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# ELEMENTARY DISCUSSION GUIDE

# CHARACTER TRAIT: DISCERNMENT

## **DEFINITION**:

Seeking God's direction before acting

## **MEMORY VERSE**:

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek His will in all you do, and He will show you which path to take." **PROVERBS 3:5-6 NLT** 

#### FINISH LINE:

Choose God's way and obey

#### **READ**: ACTS 9:10-19; PROVERBS 3:5-6

#### WHAT DOES IT SAY? (OBSERVATION)

- 1. Who was Ananias? (A Christ follower who lived in Damascus)
- 2. What did the Lord ask Ananias to do? (Go find Saul and to heal him of his blindness.)
- 3. Read verse 1. What did people know about Saul? (He was an enemy of Christians and wanted to kill the Lord's followers.)
- 4. What were Ananias' two options? (He could stay home and be "safe" OR trust that God can change even the hardest hearts and go find Saul, a man who was once his enemy.)
- 5. Did Ananias listen to what God said? (Yes!) What did he choose to do? (He trusted that God would protect him and went to find Saul. God used him to heal Saul of his blindness.)

#### WHAT DOES IT MEAN? (INTERPRETATION)

- Do you think Ananias lived out our definition of discernment? How? (Yes. He sought God's direction before acting.)
- 2. Look at verses 13-14. Which steps of discernment did Ananias use in this story? (He stopped and prayed about the right way to go. He asked God for wisdom and listened to what He said. He made the choice to find Saul and obeyed God.)
- 3. What did the Lord tell Ananias in verse 15? (God had great plans for Saul. He would use Saul to tell others, even kings, about the gospel.) Did God end up using Saul the way He promised? (Yes! Saul became Paul, one of the greatest missionaries who wrote a lot of the New Testament.)

#### WHY DOES IT MATTER? (APPLICATION)

- Does God sometimes ask us to do things that are scary or uncomfortable? How would you feel if God told you to go and care for your enemy or someone who has a bad reputation?
- 2. What can you remember is true about God in those times? How could you show discernment instead of depending on your own understanding?