

### III. ENCOURAGE GUESTS (9:26-28)

The key person is Barnabas.

*“36 And Joses, who was also named Barnabas by the apostles (which is translated Son of Encouragement), a Levite of the country of Cyprus, 37 having land, sold it, and brought the money and laid it at the apostles’ feet.”* Acts 4:36-37

A. The disciples had a legitimate concern about Paul.

*“And when Saul had come to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples; but they were all afraid of him, and did not believe that he was a disciple.”* Acts 9:26

*“Now Saul was consenting to his death. At that time a great persecution arose against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. 2 And devout men carried Stephen to his burial, and made great lamentation over him. 3 As for Saul, he made havoc of the church, entering every house, and dragging off men and women, committing them to prison.”* Acts 8:1-3

B. Barnabas stepped up and encouraged the disciples to receive Paul.

*“27 But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. And he declared to them how he had seen the Lord on the road, and that He had spoken to him, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus. 28 So he was with them at Jerusalem, coming in and going out.”* Acts 9:27-28

**FIND HOME WITH CHURCH TODAY!**

## WELCOME HOME Finding Home With Church Pastor Steve Reynolds

### INTRODUCTION

A. Home is where the heart is...Make yourself at home... Home sweet home...Home away from home. This list goes on and on. We sure do like to talk a lot about “home”.

At home you are family. You are safe and you can be yourself. You are loved and you are cherished.

God desires to welcome you home and for you to experience all the aspects of being home. Romans 15:7, says. *“Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.”* (ESV)

The problem is most people have never found “home”. This sad reality breaks God’s heart and it should break our hearts.

B. Our Welcome Home teaching series will teach you how to find “home” in four different ways. This series features the following messages:

June 28	Welcome Home...Who You Are In God’s Family
July 5	Finding Home With Jesus
July 12	Finding Home With Relationships
TODAY	Finding Home With Church
July 26	Finding Home With Heaven
August 2	Bringing Others Home

C. **TEXT:** Acts 9:10-28 (Pew Bible/Pg. 1079/New Test.)

Paul’s testimony is a pattern for all believers.

*“However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life.”*

I Timothy 1:16

## HOW TO FIND HOME WITH CHURCH

### I. **MAKE** DISCIPLES (9:10-22)

The key person is **Ananias** (9:10-16).

*“19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,*

*20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.”* Matthew 28:19-20

A. Disciples are filled with the **Holy Spirit**.

*“ And Ananias went his way and entered the house; and laying his hands on him he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.”* Acts 9:17

B. Disciples get **baptized**.

*“Immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he received his sight at once; and he arose and was baptized.”* Acts 9:18

C. Disciples **fellowship** with other believers.

*“So when he had received food, he was strengthened. Then Saul spent some days with the disciples at Damascus.”* Acts 9:19

D. Disciples **witness** to the lost.

*“20 Immediately he preached the Christ in the synagogues, that He is the Son of God.*

*21 Then all who heard were amazed, and said, “Is this not he who destroyed those who called on this name in Jerusalem, and has come here for that purpose, so that he might bring them bound to the chief priests?”* Acts 9:20-21

E. Disciples grow strong in the **Word** and **faith**.

*“But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who dwelt in Damascus, proving that this Jesus is the Christ.”* Acts 9:22

### II. **PROTECT** BELIEVERS (9:23-25)

The key people are the **disciples** of **Damascus**.

*“32 In Damascus the governor, under Aretas the king, was guarding the city of the Damascenes with a garrison, desiring to arrest me;*

*33 but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and escaped from his hands.”* II Corinthians 11:32-33

A. The world will **persecute** believers.

*“Now after many days were past, the Jews plotted to kill him.”* Acts 9:23

*“Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.”* II Timothy 3:12

B. The church must **stand** together and **watch** over each other.

*“24 But their plot became known to Saul. And they watched the gates day and night, to kill him.*

*25 Then the disciples took him by night and let him down through the wall in a large basket.”* Acts 9:24-25

*“Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends.”* John 15:13