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## How to Influence the World

### Luke's History

*Meanwhile, Saul was uttering threats with every breath. He was eager to destroy the Lord's followers, so he went to the high priest. He requested letters addressed to the synagogues in Damascus, asking their cooperation in the arrest of any followers of the Way he found there. He wanted to bring them—both men and women—back to Jerusalem in chains.*

*As he was nearing Damascus on this mission, a brilliant light from heaven suddenly beamed down upon him! He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul! Saul! Why are you persecuting me?" "Who are you, sir?" Saul asked.*

*And the voice replied, "I am Jesus, the one you are persecuting! Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you are to do."*

*The men with Saul stood speechless with surprise, for they heard the sound of someone's voice, but they saw no one! As Saul picked himself up off the ground, he found that he was blind. So his companions led him by the hand to Damascus. He remained there blind for three days. And all that time he went without food and water.*

*Now there was a believer in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord spoke to him in a vision, calling, "Ananias!"*

*"Yes, Lord!" he replied. The Lord said, "Go over to Straight Street, to the house of Judas. When you arrive, ask for Saul of Tarsus. He is praying to me right now. I have shown him a vision of a man named Ananias coming in and laying his hands on him so that he can see again."*

*"But Lord," exclaimed Ananias, "I've heard about the terrible things this man has done to the believers in Jerusalem! And we hear that he is authorized by the leading*

*priests to arrest every believer in Damascus."*

*But the Lord said, "Go and do what I say. For Saul is my chosen instrument to take my message to the Gentiles and to kings, as well as to the people of Israel. And I will show him how much he must suffer for me."*

*So Ananias went and found Saul. He laid his hands on him and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road, has sent me so that you may get your sight back and be filled with the Holy Spirit."*

*Instantly something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he got up and was baptized.*

*Afterward he ate some food and was strengthened. (Acts 9:1-19 NLT)*

### Paul's Version

*A man named Ananias lived there. He was a godly man in his devotion to the law, and he was well thought of by all the Jews of Damascus. He came to me and stood beside me and said, 'Brother Saul, receive your sight.' And that very hour I could see him! "Then he told me, 'The God of our ancestors has chosen you to know his will and to see the Righteous One and hear him speak. You are to take his message everywhere, telling the whole world what you have seen and heard. (Acts 22:12-15 NLT)*

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## Thoughts to Chew On

- Think back - who are the three most influential people in your life?
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  - Why did they influence you?
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  - What qualities did they have?
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  - What's different about you or your life because of their influence?
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  - Let's look at Ananias- what made him so influential in Paul's life?
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  - What qualities did he have?
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  - What role did he play in Paul's life?
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  - What can we learn from him?
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  - How can we be like him?
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