

## **From Saul to Paul -- Conversion on the Road to Damascus**

### ***A reading from the Book of Acts of the Apostles (9:1-9)***

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

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Saul was a devout Jew who believed that the path to salvation was by strict obedience to the Law of Moses. Saul was convinced that those who believed Jesus is the Messiah, known as the Followers of The Way, were going against God's law. He out to punish the Christians and destroy The Way.

Saul's life and beliefs changed on the way to Damascus, when Jesus spoke to him and temporarily blinded him. Saul became a Christian, was baptized and changed his name to Paul. Instead of imprisoning Christians, he spread the Good News of Jesus throughout the Mediterranean region. His writings are the oldest part of

the New Testament and help us understand the meaning of Jesus' life, death and resurrection.

#### Discussion Points:

The account of Paul's conversion provides an opportunity to speak about change.

- Discuss with your child how he or she has changed, not just physically, but in what they believe: e.g. perhaps they believed monsters were real or their stuffed animals could talk to them. Perhaps they believed fairy tales were fact, not fiction.
- Ask them what caused their beliefs to change – was it something they saw or read or that someone told them? Was it something they just reasoned for themselves?
- Ask them how did this change in belief affect the way they live or interact with other people and the world.
- Ask them how they would have reacted if they heard Jesus talking to them like Saul did.
- Are they ready to devote their lives to following Jesus like Paul did? If not, what would convince them? If so, what would that devotion look like? How would following Jesus change the way they interact with other people and the world around them?

Don't forget to share the Covenant Times newspaper for Unit IV, Lesson 2.

<https://vts.myschoolapp.com/ftpimages/95/download/INTShell%20Covenant%20Times-Unit%20IV.pdf>

I am also including a word search activity.

# The Conversion of Paul

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TARSUS  
VOICE  
SAUL  
PAUL  
JESUS  
FAITHFUL  
PHARISEE  
CONVERT  
BLINDED  
PERSECUTE  
DAMASCUS  
BAPTIZED  
DEVOUT  
APOSTLE

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