

Missionaries
Lesson -11 Paul: Background and Call

Memory Verse **Hand Out Scriptures to read**

Acts 9:15–16 (NKJV) *But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name’s sake.”*

Saul of Tarsus - Sunday

Saul means, "asked for." was born in Tarsus from the tribe of Benjamin **Rom 11:1**. When he was between 13 to 18 years old Paul eventually went to Jerusalem to study under the famous rabbi, Gamaliel.

Paul, became an apostle, **Rom 1:1** Paul= Paul, Paulus, if derived from the Latin, signifies little, dwarfish: but if from the Hebrew, pala, it signifies extraordinary, wonderful; Wrote about half of the NT.

“At length they saw a man coming (Paul), of a low stature, bald (or shaved) on the head, crooked thighs, handsome legs, hollow-eyed; had a crooked nose; full of grace; for sometimes he appeared as a man, sometimes he had the countenance of an angel.” - The Acts of Paul & Thecla

Acts 23:6 *But when Paul perceived that one part were Sadducees and the other Pharisees, he cried out in the council, "Men and brethren, I am a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee; concerning the hope and resurrection of the dead I am being judged!"*

Saul of Tarsus; He is called a young man; not that he was properly a youth, for he must be thirty years of age, or more; since about thirty years after this he calls himself Paul the aged, Philemon 1:9 . Ananias calls him a "man", Acts 9:13 nor would the high priests have given letters to a mere youth, investing him with so much power and authority as they did; but he is so called, because he was in the prime of his days, hale, strong, and active. – John Gill

***2 Corinthians 10:1** *Now I, Paul, myself am pleading with you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ; who in presence am lowly among you, but being absent am bold toward you.*

2 Cor 10:10 *"For his letters," they say, "are weighty and powerful, but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech contemptible."*

Paul, the Man - Monday

John 16:2 *"They will put you out of the synagogues; yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service.*

Three accounts tell of Paul's Damascus Road experience: **Acts 9:3-19; 22:6-21; 26:13-23**. The variations in details are accounted for by recognizing that each story is told to a different audience on a different occasion. What happened on that road changed the course of history.

Acts 9:1, 2 *Then Saul, still breathing threats **and murder** against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.*

***Acts 22:4** *"I persecuted this Way **to the death**, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women,*

Acts 26:10 *...and when **they were put to death**, I cast my vote against them.*

Philippians 3:6, 8 (NKJV) *concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. ...⁸ Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ*

***1 Corinthians 15:9** *For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.*

1 Timothy 1:16 (NKJV) *However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life.*

Galatians 1:13–14 (NKJV) *For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it. ¹⁴ And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers. **In Ignorance***

1 Tim 1:13 *although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief.*

Acts 3:17 *"Yet now, brethren, I know that you did it in ignorance, as did also your rulers.*

Acts 17:30 *"Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent,*

From Saul to Paul - Tuesday

A man who owned the city's newspaper had 3 sons. He offered ownership of the paper to the son who could create the most outrageous headline with the fewest words. The first son's headline was, "**Ronald Reagan Becomes Communist!**" The second son concocted this: "**Clinton Joins Monastery.**" But the third son inherited the paper his headline was "**Pope Eloses.**" "**“Saul Becomes Christian” is just as wild.**

The Conversion

Acts 9:3–9 (NKJV) ³ As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. ⁴ Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?” ⁵ And he said, “Who are You, Lord?”

Then the Lord said, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads.” ⁶ So he, trembling and astonished, said, “Lord, what do You want me to do?”

Then the Lord said to him, “Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.” ⁷ And the men who journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice but seeing no one. ⁸ Then Saul arose from the ground, and when his eyes were opened he saw no one. But they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. ⁹ And he was three days without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

Paul Saw The Light

***2 Corinthians 4:6** For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

The expression “I saw the light” comes from this story.

On the way to the city he was leading his friends but now he sees that he was the blind leading the blind, and they must lead him the rest of the way. Paul thought his vision was fine until he saw Gods light Not all conversions are this dramatic

Matthew 15:14 "Let them alone. They are blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind leads the blind, both will fall into a ditch."

John 9:41 Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you say, 'We see.' Therefore your sin remains.

Have You Ever Been Really Wrong? I Was An Evolutionist!

Proverbs 4:18,19 But the path of the just is like the shining sun, That shines ever brighter unto the perfect day. The way of the wicked is like darkness; They do not know what makes them stumble.

God brings the light to us. Peter in prison

As film captures images of light the picture of Jesus was forever stamped on his mind.

John 8:12 Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

John 9:5 "As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." Bell Laboratories scientists say that 4,000 simultaneous telephone conversations can be carried on a single fiber optics beam.

A Radical Fast

Acts 9:9 And he was three days without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

Jonah 3:7 ...Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything; do not let them eat, or drink water.

Est 4:16 "Go, gather all the Jews who are present in Shushan, and fast for me; neither eat nor drink for three days, night or day. My maids and I will fast likewise.

One ray of the glory of God, one gleam of the purity of Christ, penetrating the soul, makes every spot of defilement painfully distinct, and lays bare the deformity and defects of the human character. Steps to Christ, p. 29.

Name Change

Acts 13:6–11 (NKJV) Now when they had gone through the island to Paphos, they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew whose name was Bar-Jesus, ⁷ who was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, an intelligent man. This man called for Barnabas and Saul and sought to hear the word of God. ⁸ But Elymas the sorcerer (for so his name is translated) withstood them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith. ⁹ Then Saul, who also is called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him ¹⁰ and said, “O full of all deceit and all fraud, you son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, will you not cease perverting the straight ways of the Lord? ¹¹ And now, indeed, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you shall be blind, not seeing the sun for a time.” And immediately a dark mist fell on him, and he went around seeking someone to lead him by the hand.

Paul in the Mission Field - Wednesday

Romans 15:9 (NKJV) and that the Gentiles might glorify God for His mercy, as it is written: “For this reason I will confess to You among the Gentiles, And sing to Your name.”

***Acts 22:21** (NKJV) Then He said to me, ‘Depart, for I will send you far from here to the Gentiles.’ ”

Acts 26:16–18 (NKJV) ¹⁶ But rise and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to make you a minister and a witness both of the things which you have seen and of the things which I will yet reveal to you. ¹⁷ I will deliver you from the Jewish people, as well as from the Gentiles, to whom I now send you, ¹⁸ to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.’