

St. Paul



Know how St. Paul had to learn to be a Christian. Think about what we can learn from his experience.

Saul becomes Paul

There was once a man called Saul who did everything he could to hurt Christians. He thought that they were just troublemakers and he did not believe in the teachings of Jesus. One day, he set off on a journey to the town of Damascus searching for Christians. He wanted to arrest them and throw them into prison.



As he drew near to Damascus, a brilliant light suddenly shone all around him and he heard a voice say to him, "**Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?**" Saul was bewildered and asked who it was. The voice replied, "**I am Jesus and you are persecuting me. Get up now and go into the city and you will be told what to do.**"

The light disappeared but Saul was left blinded – he could see nothing! His friends took him by the hand and led him to a house in the city.

After a few days, a Christian called Ananias came to visit him and healed his blindness. Saul had realised that it was Jesus who had spoken to him on the road to Damascus. He also understood that in persecuting Christians, he was persecuting Jesus because Jesus is present in Christians, in each one of us. He wanted to become a Christian so Ananias baptised him there and then. (Acts 9:1-19 adapted)

From that day on, Saul changed from being an enemy of Jesus to being one of his greatest followers. To show that he was no longer the man he had once been, he changed his name to Paul. Before long, he became an apostle and spent the rest of his life spreading the good news of Jesus!

Activities

2. St. Paul wrote many letters to Christians explaining Jesus' teachings to them. Here is part of one of his letters to Christians who lived in the town of Corinth:

"Love is patient and kind.
Love is not jealous or boastful.
It is not arrogant or rude.
Love does not insist on its own way.
It is not irritable or resentful."
(1 Cor. 13: 4-6)

- a) Think about what each line in this letter means.
- b) Choose one line of this letter.
Give an example to explain the meaning of it.
3. Imagine you are Saul. Design a 'WANTED' poster for Christians. Explain why you want them captured and what 'crime' they have committed.
4. News headlines: **Convert or Traitor?**
- a) Find out what these words mean.
- b) Which do you think is the right one for Saul? Why?
- c) Explain the reason for the change in Saul's character.