

HomeWord
For Parents

There have been few conversion experiences that would top that of Saul of Tarsus. As a Pharisee, he was zealous for the Jewish law and openly and passionately persecuted those who proclaimed Jesus as Lord (Philippians 3:4–6).

Yet Saul was dramatically transformed into a new creation in Christ and then used by God to start numerous churches and write much of the New Testament. How did the Lord Jesus Christ get this murderous Pharisee's attention? It happened on the road to Damascus where Saul fully intended to find men and women of the Way (followers of Jesus) and bring them bound to Jerusalem for persecution and trial (Acts 9:1–2).

Saul fell to the ground when he saw a bright light and heard a voice speaking to him. It was Jesus asking, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?" (Acts 9:3–4). Saul was astonished and afraid. He asked what the Lord would have him do. The Lord had a plan for him—and it would start in the city of Damascus, the very city he was headed to in order to further persecute the people of Christ. Blind Saul was helplessly led

by the hand into the city to await instructions from the Lord (Acts 9:6–8).

In Damascus, through His disciple Ananias, the Lord declared to Saul that he was His chosen vessel, and he would bear the name of Christ to the Jews, the Gentiles, and to kings (Acts 9:15). Saul's heart was dramatically changed so that "immediately he preached Christ in the synagogues, that Jesus is the Son of God" (Acts 9:20). Saul had become a new creation in Christ!

This Hebrew of Hebrews, a Pharisee breathing murderous threats, had persecuted Christians. He had stood by, guarding the clothes of those who dragged Stephen, the first martyr for Christ, out of the city to stone him (Acts 7:57–59). But after his conversion, Saul suffered greatly for His Lord through beatings, stonings, shipwrecks, and many other hardships (2 Corinthians 11:24–27). The Lord Jesus Christ made Saul, also known as Paul, into a new creation. And after meeting the living Jesus, Paul would no longer boast except in the Cross of the Lord Jesus Christ (Galatians 6:14).

Go to the Online Resource Page for more information.

OutWord For Family Discussion

Suppose you heard someone say his sins are so bad that God could never forgive him. **What could you say?**

The Bible tells us everything we need to know about God. And it tells us that it's impossible to be too bad for God's forgiveness. You might be surprised to find out this amazing truth: no sin is so great that the blood Jesus shed on the Cross cannot wash it away. Before the Apostle Paul became a Christian, he used to persecute Christians and have them killed! But God had mercy on him and saved him. All people who are genuinely sorry for their sin, ask God for forgiveness, trust Jesus to save them from the punishment they deserve, and receive Him as the Lord of their life will be forgiven and given new life in Christ—they become new creations! God's grace is that great! That's the good news of the gospel.

inWord For Family Study

"The law of Your mouth is better to me than thousands of coins of gold and silver" (Psalm 119:72). Equip your children to desire God's Word above all else by encouraging your family to memorize and study it. The eternal rewards are priceless.

Begin with the memory verse in the Learn the Word section inside this handout.



Saul Is Converted

KEY THEME

• Jesus will build His church.

KEY PASSAGES

- Acts 9:1–9, 9:13–15
- 1 Corinthians 15:9–10
- 2 Corinthians 11:24–27, 5:17

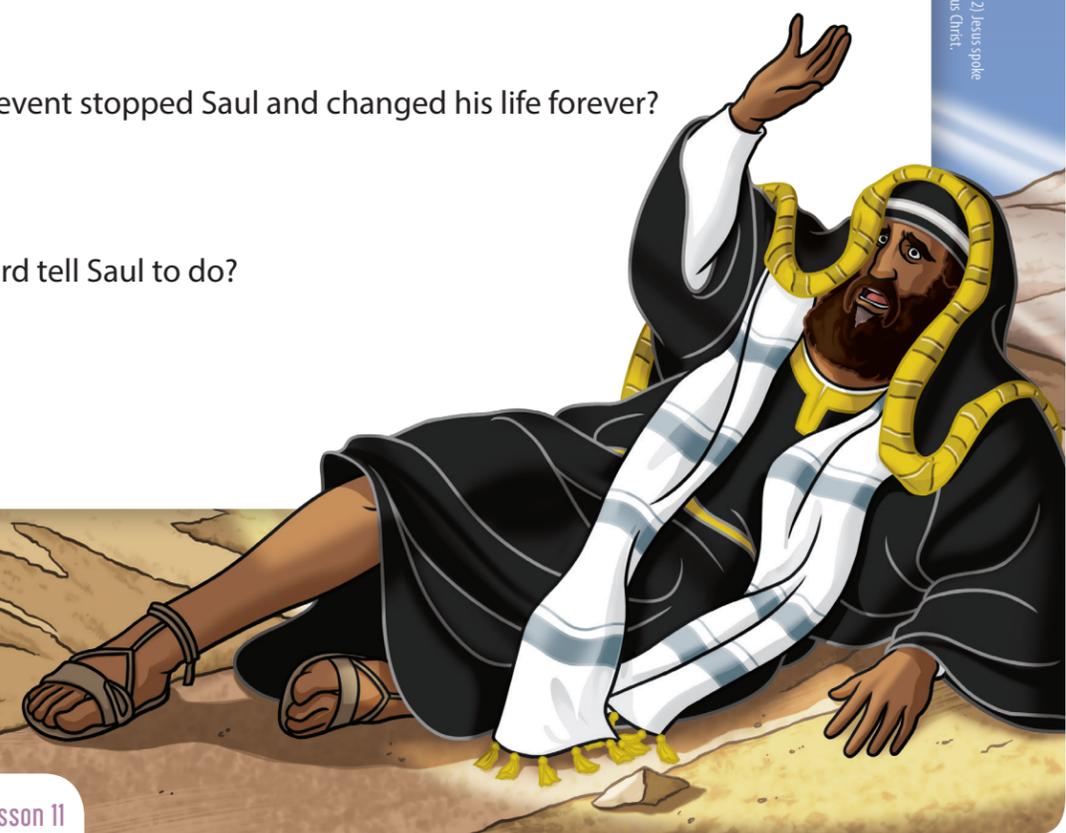


What You **HEARD** in the **WORD**

- While Saul was on the road to Damascus to arrest Christians, Jesus appeared to him and called him to service. Then Saul believed in Jesus as Lord.
- Instead of killing Jesus's followers, Saul, who was also called Paul, preached Jesus's name and was willing to suffer for Him.

Answer these questions from today's lesson.

- 1 Why was Saul going to Damascus?
- 2 What amazing event stopped Saul and changed his life forever?
- 3 What did the Lord tell Saul to do?



1) To arrest Christians and take them to prison in Jerusalem. 2) Jesus spoke to him from heaven. 3) To tell others about the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Read the Word

Monday {2 Corinthians 11:24}

How many times did Paul receive 39 lashes?

Tuesday {2 Corinthians 11:32-33}

How did Paul escape arrest in Damascus?

Wednesday {Matthew 5:10-11}

What did Jesus say about those who are persecuted because of Him?

Thursday {2 Corinthians 5:17}

What happens when someone becomes a "new creation"?

Friday {John 1:12-13}

How do you become a child of God?

Saturday {Romans 1:16}

Can you say this verse from memory?

a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y z

Learn the Word

Write the letter that comes before each letter in the box below it.

For I am

o	p	u

b	t	i	b	n	f	e

 of the

h	p	t	q	f	m

 of

D	i	s	j	t	u

, for it is

the

q	p	x	f	s

 of

h	p	e

 to salvation

for everyone who

c	f	m	j	f	w	f	t

,

for the

K	f	x

 first and

b	m	t	p

 for the

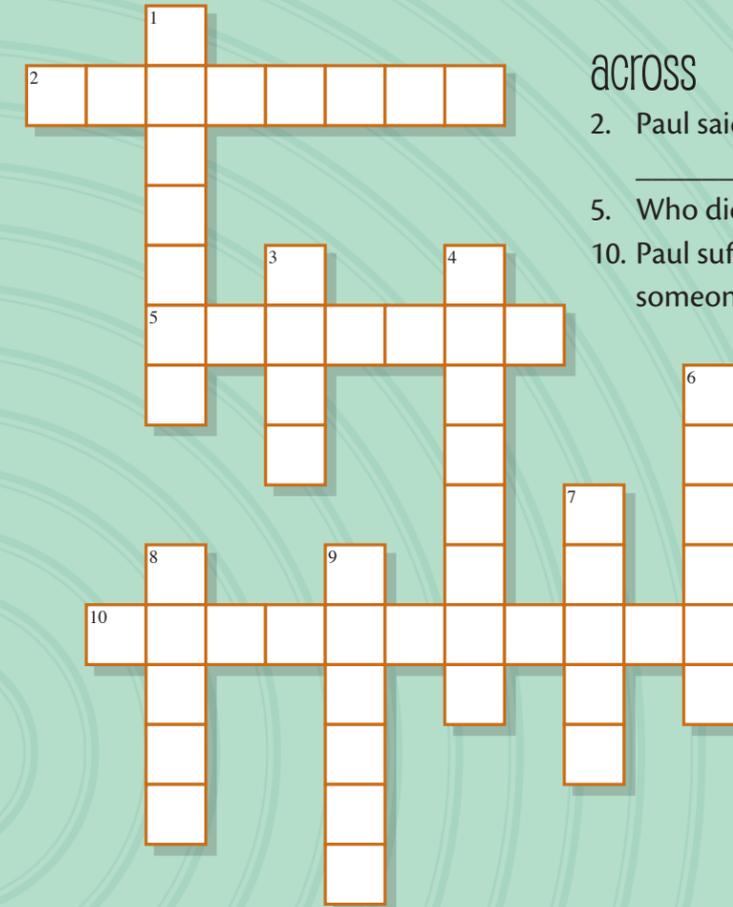
H	s	f	f	l

. Romans 1:16

ANSWERS: Not ashamed, gospel, Christ, power, God, believes, Jew, also, Greek, ACROSS: 2) Creation, 5) Ananias, 10) Persecution, DOWN: 1) Messiah, 3) Paul, 4) Damascus, 6) Ground, 7) Blind, 8) Jesus, 9) Heaven.

SAUL SEES THE LIGHT

Answer the questions to the crossword puzzle and fill in the blanks. Look up the Bible verses or use the Word Bank if you need a hint.



WORD BANK: Ananias, Blind, Creation, Damascus, Ground, Heaven, Jesus, Messiah, Paul, Persecution

ACROSS

- Paul said anyone who is in Christ is a new _____. 2 Corinthians 5:17.
- Who did the Lord send to go speak to Saul? Acts 9:10-11.
- Paul suffered after his conversion. What is it called when someone suffers beatings and prison for their faith?

DOWN

- After his conversion, who did Saul believe Jesus was? The _____.
- What other name was Saul called?
- Saul was traveling to what city to arrest Christians? Acts 9:2.
- Saul fell to the _____ and heard a voice. Acts 9:4.
- Saul had to be led by the hand into the city because he was _____. Acts 9:8.
- Who spoke to Saul from heaven? Acts 9:5.
- Where was the light coming from that shone around Saul? Acts 9:3.

CLOCK CODE

Three of the things Paul suffered as he spread the gospel are named below. Write the letters of the numbers they have replaced on the clock to find the answer.



Paul was b 2 10 11 2 4,

s 3 12 8 6 9 2 5 2 1,

and 5 7 1.

LIVE the Word

Suppose you hear someone say he doesn't like Christians because they're all hypocrites.

What could you say?

Christians know they aren't perfect; they mess up a lot. They try, but they don't always live like the Bible says they should. That's why they worship Jesus Christ. He is the only person who never sinned. And it's through Jesus that they are saved from the punishment they deserve because of their sin. Jesus is God who was born in the form of a man. He suffered and took the penalty for sin when He died on the Cross. Because of what Jesus did, Christians should be committed to learning God's Word, teaching it, and obeying it. But no one can ever be perfect, except Jesus. That's why we need Him to be our Savior. Instead of disliking Christians, you would be better off despising sin and death—the things Jesus overcame. Jesus is the only answer to man's sin problem. Forgiveness of sins and eternal life with God only come through faith in Him.



SNEAK PEEK
How did God use a centurion named Cornelius to spread the gospel? Come next week to find out!