

Unit 30, Session 1: Paul's Conversion and Baptism

Dear Parents,

Saul was no stranger to religion. He grew up in a religious household. He was a devout Jew who was born in Tarsus (Phil. 3:5) and inherited his Roman citizenship from his father. So when people began talking about this man named Jesus and claiming that He was the promised Messiah, Saul was defensive.

Saul believed strongly in the Jewish faith of his ancestors. He violently persecuted God's church and tried to destroy it. (Gal. 1:13-14) He dragged believers from their houses and put them in prison. He approved of the stoning of Stephen, the first Christian martyr. Saul thought he was doing the right thing by defending Judaism, but God's purposes could not be stopped. As Saul was on his way to arrest believers in Damascus, the Lord stopped him in his tracks.

Jesus revealed Himself to Saul, and Saul was never the same. He was struck blind and led into Damascus, where a believer named Ananias placed his hands on Saul. Suddenly, Saul could see again. Saul was convinced that Jesus is Lord. Saul later described the experience as being like dying and receiving a new life. (Gal. 2:20; 2 Cor. 5:17)

God had a purpose and a plan for Saul. He had set Saul apart before Saul was even born. (Gal. 1:15) God said, "This man is My chosen instrument to take My name to the Gentiles" (Acts 9:15).

Jesus changed Saul's life. As you talk with your kids, clarify that conversion happens when a person recognizes his sin, repents, believes in Jesus, and confesses Jesus as Savior and Lord. Jesus changes a person's heart, and as a result, his life is changed too.

Jesus appeared to Saul and changed him inside and out. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. (1 Timothy 1:15) Jesus called Saul, also known as Paul, who was once an enemy to Christians, to spend the rest of his life telling people the gospel and leading them to trust Jesus as Lord and Savior.

Check this session's Activity Page and Big Picture Card as well as the Gospel Project for Kids Family App for ways to interact with the Bible content this week.

FAMILY STARTING POINTS

- **Babies and Toddlers**
 - Christians tell about Jesus.
 - Paul did not love Jesus at first.
 - Jesus sent Ananias to tell Paul about Him.
 - God changed Paul's heart to love Jesus.

- **Preschool**
 - How do people hear about Jesus? God uses Christians to tell others about Jesus.
 - Jesus saved Saul from his sins.
- **Kids**
 - How do people hear about Jesus? God uses Christians to tell others about Jesus so they may repent and be saved.
 - Jesus saved Saul from his sins and chose him to spread the gospel.

UNIT KEY PASSAGE

- **Acts 1:8**

NEXT WEEK

- **“Paul’s First Journey”** (Acts 13:1-3; 14:8-28)