timeline. Pay attention to joys, struggles and transitions you've been through. If you want, graph them as high and low points of your journey. How do you perceive God's presence throughout your timeline? How did you see God at work during the different points of your life?

Reflect, too, on your relationships. God uses relationships as bridges into other people's lives. Use your timeline to consider the people who have played a part in your life.

Has anyone ever shared a story with you about the presence of God in his or her life? How did that affect you? Are you beginning to see how God can use your very own, special story to help others?

Dear God, help me to see you in my story, and to share your presence with others. Amen.

