
The Conversion of Saul

Memory Verse

Acts 9:6 — So he, trembling and astonished, said, “Lord, what do You want me to do?” Then the Lord said to him, “Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.”

Further Study

- Acts 9:1–31; Galatians 1:11–24
- The Acts of the Apostles*, chapter 12, pp. 112–122, “From Persecutor to Disciple”
- The Acts of the Apostles*, chapter 48, pp. 492–497, “Before Nero”

Main point

Young people can do great good if they make a lifelong commitment to Jesus Christ. But young people who do not make this surrender can cause great suffering.

Nero was a young person who did not choose to follow Jesus. Before he died at the age of 30, he tried to destroy the Christian church and killed thousands of Christians, including Peter and Paul.

Paul was a young person when he dedicated his life to God. He became God’s special agent in converting thousands of Gentiles to Christianity. No one can measure the amount of good he did in his lifetime, or the powerful, godly influence of his writings since his death.

Today we are going to look at the story of Paul’s conversion. We will start at the beginning, before he was converted, while he was called “Saul.”

Lesson outline

Point 1: Before his conversion, Saul tried to destroy the church.

- ① **QUESTION:** How does the Bible describe Saul before he was converted? *Acts 8:3*
- ① **QUESTION:** Was Saul able to destroy the Christian church? *Acts 8:4*

The next verses in Acts 8 tell about the evangelistic explosion that followed this terrible persecution.

- ① **DISCUSSION QUESTION:** Why do you think persecution can't stamp out Christianity?

Point 2: Saul became a Christian.

- ① **QUESTION:** Did the spread of Christianity outside of Jerusalem cause Saul or the Jewish leaders to give up and stop persecuting Christians? *Acts 26:11*
- ① **QUESTION:** What actually changed Saul's mind about Christianity? *Acts 9:1-7*
- ① **DISCUSSION QUESTION:** After Saul's change of heart, he prayerfully asked, "Lord, what do You want me to do?" Why is that question so important? How do you think God would answer that question for you?

Point 3: Jesus called Saul to be a missionary.

- ① **QUESTION:** How did Jesus answer Saul's question, "What do You want me to do?" *Acts 9:6*
- ① **QUESTION:** What work did Jesus ask Saul to do? *Acts 9:15; 26:16-18*
- ① **DISCUSSION QUESTION:** Why do you think God directed Saul to the Christian church for more instruction? Why didn't God just tell Saul everything he needed to know?

Point 4: The Christians fear the converted Saul.

- ① **QUESTION:** Had Christians in Damascus heard of Saul? Did they know why he had come to Damascus? *Acts 9:13, 14*
- ① **QUESTION:** Did the Christians think that Saul was trying to trick them by pretending to be a Christian? *Acts 9:26*
- ① **DISCUSSION QUESTION:** Do you think it was difficult for Christians to overcome their fear in order to witness to Saul? How do you treat someone who has recently been converted?

Point 5: When we surrender to Jesus, He completely changes our lives for the better.

- ① **QUESTION:** What happens to everyone who fully surrenders to Jesus as Saul did? *2 Corinthians 5:17*
- ① **DISCUSSION QUESTION:** What changes will Jesus make in your life when you surrender your heart to Him? Have you seen Him make those changes in someone you know?

Point 6: God used Saul in a mighty way to win many souls to Christ.

- ◎ **QUESTION:** As a young man, Saul made a lifelong commitment to Jesus. When he was an old man, was he sorry he had spent so many years serving Jesus? *2 Timothy 4:7, 8; Philip-
pians 3:4-11*
- ◎ **QUESTION:** What other young men and women mentioned in the Bible made lifelong commitments to God when they were young? *Some examples are found in Ruth 1:16, 2 Kings 22:1, 2, Luke 2:36, 37, 2 Timothy 3:15*
- ◎ **DISCUSSION QUESTION:** Why did Solomon recommend making a commitment to God while we are young rather than waiting until we are old? *Ecclesiastes 12:1, 13, 14*

Appeal

Today, will you make the same lifelong commitment to Jesus that Saul made?

Commitment Prayer

Our Father in heaven, we are sorry that we have chosen our own way so many times. Please forgive us. Today we choose to give ourselves to You. We want to love and serve You for the rest of our lives. Please use us in whatever way You see best.