

Who is Saul-Paul?

Scripture Passage: Acts 22:1-21

Memory Verse: Acts 22:15 Now you will tell everyone about what you have seen and heard.

Beliefs:

Actions:

Materials

*additional passage versions maps: <http://www.kidsbiblemaps.com/new-testament-world.html>
& reference passages are
included at the end of the
lesson plan

Main Teaching Passage: Acts 22:1-21

“Brothers and fathers,” Paul began, “listen to me now. I want to give you reasons for my actions.”

2 When they heard that he was speaking to them in Aramaic, they became very quiet.

Then Paul said, 3 “I am a Jew. I was born in Tarsus in Cilicia, but I grew up here in Jerusalem. I studied with Gamaliel. I was well trained by him in the law given to our people long ago. I wanted to serve God as much as any of you do today. 4 I hurt the followers of the Way of Jesus. I sent many of them to their death. I arrested men and women. I threw them into prison. 5 The high priest and the whole Council can be witnesses of this themselves. I even had some official letters they had written to their friends in Damascus. So I went there to bring these people as prisoners to Jerusalem to be punished.

6 “I had almost reached Damascus. About noon a bright light from heaven suddenly flashed around me. 7 I fell to the ground and heard a voice speak to me. ‘Saul! Saul!’ it said. ‘Why are you opposing me?’

8 “‘Who are you, Lord?’ I asked.

“‘I am Jesus of Nazareth,’ he replied. ‘I am the one you are opposing.’ 9 The light was seen by my companions. But they didn’t understand the voice of the one speaking to me.

10 “‘What should I do, Lord?’ I asked.

“‘Get up,’ the Lord said. ‘Go into Damascus. There you will be told everything you have been given to do.’ 11 The brightness of the light had blinded me. So my companions led me by the hand into Damascus.

12 “A man named Ananias came to see me. He was a godly Jew who obeyed the law. All the Jews living there respected him very much. 13 He stood beside me and said, ‘Brother Saul, receive your sight!’ At that very moment I was able to see him.

14 “Then he said, ‘The God of our people has chosen you. He wanted to tell you his plans for you. You have seen the Blameless One. You have heard words from his mouth. 15 Now you will tell everyone about what you have seen and heard. 16 So what are you waiting for? Get up and call on his name. Be baptized. Have your sins washed away.’

17 “I returned to Jerusalem and was praying at the temple. Then it seemed to me that I was dreaming. 18 I saw the Lord speaking to me. ‘Quick!’ he said. ‘Leave Jerusalem at once. The people here will not accept what you tell them about me.’

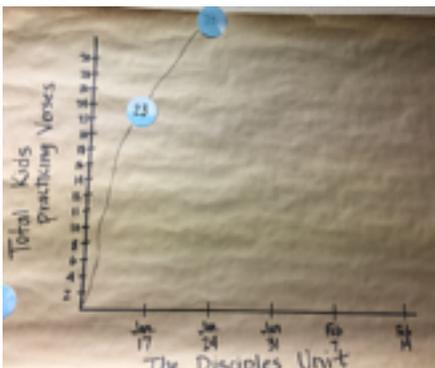
19 “ ‘Lord,’ I replied, ‘these people know what I used to do. I went from one synagogue to another and put believers in prison. I also beat them. 20 Stephen was a man who told other people about you. I stood there when he was killed. I had agreed that he should die. I even guarded the coats of those who were killing him.’

21 “Then the Lord said to me, ‘Go. I will send you far away to people who are not Jews.’ ”

Large Group Worship - 15 minutes

2 songs as closely related in theme as possible

- Family Service Project Info
- Small Group Challenge: Each small group is going to decide on the number of verses they think they can learn during this 6 week unit.
 - example: 10 kids in the group. 1 verse per kid. 4 verses possible. 40 verses.
 - There is a BONUS verse this unit! so 5 verses possible per person.
- We will have a graph up in each small group room to track the group AND a big graph in the main room with everyone’s totals so we can watch us get to our goal!
- Each week your small group will report to (Mrs. Lori) how many verses were recited with little to no help. The final number is based on how many verses can be quoted at the end of the unit all at one time. (The purpose is to hide them in our hearts - really learn them - not quick memorize them in the car and then forget them.)
 - You can change words to be easier for you as long as they mean the same thing.
- Dismiss to small groups.



Large Group Graph for a single unit



Large Group Graph for the Year

Opening Illustration - 5 minutes: (can be played in large group time or in small groups)

- Guess Who - <http://www.ultimatecampresource.com/site/camp-activity/guess-who.html>
 - quickly divide into 2 teams
 - select 1 guesser/picker from each team
 - judges secretly select 1 person from each team the guessers are guessing; judges must write down the names
 - guesser asks yes/no questions to whittle down the team until they can Guess Who
 - Do they wear glasses? If no, all players wearing glasses sit down. If yes, all players without glasses sit down.

Teaching

- Teach background of the book of Acts

Say -

- Who wrote it: Luke, the doctor, not one of the 12 apostles
- Who was it for: written to Theophilus (same person the book/letter of Luke is addressed to); all Christians who would see it; Acts 1:1
- What was it about: a bridge for helping the new Christians move from life with Jesus and his teachings to how to DO what Jesus said without him with them; Acts 1:1, 8

- Say - Another person that Luke spends a lot of time writing about in Acts is Paul. We are going to spend this unit learning about Paul and where he went as a missionary. Jesus's last instruction to this Disciples was:

Matthew 28:18 Then Jesus came to them. He said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 So you must go and make disciples of all nations. Baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. 20 Teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And you can be sure that I am always with you, to the very end."

- Say - Today we are going to learn about Paul so that we can understand his travels later. Let's open our bibles to Acts 22 where we find Paul in the middle of a dangerous situation. He's explaining to a mob of angry Jews, some Roman soldiers and other people about his life.

Meta-Narrative Link:
Exodus 6:1-8

- Remind kiddos that Jews are God's chosen people. They specifically believe in and worship God, but they do not believe that Jesus was the promised Messiah. They are mad at Paul because he is telling people, Jews too, to believe in Jesus as their Savior, that he really was the Messiah.

Teaching Tip:

Use a flannel board or tape pictures to the wall when telling the story to younger children. Creating a timeline with images will help them with continuity. Combine the storytelling and later explanation for them at one time.

Use the provided passage worksheet with older students.
The more students engaged in the reading, the better!

- Ask - Do some of you recognize this guy? I'll bet you do!
 - Ask - What do you wonder the most about Saul-Paul? *allow wonderings*

- Those are great thoughts! Let's look at a few parts of his story a little more closely to see if we can figure some of it out.
- We kinda talked about it already, but who can remember why Saul was behaving as he did in verses 3-5?

Then Paul said, 3 "I am a Jew. I was born in Tarsus in Cilicia, but I grew up here in Jerusalem. I studied with Gamaliel. I was well trained by him in the law given to our people long ago. I wanted to serve God as much as any of you do today. 4 I hurt the followers of the Way of Jesus. I sent many of them to their death. I arrested men and women. I threw them into prison. 5 The high priest and the whole Council can be witnesses of this themselves. I even had some official letters they had written to their friends in Damascus. So I went there to bring these people as prisoners to Jerusalem to be punished.

- Say - That's right. He didn't believe that Jesus was the Messiah. Saul was a VERY highly educated Jewish man. He thought the Apostles were teaching wrong things and he didn't want his fellow Jews to start believing lies. You know what? I'd get pretty mad if someone came in here and starting teaching you wrong things about God too. What would you do if you thought someone was saying something wrong about God or Jesus? *accept answers*
 - Say - Remember that Christians have the Holy Spirit living in them. When we have questions all we have to do is pray and/or read the Bible. The Holy Spirit will help you to know when something isn't right. The Spirit will also help you find the right answers or know who to ask.
- Ask - Who remembers what happened next?
 - Saul was on his way to arrest some Christians in Damascus when a bright light showed up, blinded him, knocked him down, and Jesus talked to him!!
 - First, what did Saul call the voice in verse 8?
 - 8 "Who are you, Lord?" I asked.
 - It's good to know that Saul didn't mean "LORD" like we do when we say it. He meant, "Sir."
 - When you see LORD in your Bible it is the translation for YHWH, the Jews sacred name for God. They didn't say this name outloud out of respect for God. Lord is the translation of Adoni, which we'd use more like Sir. It's showing respect, but not worship.
 - What did Jesus ask Saul? Why are you _____?
 - persecuting me
 - What did Jesus mean?
 - Why are you hurting my people? When you hurt my people you hurt me. Also, when you hurt people who believe in me it makes other people not believe in me, that hurts me too.
 - Next Saul can't see. He can't get up and get to the city by himself. What did Jesus tell him to do? Did he do it?
 - Go to Damascus, yes.
 - How do you think Ananias felt about going to help Saul?

Acts 9:13 "Lord," Ananias answered, "I've heard many reports about this man. They say he has done great harm to your holy people in Jerusalem. 14 Now he has come here to arrest all those who worship you. The chief priests have given him authority to do this."

15 But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! I have chosen this man to work for me. He will announce my name to the Gentiles and to their kings. He will also announce my name to the people of Israel.

 - Yah, he was a little nervous, probably a lot! but he went.
 - What message to Ananias give to Saul from Jesus?

14 "Then he said, 'The God of our people has chosen you. He wanted to tell you his plans for you. You have seen the Blameless One. You have heard words from his mouth. 15 Now you will tell everyone about what you have seen and heard. 16 So what are you waiting for? Get up and call on his name. Be baptized. Have your sins washed away.'

- God had big plans for Saul and he needed to become a Christian so he could get started.
 - becoming a Christian:
 - Admit your a sinner (make bad choices)
 - Believe that Jesus is the Son of God, died on the cross to pay the price for sin, and didn't stay dead
 - Choose - pray and tell God that you choose believe in and follow him. Ask him to forgive your sin and be your LORD (boss).
 - Being baptized is something you do after you become a Christian to show others that you've made that choice. Saul needed to show that he chose to believe that Jesus was the Messiah.
 - A couple of weeks later Saul was in the Temple worshipping and teaching about Jesus when he had a 'dream.' What did Jesus tell him?

17 'Quick!' he said. 'Leave Jerusalem at once. The people here will not accept what you tell them about me.'

21 "Then the Lord said to me, 'Go. I will send you far away to people who are not Jews.' "

 - Yep, he needed to get out of town because some of the Jews were angry at him for becoming a Jesus Follower and Christians didn't believe he really had changed, maybe he was tricking them!!
 - God promised Saul that he would use Saul to tell people in other countries about Jesus. Saul is one of the main ways Christianity spread to other countries in that time and it went from there even further. All because a man who used to hate Christians became a Christian and had to move away to tell others. God gave him an amazing God Job!
- Say - Oh! Something we haven't talked about yet (unless you have): We don't know when or how Paul's name changed. It says this in Acts 13:9:

Acts 13:9 Saul was also known as Paul. He was filled with the Holy Spirit.

Scripture Memory

- **Important** - work with your group to determine a SMART goal for how many total verses they will learn. (5 verses in the study * of students is 100%, consider a lower goal if they haven't made a habit of memorizing scripture previously.)
- Spend a few moments creating motions or a rhythm to go with the bible verse.
 - Session Verse:
Acts 22:15 Now you will tell everyone about what you have seen and heard.
 - Theme Verse:
Matthew 28:19 So you must go and make disciples of all nations. Baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Application Activities - 20 minutes:

Wrap Up

- Say - Tonight we learned who Paul is.
 - Say - Next week we will learn about where Paul goes as he does his new God Job of telling everyone about Jesus.
- Be sure to send home their Family Page and Personal Study materials.

Family Component

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Personal Study

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Related Sources:

Additional Passages

Main Teaching Passage: Acts 22:1-21 (NIV)

Brothers and fathers, listen now to my defense.”

2 When they heard him speak to them in Aramaic, they became very quiet.

Then Paul said: 3 “I am a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city. I studied under Gamaliel and was thoroughly trained in the law of our ancestors. I was just as zealous for God as any of you are today. 4 I persecuted the followers of this Way to their death, arresting both men and women and throwing them into prison, 5 as the high priest and all the Council can themselves testify. I even obtained letters from them to their associates in Damascus, and went there to bring these people as prisoners to Jerusalem to be punished.

6 “About noon as I came near Damascus, suddenly a bright light from heaven flashed around me. 7 I fell to the ground and heard a voice say to me, ‘Saul! Saul! Why do you persecute me?’

8 “‘Who are you, Lord?’ I asked.

“ ‘I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting,’ he replied. 9 My companions saw the light, but they did not understand the voice of him who was speaking to me.

10 “‘What shall I do, Lord?’ I asked.

“ ‘Get up,’ the Lord said, ‘and go into Damascus. There you will be told all that you have been assigned to do.’ 11 My companions led me by the hand into Damascus, because the brilliance of the light had blinded me.

12 “A man named Ananias came to see me. He was a devout observer of the law and highly respected by all the Jews living there. 13 He stood beside me and said, ‘Brother Saul, receive your sight!’ And at that very moment I was able to see him.

14 “Then he said: ‘The God of our ancestors has chosen you to know his will and to see the Righteous One and to hear words from his mouth. 15 You will be his witness to all people of what you have seen and heard. 16 And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name.’

17 “When I returned to Jerusalem and was praying at the temple, I fell into a trance 18 and saw the Lord speaking to me. ‘Quick!’ he said. ‘Leave Jerusalem immediately, because the people here will not accept your testimony about me.’

19 “‘Lord,’ I replied, ‘these people know that I went from one synagogue to another to imprison and beat those who believe in you. 20 And when the blood of your martyr[a] Stephen was shed, I stood there giving my approval and guarding the clothes of those who were killing him.’

21 “Then the Lord said to me, ‘Go; I will send you far away to the Gentiles.’ ”

Main Teaching Passage: Acts 22:1-21 (MSG)

“My dear brothers and fathers, listen carefully to what I have to say before you jump to conclusions about me.” When they heard him speaking Hebrew, they grew even quieter. No one wanted to miss a word of this.

2-3 He continued, “I am a good Jew, born in Tarsus in the province of Cilicia, but educated here in Jerusalem under the exacting eye of Rabbi Gamaliel, thoroughly instructed in our religious traditions. And I’ve always been passionately on God’s side, just as you are right now.

4-5 “I went after anyone connected with this ‘Way,’ went at them hammer and tongs, ready to kill for God. I rounded up men and women right and left and had them thrown in prison. You can ask the Chief Priest or anyone in the High Council to verify this; they all knew me well. Then I went off to our brothers in Damascus, armed with official documents authorizing me to hunt down the followers of Jesus there, arrest them, and bring them back to Jerusalem for sentencing.

6-7 “As I arrived on the outskirts of Damascus about noon, a blinding light blazed out of the skies and I fell to the ground, dazed. I heard a voice: ‘Saul, Saul, why are you out to get me?’

8-9 “‘Who are you, Master?’ I asked.

“He said, ‘I am Jesus the Nazarene, the One you’re hunting down.’ My companions saw the light, but they didn’t hear the conversation.

10-11 “Then I said, ‘What do I do now, Master?’

“He said, ‘Get to your feet and enter Damascus. There you’ll be told everything that’s been set out for you to do.’ And so we entered Damascus, but nothing like the entrance I had planned—I was blind as a bat and my companions had to lead me in by the hand.

12-13 “And that’s when I met Ananias, a man with a sterling reputation in observing our laws—the Jewish community in Damascus is unanimous on that score. He came and put his arm on my shoulder. ‘Look up,’ he said. I looked, and found myself looking right into his eyes—I could see again!

14-16 “Then he said, ‘The God of our ancestors has handpicked you to be briefed on his plan of action. You’ve actually seen the Righteous Innocent and heard him speak. You are to be a key witness to everyone you meet of what you’ve seen and heard. So what are you waiting for? Get up and get yourself baptized, scrubbed clean of those sins and personally acquainted with God.’

17-18 “Well, it happened just as Ananias said. After I was back in Jerusalem and praying one day in the Temple, lost in the presence of God, I saw him, saw God’s Righteous Innocent, and heard him say to me, ‘Hurry up! Get out of here as quickly as you can. None of the Jews here in Jerusalem are going to accept what you say about me.’

19-20 “At first I objected: ‘Who has better credentials? They all know how obsessed I was with hunting out those who believed in you, beating them up in the meeting places and throwing them in jail. And when your witness Stephen was murdered, I was right there, holding the coats of the murderers and cheering them on. And now they see me totally converted. What better qualification could I have?’

21 “But he said, ‘Don’t argue. Go. I’m sending you on a long journey to outsider non-Jews.’”

Meta-Narrative Link: Exodus 6:1-8

6:1 Then the Lord said to Moses, “Now you will see what I will do to Pharaoh. Because of my powerful hand, he will let the people of Israel go. Because of my mighty hand, he will drive them out of his country.”

2 God continued, “I am the Lord. 3 I appeared to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob as the Mighty God. But I did not show them the full meaning of my name, The Lord. 4 I also made my covenant with them. I promised to give them the land of Canaan. That is where they lived as outsiders. 5 Also, I have heard the groans of the Israelites. The Egyptians are keeping them as slaves. But I have remembered my covenant.

6 “So tell the people of Israel, ‘I am the Lord. I will throw off the heavy load the Egyptians have put on your shoulders. I will set you free from being slaves to them. I will reach out my arm and save you with mighty acts when I judge Egypt. 7 I will take you to be my own people. I will be your God. I throw off the load the Egyptians have put on your shoulders. Then you will know that I am the Lord your God. 8 I will bring you to the land I promised to give to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. I lifted up my hand and promised it to them. The land will belong to you. I am the Lord.’”