# The Leading of the Spirit 10. Inspiration to take risks with an enemy Acts 9:1-31

# Taking risks is always hard

## This passage tells us that God:

### is at work in the world

### is at work in individuals in the world

### inspires individual Christians to take risks for the kingdom of Christ

# God intervenes in people’s lives

## Saul: ‘a wild boar of a man’

### Someone who was actively seeking the destruction of believers

## Then God stepped in

### Not sudden, not compulsive grace

#### This was gentle grace at work

### This still happens today

# God speaks to individuals

## He does it in words, in visions, in ideas

### He wants action when He communicates

### He does NOT tell everyone in the church

# God asks Christians to take risks

## Ananias is challenged to go to Saul

### He knows that obedience is better than sacrifice, so he goes

## Paul is inspired to take risks for Christ

### Preaching the message he sought to destroy

#### The goads had been changed to promptings of love by the Spirit of God

# Taking risks with an enemy is not always wise

## This is how the Holy Spirit leads at times

# Homegroup/Private study questions

## Paul describes this in Acts 26:9-20 and Gal 1:13-24

### Please read these first

# The goads of Paul (26:14)

## How does the idea of the ‘goads’ help you understand the process of evangelism and salvation?

### What do you think were the goads of Paul?

### What were your goads in becoming a Christian?

# God’s voice to you

## When have you ‘heard’ God speak to you?

### How did you know it was God?

### What did He say, how did you respond, what was the outcome?

## Why do you think God does not tell everyone in the church what He wants you to do?

# Risk taking

## ‘Reaching out is always a risk’

### How far do you agree with this statement?

### Give examples of when you have done this and it was successful

### Give of examples of when it was not successful

### How far do you agree that it is better to take risks and be disappointed than to not take them?

## Is risk-taking part of developing all relationships?

### Explain your answer

## What could have happened if Ananias had got it wrong (in that Saul had not encountered Jesus)?

## What could have happened if Ananias had not responded positively to God’s call?

### What lessons should we learn from this?

## How might the conversation have gone if Ananias went reluctantly or harbouring anger?

### How does this inform your view of risk-taking in relationships?

## In what ways did Barnabas take risks for Paul? (9:26ff)