**Extreme Makeover - Notes**

A common thread in superhero movies is transformation. Peter Parker, an average person, becomes the high-flying Spiderman after a spider bite. Bruce Banner changes into the uncontrollably big and violent Hulk when he gets angry. In addition to the physical changes they experience, the heroes and villains also go through character changes. Perhaps the process of transformation is what makes these superhero movies relatable and more believable. Today, we will examine Paul’s transformation in the Bible as we dive into 1 Timothy.

**Discussion Question:** Share about a time when somebody or somebody changed so much that it surprised you.

*Read Acts 9:1-22.*

1. Summarize what happens in this passage. What do you learn about Saul? What do you imagine Saul felt with his encounter with Jesus?

- Saul is murdering Christians (followers of the Way)

- he is blinded by a light and Jesus speaks asks him why he’s persecuting Him

- he is blinded and does not eat for three days

- healed by Ananias after God tells Ananias to do so in a vision

- filled w/ the Holy Spirit (v. 18)

- v. 20: Immediately he starts preaching Jesus as the Son of God

2. What roles do the other people play in this passage? Why are they included?

- Ananias receives vision from God and obeys to restore Saul

- the Lord chooses to use a person to help him

- shows God’s plan for the church to be His hands and feet and how we are called to depend on others in the church

- he was also w/ the disciples at Damascus

- the people in v. 21 show how Paul’s live took a 180-degree change

*Read 1 Timothy 1:12-17.*

3. a. How do these verses that Paul (formerly Saul) writes match up with the Acts passage?

- matches up w/ the Acts passage well

- how Paul was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent before

- and now he is living to display Jesus’s perfect patience

- the difference is Jesus

b. How did Paul change so much? Why does he write about his transformation?

- though he didn’t deserve it (the “But” in v. 13), the grace of the Lord was poured out on him through Jesus

- he writes to Timothy about this to give God all the glory (v. 17)

- it’s clear from his writings that he did not earn salvation, but he was the worst sinner and was saved entirely through grace

- he is thankful (v. 12)

4. Reflect on your relationship with God right now. In what areas have you experienced God’s grace and patience? In what areas do you want to experience God’s grace and patience more? Share with the group.

- lead the group by sharing first

- it may be helpful to follow Paul’s example: share about what you were like before and after Jesus

- encourage each member to speak, to see where each person is at in their relationship w/ God

5. **Application:** As we look ahead to the summer, how can we as brothers and sisters encourage each other towards Christ? In what ways can you personally encourage the people in this family group towards Christ?