

Family Worship

Saul's Conversion

18·10·2020

Opening Prayer

Our Heavenly Father, thank you for our family.

And thank you for the privilege of coming together for worship.

Help us to understand Your Word and obey it with a joyful heart.

In Jesus name, we pray. Amen.

唯有基督 *IN CHRIST ALONE*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=887jcen5Pec>



Catechism Time!

Bible truths for teaching children

Question 20

Q: What sort of Redeemer is needed to bring us back to God?

A: One who is truly human and also truly God.

Bible verse (Isaiah 9:6) - Written hundreds of years before Jesus' time

For to us a **child** is born,
to us a **son** is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, **Mighty God**,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

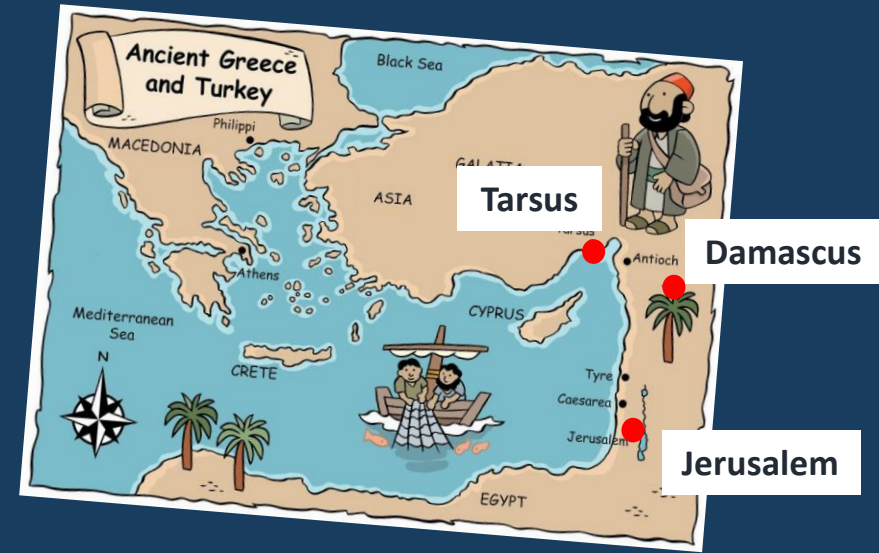
} **Human**

} **God**

Who was Paul?

Paul was...

1. A Jew, named Saul originally (Jewish name = Saul; Roman name = Paul)
2. Born in Tarsus - a cultural & learned city
3. Well educated with a brilliant mind
4. Trained to become a rabbi (teacher) under Gamaliel, a famous teacher of the Jewish law
5. Very religious and obeyed all the Old Testament laws
6. A Roman citizen - high social status
7. Quite possibly from a rich family



Saul Persecuted Christians...

After Stephen died, Saul persecuted Jesus' followers

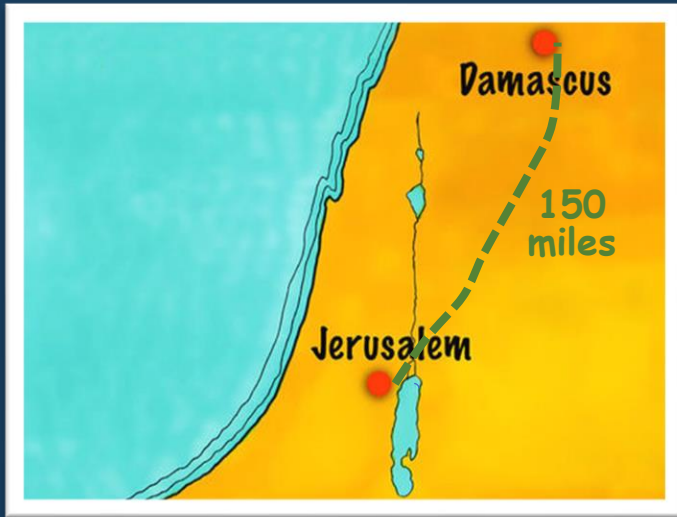


Many of them left Jerusalem



Saul then went to the high priest and asked for letters to the synagogues in the city of Damascus. He wanted to arrest the believers and bring them back as prisoners to Jerusalem

ACTS 9:1-19



So Saul went to Damascus. As he came near the city, a bright light from heaven suddenly flashed around him. Saul fell to the ground.

He heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul! Why are you hurting me?"

Saul said, "Who are you, Lord?"

The voice answered, "I am Jesus. I am the One you are trying to hurt. Get up now and go into the city. Someone there will tell you what you must do."





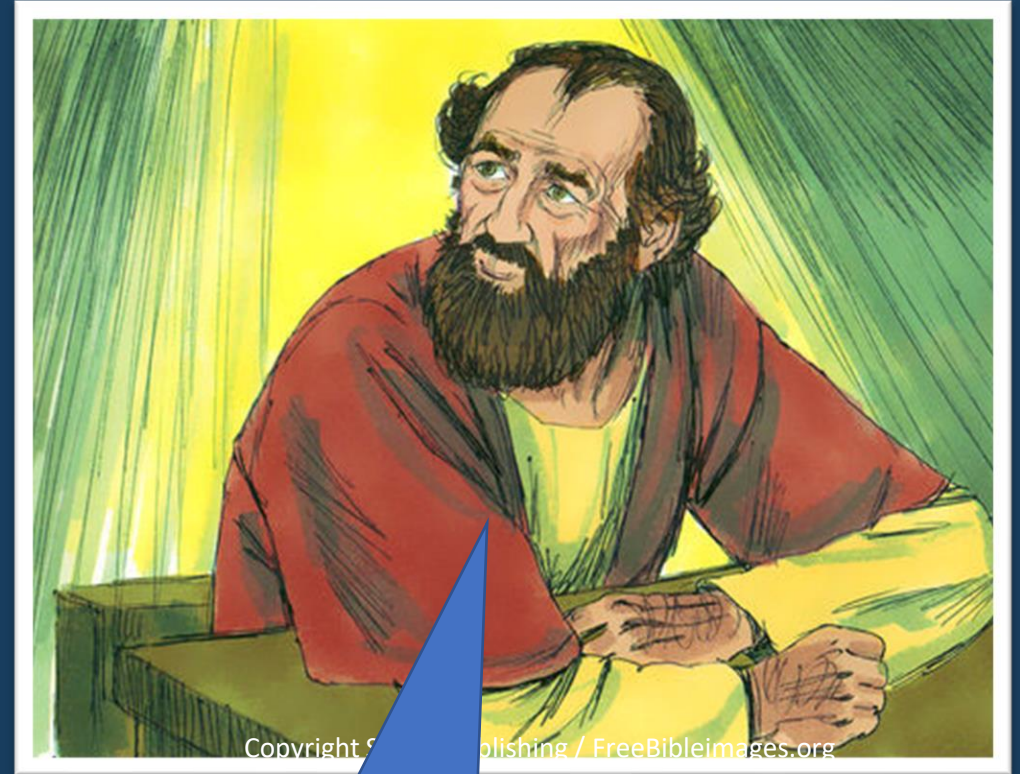
The men traveling with Saul stood there, but they were speechless. They heard the voice, but they saw no one.

Saul got up from the ground. He opened his eyes, but he could not see. So the men with Saul took his hand and led him into Damascus. For three days Saul could not see, and he did not eat or drink.

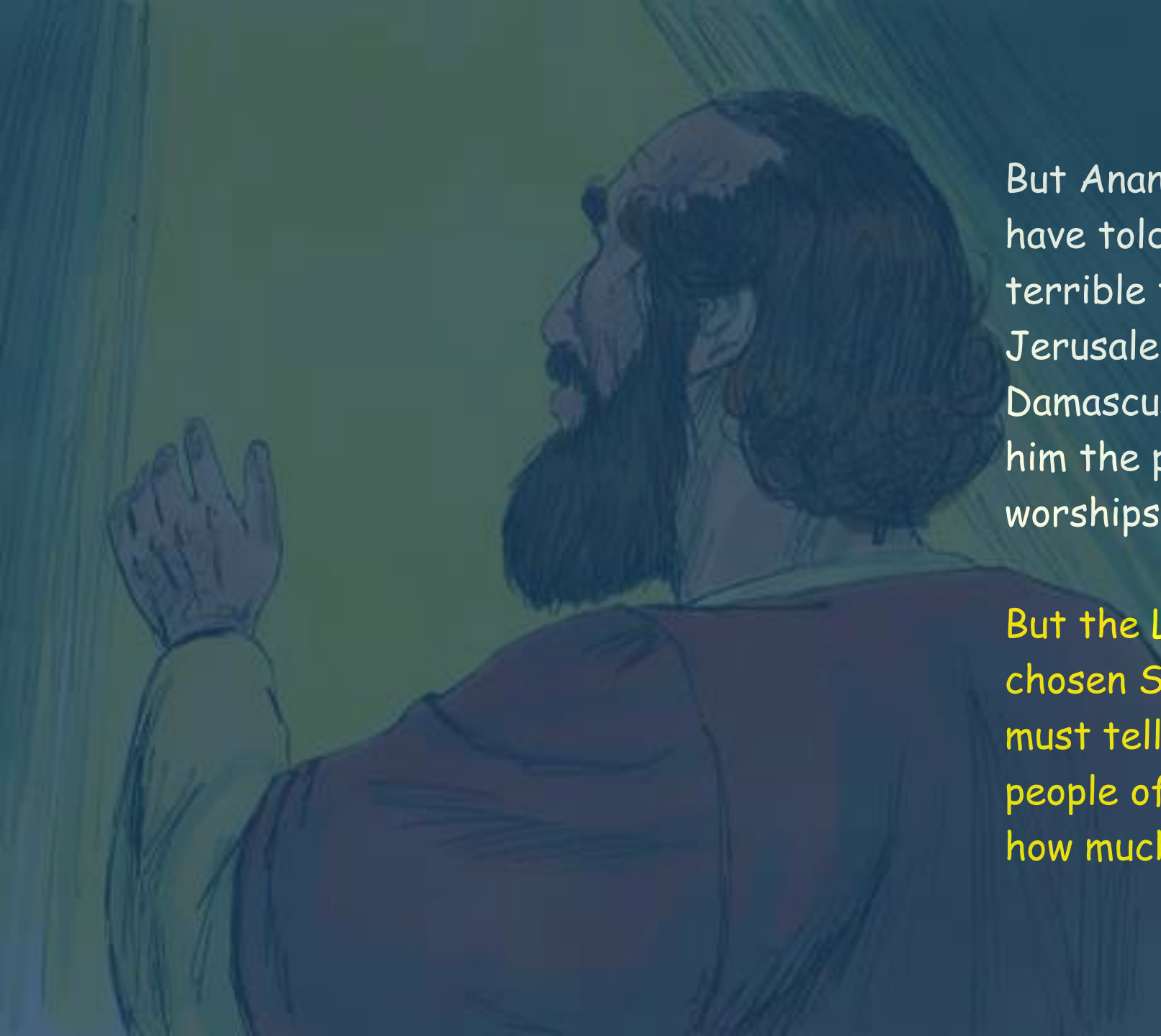
There was a follower of Jesus in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord spoke to Ananias in a vision, "Ananias!"

Ananias answered, "Here I am, Lord."

The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight Street. Find the house of Judas. Ask for a man named Saul from the city of Tarsus. He is there now, praying. Saul has seen a vision. In it a man named Ananias comes to him and lays his hands on him. Then he sees again."

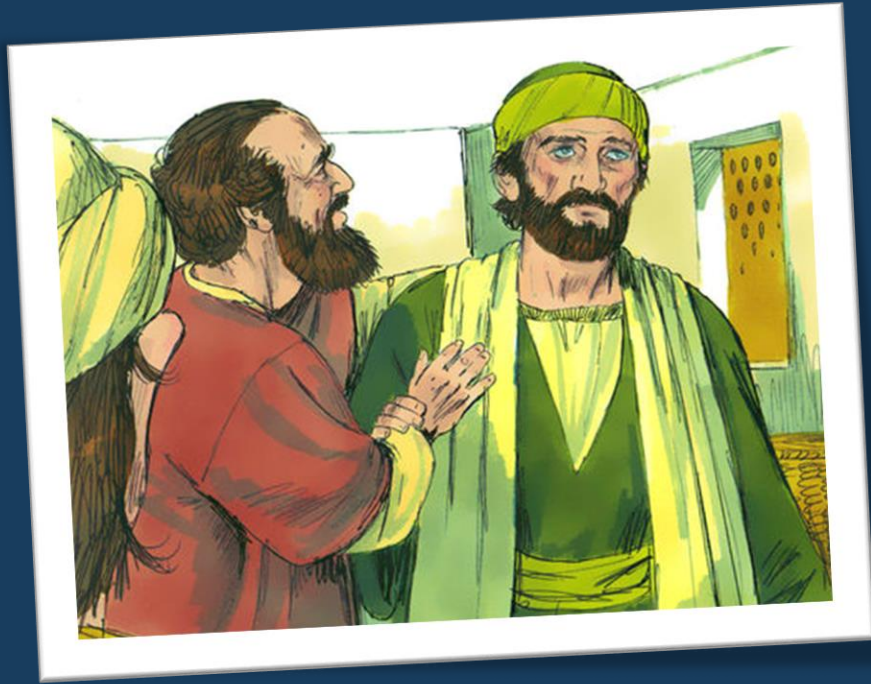


Here I am, Lord



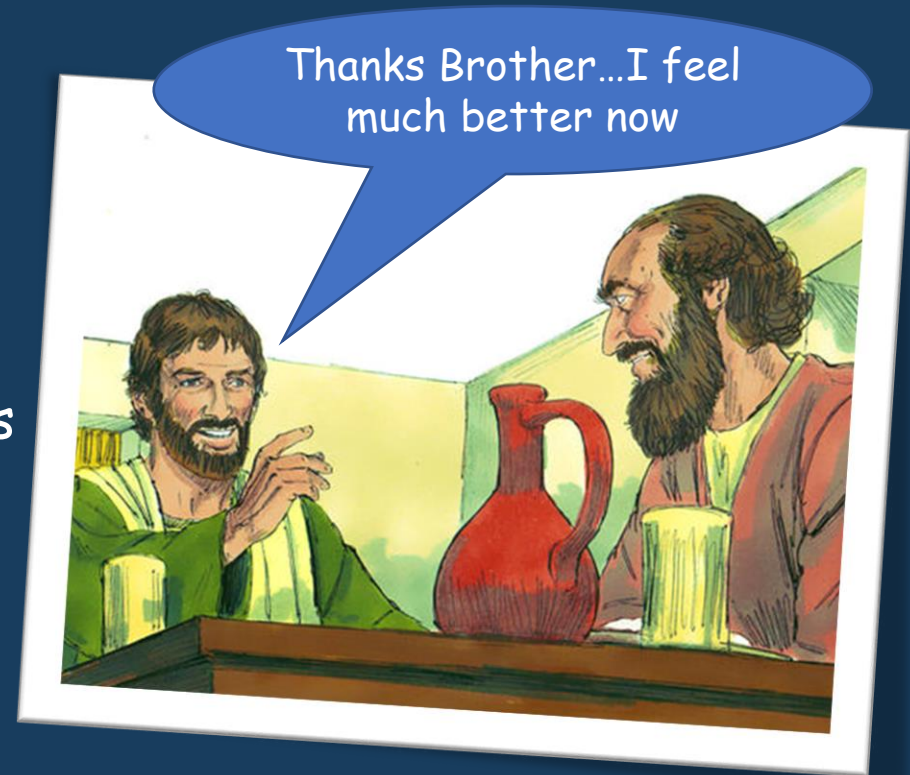
But Ananias answered, "Lord, many people have told me about this man and the terrible things he did to your people in Jerusalem. Now he has come here to Damascus. The leading priests have given him the power to arrest everyone who worships you."

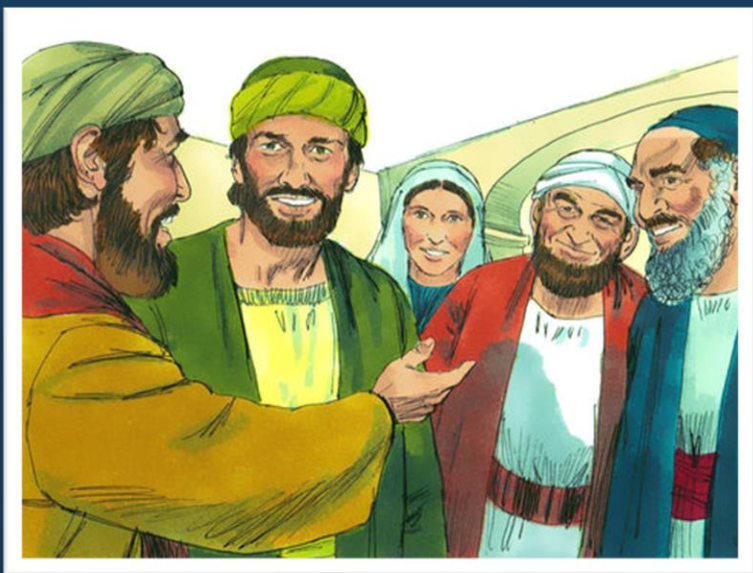
But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! I have chosen Saul for an important work. He must tell Gentiles (non-Jews), kings and the people of Israel about me. I will show him how much he must suffer for my name."



So Ananias went to the house of Judas. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus sent me. He is the one you saw on the road on your way here. He sent me so that you can see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit."

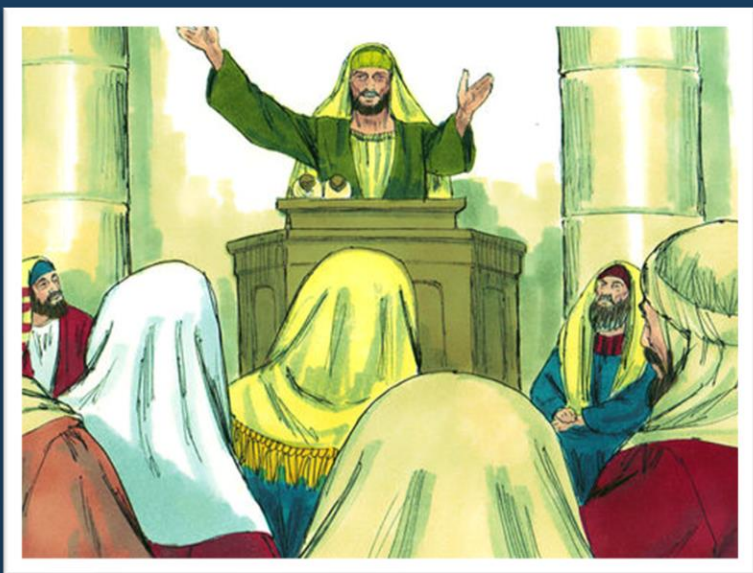
Immediately, something that looked like fish scales fell from Saul's eyes. He was able to see again! Then Saul got up and was baptized. After eating some food, his strength returned.





Saul stayed with the followers of Jesus in Damascus for a few days. Soon he began to preach about Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "Jesus is the Son of God!"

All the people who heard him were amazed. They said, "This is the man who was in Jerusalem. He was trying to destroy those who trust in this name! He came here to do the same thing. He came here to arrest the followers of Jesus and take them back to the leading priests."



But Saul became more and more powerful. His proofs that Jesus is the Christ were so strong that the Jews in Damascus could not argue with him.

What Was Going on in Paul's Life?



What Was Going on in Paul's Life?



Paul loved God and His law

- ❑ Paul loved God; He followed God's law fully on the outside
- ❑ He was eager for everyone to follow God's law
- ❑ However, he was blind to his own sin inside
- ❑ He believed God's promised King would restore Israel if people obeyed God's law



Why did Paul opposed Jesus and his followers?

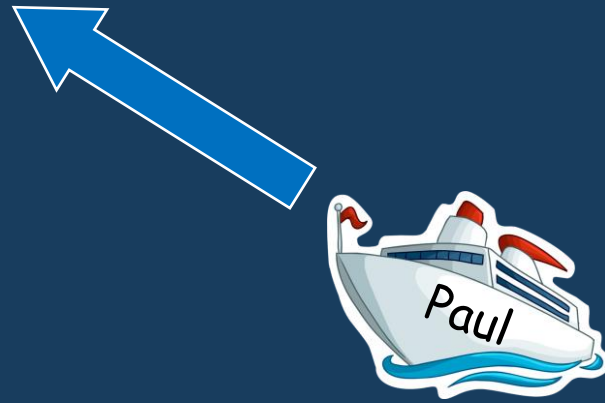
- ❑ A man hung on a tree (cross) was cursed under the law
- ❑ Jesus' claim to be God was against the 1st Commandment
- ❑ So Paul thought Jesus was a false prophet, his followers must be stopped



Then Jesus appeared to Paul

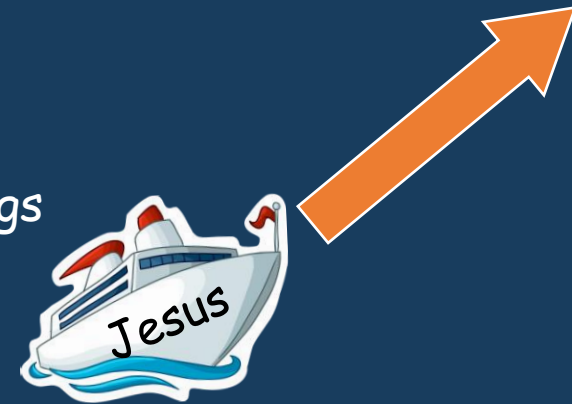
- ❑ For 3 days Paul fasted & prayed to understand who Jesus was
- ❑ He finally realised that Jesus is the God he loved !
- ❑ Jesus is also the King to restore God's world and put things right !

Paul was like a ship,
full of energy and potential but heading in the wrong direction



After Paul got to know Jesus, his life was completely changed

- He applied all his learning to preach Jesus is the Son of God
- He took the Good News to many faraway places
- He shared the Good News with Gentiles, even their Kings
- He endured great hardships for Jesus
- Jesus changed Paul's life...and Paul changed the world



Family Discussion (I)

1. Why did Paul persecute Christians?
 - Christians taught people to disobey their parents
 - Paul believed Jesus was a false prophet leading people away from God
 - Christians put Caesar above God
2. Paul was hurting Jesus' followers. But Jesus said, "Saul, Saul! Why are you hurting me?"
 - Why did Jesus say Paul was hurting him?
 - What does this tell you about how Jesus relate to his followers?
3. What did Jesus ask Ananias to do? (lay hands on him so he could _____ and be _____.)
Why did Ananias hesitate to help Paul?
4. Paul didn't eat or drink (fasted) for 3 days.
 - What was the longest time you didn't eat or drink? Was it hard?
 - In those 3 days Paul's world was turned up-side-down. What was he thinking?
(Hint: Go back to study "What was going on in Paul's life?")

Family Discussion (II)

5. Jesus told Ananias his plan for Paul - what was it?
 - Why was Paul's background, training and personality helpful to carry out Jesus' plan?
 - God also has a plan for you & me. We are being trained to carry out his plan!

6. Are you like Paul? For example:
 - Growing up in a religious environment
 - Good education
 - Want to be a good person (obey moral laws: do this and don't do that)

7. Which of the following best describes you?
 - A. I obey moral rules (do good to others, be honest, don't lie, don't steal...)
 - B. I believe in God. I ask him for things...He is like Santa Claus
 - C. I love and obey Jesus who loves me and died for me

8. From religion to living faith
 - "A" and "B" are religious people who have the wrong ideas about God
 - Paul was "A" before he met Jesus. He became "C" afterwards.
 - God desires all of us to be "C" people - to have a relationship with Jesus



Paul - Servant of Jesus

Paul said, "I do not live anymore — it is Christ living in me. I still live in my body, but I live by faith in the Son of God. He loved me and gave himself to save me."

(Galatians 2:19-20)



Paul was beheaded under the Roman Emperor Nero.
His crime was making Jesus known to others

Family Prayer Time

1. Thank God for His Word and help so we may learn from Him.
2. Ask your children to pray for what they have learned just now.
3. Ask your family how you can pray for them specifically.

IN CHRIST ALONE

This could have been Paul's song...

"In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light, my strength, my song
This cornerstone, this solid ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm."

Let's sing this song again...

唯有基督 *IN CHRIST ALONE*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=887jcen5Pec>

