PRAYER AND FASTING

Now that we've concluded our 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting, take some time to reflect on your journey together. Consider these questions as you encourage one another in what God has been doing:

- Were there specific areas in your life where you received clarity or direction?
- · How did you experience God's presence during this time?
- How do you feel now as the time has concluded? What do you sense God is inviting you into next?

WARM-UP QUESTION

Think of someone you admire for their godly grit. What stands out to you about them?

DISCUSS

Start your discussion by sharing what stood out to you from Sunday's message. Were there any new insights or key takeaways for you?

Read <u>Acts 9:1-19</u> (For context, Paul's former name was Saul. God changed his name after his transformation.)

- What words, phrases, or themes stand out to you in this passage?
- Before meeting Jesus, what was Paul (Saul) committed to? What was his mission? (See verses 1-2.)
- What does it say about Jesus that He's calling people who are actively against Him?
- In verse 15, what does God call Paul (Saul)? Why is the word "chosen" significant in this context?
- What other examples in the Bible show how God uses broken or unlikely people for His purposes?
- After encountering Jesus, what does Paul do in response? Why is it crucial that our encounters with God lead to action?
- Have you ever had a radical encounter with Jesus? How did it shape your life?

Read 1 Corinthians 15:8-10

- Compare Paul's transformation in Acts 9 to what he says in this passage. What changes do you see?
- What does this passage reveal about having godly grit as a follower of Jesus? (Look up the definition of grit.)



- Paul acknowledges his past and feelings of unworthiness yet still steps into his calling.
 How does this demonstrate grit in following Jesus?
- Paul acknowledges his own hard work but also credits God's grace for his labor. How can
 we balance personal grit with dependence on God? What's the difference between grit and
 godly grit?
- What does it look like to keep developing Godly grit? Why should our lives look different now than when we first gave our lives to Jesus?
- Where do you see God at work in this passage? What difference does He make?

TAKE ACTION

Take some time to reflect on this message series. What was most impactful? Where has God asked you to lean in and grow as a durable disciple? What action steps are you taking to move forward in this? Discuss how your group can hold one another accountable to your commitments.

- I Will Choose to Be Consistent
- I Will Declare War on Temptation
- · I Will Deal with Criticism in Healthy Ways
- I Will Not Stay Offended
- I Will Seek Wisdom
- I Will Choose Joy
- I Will Find Healing from My Past
- I Will Develop Godly Grit

Over and over in Scripture, we see the importance of knowing and doing. Take some time to make an individual commitment statement (I will...) based on the information above and your discussion today (ex: I will write down God's truth on sticky notes this week and place them around my home to combat the lies of the enemy).

Spend a few minutes praying as a group, asking God to show you what He's saying and what you need to obey to help craft your "I will" statement. Then, after praying, share your "I will" statements, keeping them as simple and practical as possible.

Discuss how your group can hold one another accountable to your commitments and then finish your time by taking communion together.