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## Country Roads

### Part 4 – Where I Found Jesus (The Damascus Road)

Pastor Ted Cunningham

We're in this series called *Country Roads*; it's Part 4. The first service was so much fun. I had a small child who heckled me through the whole service. I don't mean making noise, I mean talking back to me as I asked questions to the congregation. I told the mom, "Don't you dare remove that child. This is fun." We welcome hecklers at our church. And all God's people said... Amen. If you feel inclined to talk back to me during a message, don't get physical because we have security and stuff that will take you out, but if you heckle to the point of tasing, we're good with that. We're encouraging you to share with us.

We've been talking a lot about salvation in this series, from the exclusivity of Christ to today. We're talking about your story, your salvation story. In every message, we want to start with understanding another piece and understanding how to share and communicate the gospel. In Ephesians 2: 10, we read, ***For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*** It's very important that we understand. Salvation does not come to you by doing good works. After you are saved, you are saved to do good works, which is the fruit. We are not saved by good works. The righteousness of Christ does not come to us by what we do or don't do; it comes to us by placing faith alone in Christ alone, and we are saved to do good works.

This week, I heard a pastor talking about Ephesians 2: 10. I love what he said, "You need to stop complaining about the pieces the Master gave you and start acting like a masterpiece." I always quote someone else when I don't want the sting to be from me. Anyway, I thought that was good that we would understand that.

Today, we're talking about your story, your salvation story. Whenever we talk about this... I grew up in a church where we heard some great stories, and I found myself comparing. I find myself comparing my story to other people's stories because, frankly, I sometimes think I have a boring story. Today, what we're talking about is **you don't need someone else's story; you need your own story.** What is God doing in your life? What does your life look like after you've placed faith in Jesus? What are you doing to workout your salvation? We're all different and we don't need to compare our stories. Your story is unique to you.

I was just at a conference in California. They introduced me as a quirky, Midwest Pastor. Everybody laughed, and I thought *that's perfect; that's exactly who I am. I'm a sweater vest-wearing, comfort food-eating pastor in the Heartland of America.* I'm not from the East Coast and neither are you, and all God's people said... Amen! I'm not from California, and all God's people said... Amen! I'm from Branson.

What do you expect? That's who I am, and I embrace it. I'm not trying to be someone else. You're never going to see me as a hipster pastor. You're not going to ever see me in skinny jeans. I will tell you I do own a pair, but that's my little gift for Amy. That's not for you. Let me add to that my age. You're age plays into your story.

Last night, we decided we were going to go to Pie Five and a movie because we're crazy Midwestern people and this is our night. Our date's going to be Pie Five and then a movie at 7:00. We get done with Pie Five early; right around 6:00. Amy goes, "Oh, we've got time to go to Target."

She goes to Target, she gets back to the car and we have plenty of time to get to the movie, but I turned to her and I go, "You know, this movie doesn't get over until 9:00. We're not going to get home until 9:30. Doesn't that seem late to you?"

She goes, "That is pretty late." All the entertainers are like, "Shut your face."

I'm like, "Yeah, let's just go home."

This is where we're at. We're old people in the Midwest going home. On the way home, she goes, "Let's watch a Hallmark movie," to which I said, "Yeah!" We're flipping through the channels to find a Hallmark movie; we land on one and she goes, "I don't know if I've seen this one or not." I'm like, "Trust me; you've seen it." If you've seen one, you've seen both. It's either Candice Cameron Bure or someone who looks like her. They're all filmed in Canada, let's move on with pressing play on this movie.

Are you embracing where you are right now? Are you comparing yourself to others? I just fell into this growing up in church where I heard so many stories. My story is boring. I came to know the Lord at eight. We would have these evangelists come into our church that had been in biker gangs and committed major crimes. They would share their story of coming to faith and I'd sit out there in awe of their stories. At age eight, I hadn't committed any major crimes yet. I hadn't been addicted to anything yet. I thought my story was boring. Then you have to be careful in our culture today with the celebrity culture. You can begin to see these sensational stories from pastors and leaders, and coming to know the Lord from a Muslim home into Christianity. You can hear all and think your story is really boring.

Here's the bottom line. **You don't need a sensational story, but you do need a salvation story.** Do you have one. Can you tell someone what your life was like before Christ? Can you tell someone who shared the gospel with you? Where were you when you placed faith in Jesus? What's your life like after coming to Christ?

When I ask people their story, I'm always listening because sometimes when you ask someone to share their salvation story or their faith story with you, you get works. "I do this, I do this, I don't do this." You see someone sharing with you, "I've done this, so..." Sometimes when you're talking to people who say they are Christians, you don't get a clear, "I placed faith alone in Christ alone."

I hear it at our church. It's one reason we are on week 4 of this series. I'll ask people about their story and they'll say things to me like, "I just hope at the end the good Lord let's me in." They're counting on

works for their righteousness. Remember what Jesus has been doing for us this series. He's holding up a mirror. He held it up to the lawyer; he holds it up to the Pharisees and says, "I just want you guys to know. I know you're not perfect; I need you to figure that out. You think you can live up to the law, but you can't; you need me."

If you ask people their story, sometimes you'll hear this: "I've always been a Christian." The answer to that is no you haven't because you were conceived in iniquity." We've been teaching, "For there is none righteous, no not one, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." I hear this one a lot: "My parent where Christians." "I grew up in a Christian home." Growing up in a Christian home does not make you a Christian.

My son, who is a home schooler with Liberty University, is taking online eighth grade classes. He's passionate about apologetics and studying the sciences and how it all works. He shared with us at dinner last week. He just shared it in passing, but we all stopped when he said... He shared a video that he had watched, and he said, "After watching that video, I've always known this stuff, but I paused." Amy and I were just leaning into our son's story. He goes, "I just paused because something clicked for me in that moment. I've learned all these facts..." He's always been passionate about facts. He should go on Jeopardy. He's got some much of this in his mind. He said, "Something clicked, and I believed it." He placed faith in Jesus at a young age.

I asked him at 13 years old, "Carson, do you think it was that moment that your faith became real to you?"

He said, "I think it was, Dad. I think it was that moment. I know I've placed faith in Jesus, I know I've prayed the prayer, but it was that moment that something clicked for me."

Some of you are just piggybacking off of your parents' faith and you've never placed faith in Jesus. Some would say, "I grew up in church." You see how this is just close and it sounds good? Just to remind you, standing in a garage doesn't make you a car. Sitting in church doesn't make you a Christian. "I go to Woodland Hills."

Today, we're going to be in Acts 9 and we're going to see the story of Paul's conversion. We're going to see an incredible story of one who was breathing out murderous threats against the Lord, and was saved. What we want to see is his conversion, yes, but then what happened immediately following placing faith in Jesus? If you have your Bibles, turn with us to Acts 9. We're going to go through 19 verses and then I'm going to actually read a few more after that. I encourage you to follow his story from this chapter on, but we're going to pick it up in Verse 1, Chapter 9.

**1 Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples.** Why? He thought the disciples and Jesus were a great threat to Judaism and he wanted to wipe them out. He was a great persecutor of Christians. ***He went to the high priest 2 and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way... Any Christians, any people that were following Jesus and his Way. ...whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. 3 As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed***

around him. **4** He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?”

**5** “Who are you, Lord?” Saul asked.

**6** “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,” he replied. **6** “Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.” Who was around when you placed faith in Jesus? I love this next part of the story.

**7** The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless...

This week, I was thinking of a friend of mine in high school. He was the biggest class clown. He was always getting in trouble. He wore me out. He came after me, trying to get me to do stuff, and I’m like, “You know I don’t do that, Mike.” Mike placed faith in Jesus his senior year at our church. His parents bought him a Bible for Christmas and he was reading through that Bible over Christmas and then in January, he placed faith in Jesus. Everything about his life changed. He was radically saved. I just stood there, listening to him proclaim the name of Jesus to our classmates, and they were scoffing him. They were like, “Mike, come on. This ain’t you.” I stood there for about the last half of our senior year, speechless, watching the Lord work in Mike’s life.

These men were speechless. **8** ...they heard the sound but did not see anyone. **8** Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. **9** For three days he was blind and did not eat or drink anything.

Here’s a working definition of conversion. We just want to be really clear that when we are talking about someone who places faith in Jesus, here’s what it means to become converted, to become born again: “The decisive act in which a sinner turns away from sin in genuine repentance and accepts the salvation that Christ offers.” It’s faith alone in Christ alone. Paul is converted in this text, he becomes a Christian. We’re going from murderous threats to now he’s going to be preaching the gospel and we see it pick up again in Verse 10.

**10** In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, “Ananias!”

“Yes, Lord,” he answered.

**11** The Lord told him, “Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. **12** In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight.”

In Verse 13, Ananias is going to explain to the Lord why it’s probably not a good idea for him to do that (maybe you’ve done this before). Have you ever reminded the Lord about someone’s life? You’ve been prompted by the Holy Spirit to take a step and to do something and yet you come up with an excuse. It’s not just an excuse not to do it, but you’re now going to share with the Lord why you’re not going to do it. Ananias obeys the Lord, make no doubt about it, but he is going to remind the Lord about this guy.

***13 “Lord,” Ananias answered, “I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your holy people in Jerusalem. 14 And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name.”***

**Have you every questioned someone’s salvation because of their past?** My friend Mike who is now a pastor. He’s been a pastor at a Baptist church. He’s now the national leader or representative for the General Association of Regular Baptists. God’s really using him as an instrument, as we are going to see in a second, but I just remember people questioning him. “Are you sure?”

**Have you ever had your salvation questioned because of your past?** Have you ever been in a place where you’re sharing faith with someone and they’re like, “Not you! I can’t believe it!” You know the only response to that is, “I can’t believe it either.” But it’s not about me cleaning myself up; it’s about what Jesus applied to me. We are saved not by works, but we’re saved from the finished work of Jesus. Some of you have had people question your salvation because of your past. I think every time someone does or anytime the enemy wants to remind you of your past and the brokenness and the broken marriages and the broken relationships and the affairs, it’s one more opportunity to look to your heavenly Father with a smile and say thank you. I know. My past does nothing to earn what I have. I have it because of what Jesus did for me.

We’ve heard this as an old expression: **“You’ll be shocked by some of the folks you see in heaven.”**

I did a funeral years ago for a leader in town in his 70s who came to know the Lord two weeks before he died. When I was preaching his funeral... I had heard he was a rough guy before he got saved. I was preaching his funeral as a believer in Christ Jesus. It was the most interesting funeral I had ever preached because people were just talking amongst themselves, looking very confused. A couple of times I could tell... Some were like, “He’s at the wrong funeral.”

Wouldn’t that be terrible to show up and begin preaching a funeral... I want to do a book some day on worst days on the job. It’s one of the great questions you can ask people to kind of get to know them. “Tell me about your worst day on the job.” I love asking doctors that and ER nurses that. I love asking comedians that, entertainers that. I love asking funeral home directors, “What’s your worst day on the job.” He goes, “When you cremate someone who wasn’t supposed to be cremated.” That’s a bad day. That’s a day you really can’t fix. That’s pretty much done until the Lord returns.

This was one of my worst days on the job. I’m sitting there preaching about how this man came to faith in Jesus and people were looking at me whispering, “No he didn’t. He was the most foul-mouthed, wicked person this town’s ever seen.” He was ruthless business man. Afterwards, people came up to me going “You don’t have a clue who you were talking about.” I’m like, “Well, I’m just going with the information I’ve got. I haven’t known him all that long, but I know the one who led him to Christ and I know what they talked about and then I was able to meet him, and I was able to see...”

I go, “Have you seen him in the last couple of weeks?” They go, “No.” I go, “You know the guy who has lived this long. If you would have seen the last couple of weeks... I wish you would have met the Christian.” You could just see them shaking their heads. That’s someone who believes salvation comes by works. We shared it already. That’s the parable of the workers in the vineyards. Some will work 12

hours, some will work only an hour, but they all get paid the same, which is eternal life in Christ Jesus. Whether you came to know the Lord at age eight or age 78, you have eternal life.

You're going to be shocked to see some people in heaven, but always keep this in mind: **"There will be some folks shocked to see you."**

**15 But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument..."** For you were created in Christ Jesus to do good works which he prepared in advance for you to do. ***"...to proclaim my name to the Gentiles..."*** He's going to be a preacher of the gospel, the one who has been killing Christians and those of the Way. ***"...and their kings and to the people of Israel. 16 I will show him how much he must suffer for my name."***

**17 Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul..."** Watch that. He just explained to the Lord, "Do you know who this guy is? He's come here to gather us up and take us back. He wants to wipe us out." And now he's talking to a member of the family. That's the gospel.

Some of you are listing to all of the reasons why you can't be a Christian. "I've been running and the amount of drugs I've been doing, the amount of people I've been sleeping with..." You just have these lists going in your head. Salvation isn't about the list; it's about Jesus, placing faith alone in Christ alone. Today, if you place faith in Jesus, I can look to you and call you brother, I can look to you and call you sister. Why? It's because you're part of the family of God.

Do you know that one of the proofs of salvation we read about in 1 John 3 is that if you are in the light, if you are a follower of Christ, you will love the family of God? That's why it doesn't make sense when you hear Christians say, "I love Jesus, I just don't care for the church." It doesn't work that way. It's a package deal. You're a brother or a sister in Christ. I'm called to love you.

***"...the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit."*** And I love this word. You're going to see it here and again later in the text on something that I read. ***18 Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, 19 and after taking some food, he regained his strength.***

You continue to read in Acts 9. I wish I could go through the whole chapter with you. ***Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus. 20 At once... So immediately ...he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God. 21 All those who heard him were astonished and asked, "Isn't he the man who raised havoc in Jerusalem among those who call on this name? And hasn't he come here to take them as prisoners to the chief priests?" 22 Yet Saul grew more and more powerful and baffled the Jews living in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Messiah.***

***23 After many days had gone by, there was a conspiracy among the Jews to kill him, 24 but Saul learned of their plan. Day and night they kept close watch on the city gates in order to kill him. 25 But his followers took him by night and lowered him in a basket through an opening in the wall.***

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What is your story? What was your life like before Christ? Tell me about the time, where you were, and what you were doing when you placed faith in Jesus. What's your life like after? What happened immediately? What happened at once? Why is this important? We want you, first and foremost, to know your salvation story so that you would know it for yourself.

Growing up in an independent, fundamental, premillennial, King James version only Baptist church, these evangelists that would come in and do altar calls. These altar calls were in your face, hell fire and brimstone. We would have revivals in the spring and in the fall. They would stand down there and give an invitation.

I remember this one guy. He was passionate, and he loved doing invitation. With the first verse, no one came forward, second verse no one came forward. I'm in a church with about 80, maybe 100 people on a Tuesday night. No one comes forward. I'm ten years old. I became a believer at the age of eight. I'm standing there in the row... We're were about seven rows from the back. That was our chosen spot. How many of you had a chosen spot at church? I sat in that spot next to my parents.

This guy got up and during the third verse, no one came forward, so now he's going to go after the Christians. He would say something like this before the last verse, talking about salvation. "Do you know that you know that you know that you know that you know? At ten, I'm going, "I thought I knew. You put it like that, I don't know! Probably not!" But then I remember at ten thinking, *Hey Bro, why are you asking me to question my salvation? I'm in! I'm here Sunday morning, Sunday night, and Wednesday night. I'm in the Lord's Army. I'm flying over the enemy. I'm here. I'm in.*

I remember looking around at our church, 80 to 100 people, and I'm like, *I know every single person in here. We've all been saved multiple times. We've all been baptized multiple times.* At ten, I go, "Dad, if I go up there, can we go home? I'll take one for the team. Let's get this thing going. The Bears are on; let's make this happen." You can see my mouth always got me in trouble. Because that's when my dad's hand would come around my mom's back and pop me right on the back of the head. I just want to go home.

I remember thinking, *who are you to make us all question our salvation? We know.* I can tell you where I was when I made the decision to follow Christ. **We want you to know for yourself**, so you don't have to live in doubt and you can nail this down. We also want you to know it, **so you can share it with others**. When asked, you don't give answers like, "I go to Woodland Hills." You don't give answers like, "My mom and dad are Christians." "I grew up in a Christian home. All the way back, multiple generations." I've asked some people when they came to know the Lord and they say, "Well, my daddy was a preacher. Actually, three generations of my family..." Your daddy being a preacher isn't your salvation story. It can be part of it. We also want this, **so you can teach your children**.

R.C. Sproul, years ago, wrote a great piece. I think it's 25 years old now. He wrote the piece on four types of people in the church. We've adapted this for children in the family setting or family church here, but here's another reason in how we teach our children. **We want children who are saved and know it.** They can give an account for it.

I still have the Bible at home where I wrote down when I became a Christian, the night I became a Christian. I wrote it down. I have it. I want my kids to know my story and I want to hear their story. I want to know that at this moment is when my faith became real. It was at this moment that I placed faith in Jesus.

**We don't want children who are saved and live with doubt.** You can ask questions. Of course, you can ask questions, but do not live doubting your salvation. You can stand up and say, "Yes, I know."

**We don't want children who are not saved, but think they are.** We don't want to raise children that say, "I grew up going to Woodland Hills." When asked about their salvation, they say, "I grew up in a Christian home." "Hey, I lived in Branson, of course I was saved." No. We want them to say, "I know. Here's when I placed faith in Jesus."

**We don't want children who are not saved and don't give it a second thought.** We want to be able to proclaim in. Grandma, grandpa, mom, dad, the story of our faith and how it's tied to His story.

Just to give you some framework as thanksgiving is coming up. Here are five questions that you can answer about your salvation. I just want to encourage you to go home... If you don't have a Bible with you this morning, find a Bible. I have this beautiful, blank, white page right here in the front. Answer these five questions so that when you're gone, your children, your grandchildren will know about your faith. Thanksgiving happens this week. You're going to have family coming over. You'll be able to share with them. If you're in sales, you're going, "Oh he's giving us our elevator pitch." It's not your elevator pitch. That's not the point of it. It's your salvation story.

1. What was your life like before Christ? Write a one-sentence answer to that.
2. Who shared the gospel with you? Was it Mom, Dad, Grandma, Grandpa? Was it a pastor or a Sunday school teacher or a coach or a camp counselor? Who shared the gospel?
3. Where were you and what were you doing when you placed faith in Jesus? With my friend Mike, I was there. I got to watch all that. I had a front row seat to his conversion and how his life has changed and now, almost 30 years later, how he continues to walk with the Lord and serve the Lord as an instrument of the Lord.
4. What happened immediately following your salvation? What did you do immediately? What happened at once in your life?
5. What is your life like now?

We asked you to share this week. I wish I could share all of them, but here are a few of the stories that people shared with us as they answered these questions. This is their salvation story in five sentences.

The first one I want to share with you is from Robert. Robert is a man of few words, but I love watching what God is doing in Robert's life. Here's what he said to answer them, and he answered succinctly, with few words. "My life was unmanageable before Christ." Who shared the gospel with you? It was his mother-in-law, Denise Bevins, now Denise Boerema. What were you doing when you placed faith in Jesus? "I was sitting at Woodland Hills, listening to you." What happened immediately? "Bad things went away." How would you describe your life right now? "Highly favored and blessed."

This next one is a personal one that I'm close to. Answering these five questions... "I ran from my parents' faith and was arrested for DUI at the age of 18. A pastor shared the gospel with me during my 11 days in jail. I prayed for hours after he left, repented of my sins, and placed faith in Jesus. The judge let me out early so I could get to Liberty University in time for the fall semester. There, I met my husband, we planted a church, and we have two children. Amy.

Here's Louanne's story. What was your life like before Christ? "Messy – no peace." Who shared the gospel with you? "A man rang my doorbell 22 years ago and asked, 'If you were to die today, would you go to heaven?' and the answer was no. I prayed and asked Jesus Christ to be my Lord and savior right there in the doorway." What happened immediately? "My priorities changed. I asked a friend if I could go to church with her. I got all new friends." How would you describe your life now? "I am married to a godly man and work fulltime in a single mom ministry." The last one Louanne shares is, "Messy with peace." Some of you are struggling because she used seven sentences. Use eight. Use nine. You get the point. These are clear testimonies, clear salvation stories of walking with Jesus.

Last week, I got a message from someone about how all these Country Roads messages are hitting their life. I tried to find it in the first service. I asked for permission to share it. I'm going to see if they gave it to me. If not, no big deal, we'll go with it anyway, but I just wanted to see. Haven't heard from her yet, so please give me grace. I won't say where you're from or your name. This couple comes to Branson from another state. It's from Texas. They come here several times a year. This town... you ministered to this couple greatly. They come back here regularly and then they watch online, and I know they're watching today.

He's always the jokester. He's one of like three guys in this church that always has a joke for me. It's a homemade joke; he wrote it himself. I shared the story of Joe White buying the grill at the golf course and he came up and goes, "I got a name for the grill! You need to call it Well Done Good and Faithful Servant." I thought that was a pretty good name, it's a great name. We may put that on there for him.

He said, "We were here November 4 for The Good Samaritan talk and that night we went to Springfield, came back, and on the way back down, our transmission went out. We were on the side of the road. We called two wrecking companies and they never came. Finally, a guy stopped. He had a buddy. He called a third guy to show up. This guy stayed with us for two hours, waiting for his friend in the wrecker before he has to drive home another 45 minutes. We asked if we could take him out to lunch. On Tuesday, we took him out to lunch and we were able to hear his story. We were able to share the good news with him. I hope he's here today, but we were able to share the good news. All week, people from Branson just ministered to us and helped us out and it motivated us to help out other people. All week, just back and forth being able to minister to people."

“Then last week you talked about the Prodigal Son. You said that some of you will have a daughter coming home for Thanksgiving that you don’t agree with 100%, that you’re not on the same page with, but welcome them at the table. Then you said, ‘Some of them will be coming back to Thanksgiving bringing a boyfriend you don’t like.’ And it’s happening... This week! They told us they’re expecting a child.”

She said just how all this is tied together and through people who visit this town. You need to know whether you serve in a restaurant or you make beds, which I hear our hotel folks tell me all the time it’s so hard to get people to make beds. I just need you to know that whatever your job is, or task is in this town, it’s important. It has great value. Why? Because you’re ministering to people, you’re serving people. Remember Colossians 3. Serve as unto the Lord.

Some of you get up on stage and I know it’s the same show you’ve done hundreds and hundreds of times, and sometimes you just check out. But please know that you’re a minister of the gospel of Jesus. As you leave this place, you’re going to have all sorts of opportunities and you’re going to have a lot of opportunities at your Thanksgiving table. And there are going to be some crazy people. We’ve all got crazies in our family. I’ll remind you that you may be one of them.

I just heard from someone who is visiting here from Louisiana. They told me how from Date Nights to here, they’ve placed faith in Jesus here at Woodland Hills. We’re glad that you’re here and we want you to know that your story is meant to be shared. I hope grandmas and grandpas, moms and dads, brothers and sisters, cousins, aunts, uncles will take time this week to share their salvation story.

And the home groups. I know many of you are taking a break this week from home groups, but as home groups pick back up, take time to listen to one another’s stories. Share your story. I’m going to pray that God gives you that opportunity this week.

I’m going to invite you to stand as we close and as we pray. As you stand, if you’ve never placed faith in Jesus and you can’t answer these questions... You can answer the first question of “What was your life like before Christ?” I pray that today, as the gospel has been shared with you, is the day you repent of your sins and place faith in Jesus. We encourage you to do that as we pray. If you place faith in Christ, we want you to come forward and meet with someone from our prayer team today as we close out our time.

Father, in the name of Jesus, we’re grateful that we are saved not by works but to do good works. And so as we think through our salvation story and as we look at the journey that we took today... Country Roads took us to Damascus, and on that road, we saw Paul’s conversion and what he did immediately. I pray that we would leave here today being a mouthpiece for the Gospel of Jesus, that we would share our story clearly with those that we love.

I’m just praying right now for the opportunity for mom and dad to share with children over this holiday. For grandparents who maybe are estranged from their children but connected to their grandchildren, that there can be a great time of healing.

I ask all of this in the name of Jesus. And everyone agreed and said... Amen.