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# RISE

## Rise Week # 3: A City of Refuge



RISE.

It's a calling that leaders realize when they are faithful and fruitful to God's commands. It's a command that God gives when it's time to go forward and live into a promise. It's the crown of victory that God's people seize through patience and persistence.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Describe a time when you have failed. What moments of restoration, forgiveness, learning, or the like were important or transformative moments that resulted from the failure?
2. **Read Acts 9:1-19.**
  - a. Describe Saul's leadership according to Acts 9:1-2.
  - b. What happens to Saul when he encounters Jesus Christ on the road to Damascus?
  - c. **Read Philippians 3:4-11.** While Paul had every confidence as a leader *before* his Damascus Road experience, what does he say about that confidence *after* the experience?
3. **Read Acts 9:20-25.** After Paul begins following Jesus and stops persecuting the Church (the very people of refuge Paul persecuted!), the Church becomes the people of refuge who protect him. Why do you think the Church was willing to forgive and later protect Paul (v. 25)? How might the early Church's treatment of Paul encourage us to be a place/people of refuge for others?
4. Followers of Jesus were persecuted heavily in the early days of the Church. In many respects, the Church was a city of refuge when believers met and gathered together. Have you experienced the Church as a place of refuge? Why or why not? If needed, what changes could the Church apply?
5. Why do some Christians have difficulty in owning their own need for refuge and restoration? How can the group encourage one another to make its meetings a time/place/people of refuge?
6. *Spend some time as a group sharing struggles and concerns. Pray for one another, and pray that the group time would become a place & people of refuge. For deeper needs, consider offering encouragement to reach out to the pastoral staff at Revolution or join our Celebrate Recovery Ministry.*

### BE THE REVOLUTION

We all need a place, people, and time for refuge - this is why Jesus gives us his Church.

### RENOVATING THE HEART

But his disciples took him by night and let him down through the opening in the wall, lowering him in a basket. (*Acts 9:25*).