



## Week 12 | January 6 Sermon

### Community:

How was your Advent? What was good? What did you long for? What did you do to be intentional through the important season of waiting?

Share about your Christmas experiences together. Celebrate the good, empathize with the bad and encourage one another always.

Look ahead to 2019 together. Share any “one word” or goal/resolution experiences you have had in the past. Do you have these for 2019?

Do you have any group goals for 2019? What might it look like to set some?

*\*Leaders, the discussion of New Year “things” could be ripe for use of your Life cards! If you need a deck, feel free to grab a set from the bench outside my office!*

Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near. **Hebrews 10:24-25**

# GROUPS

**Sermon Title: Paul Blazes a Trail for the Gentiles, Part 1 | Text: Acts 9:41-43**

**Discussion Questions::**

Recall that no believers yet were given the name Christians. Rather than “Christian,” they are called here those “who belonged to the Way.” If you lived in those times, do you think you would be identified as one “who belonged to the Way”? Why or why not? As we kick off the New Year, do you have any specific ambitions for your relationship with Jesus? Are there ways that he is calling you to THE Way?

From the multiplication of disciples (Acts 6) we now move to the multiplication of churches (Acts 9). Read Acts 9:31. This is exponential increase. What elements of the Kingdom of God are highlighted in verse 31 as the church was increasing? In what ways do you see/not see these things in today’s church?

Because we are examining church multiplication for three weeks, could it be that church is defined: “... *Christ’s church exists wherever a group of believers meet together on a regular basis to celebrate their mutual faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, when they join together in worship and praise of God Almighty where they are committed to each other in ministry and loving care, and where they agree to obey God to the best of their abilities*”? Do you agree or disagree with this definition of church? How is it different than previous definitions you have believed?

Read Acts 9:36-43. How did Tabitha use her gift to meet a physical need that opened the doors to spiritual transformation? Can you think of other examples (personal or in Scripture) where a physical need was met that led to spiritual transformation?

Although healings and miracles have intrinsic value, such as relieving pain or allowing lame people to walk or blessing the congregation at Joppa with the renewed presence of Tabitha whom they loved so much, more important, they are “signs” of the Kingdom of God. They are “signs” (or signposts) that point the way to Jesus Christ as Lord, King, and Savior. In Acts God used these signs to bring unbelievers to salvation. Do you believe He is able and willing to do the same today? Why or why not?

