Saul (Paul) Becomes a Christian

The Man Who Changed When He Met Jesus
Saul was born in the city of Tarsus but he grew up in Jerusalem. Saul was very intelligent and had studied under a famous teacher named Gamaliel.

Saul’s other name was “Paul”.

Even though Saul believed in God he did not follow Jesus. He was an enemy to people who followed Jesus.
Saul wanted to destroy the church. He even dragged men and women out of their houses and put them in prison for believing in Jesus. Christians were very afraid of Saul.

Once, Saul asked the High Priest in Jerusalem for letters so he could take them to the leaders in the city of Damascus. The leaders would help him arrest Christians there.
But when Saul was walking along the road to Damascus something totally unexpected happened. A bright shown down on Saul and made him blind. Then Saul heard a voice say, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?”


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5 Saul heard the voice but could not see. "Who are you?" he asked. Then he heard the answer, "I am Jesus, and you have been persecuting me. Now get up and go into the city."

Saul was shocked. This was Jesus! He had been hurting (persecuting) people that believed in Jesus. Now Saul knew the truth. He had been very wrong all of this time.
The other men traveling with Saul saw the light but could not hear the voice. Since Saul was blind they led him to the city of Damascus.
Ananias was a Christian man who lived in the city of Damascus.

9 Jesus came to Ananias in a vision and said that Ananias should go and meet Saul. He would be waiting in a house on the street called "Straight Street".

Ananias was very frightened. “But Saul has been persecuting Christians.” Ananias must have wondered what Saul might do to him.
But, in the vision, Jesus told Ananias that he had chosen Saul to do a very important job. Jesus had chosen Saul to be the teacher to the Gentiles (all of the people who were not Jews).
So Ananias went to Straight Street and found Saul. He touched Saul and said, "Brother Saul, Jesus, the one who appeared to you on the road, has sent me so you can see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit."
13. As soon as Ananias said this, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes and he could see again. Then he got up and was baptised.

Now that Saul knew the truth about Jesus he wanted to tell everyone. He preached to the people in Damascus and even travelled to Arabia to tell the people there.
But not everyone was happy. Saul was preaching about Jesus. They began guarding the city gates so they could catch and kill Saul if he tried to leave the city.
But Saul’s friends had a great idea. Late one night they put Saul in a basket and lowered him over the wall. Saul escaped!

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Even though Saul had changed, there were still many Christians that remembered how he had once been their enemy. In Jerusalem the Christians did not trust Saul and did not want him to be with them.

18 But a Christian named Barnabas believed Saul had changed. He asked the Apostles and the other Christians to accept Saul.
Saul continued to do what Jesus had told him to do. When he used to live in Jerusalem he told people NOT to follow Jesus. Now he told them that they SHOULD follow Jesus.
Soon Saul was in trouble again. The other Christians took Saul to the port of Caesarea and put him on a ship heading to Tarsus.

After this time there was a time of peace for the churches. Many more people began to follow Jesus.

When Saul met Jesus he stopped doing bad things and began to follow Jesus. What do you think Jesus wants you to do?
Teacher Notes Page

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