

Questions / Answers

1. Why did Saul go to Damascus?
To arrest and persecute the Christians there.
2. What happened to Saul on the way?
Jesus spoke to him and he was converted.
3. Why did the disciples preach the Gospel to the Jews?
Because God's promises were made to God's people, the Jews.
4. How can Gentiles become part of God's family. Who did God choose to preach to the Gentiles?
By being baptised. God chose Paul.
5. Where did Paul go to preach the Gospel and set up Christian churches?
All over the Roman Empire—Greece, Asia (Turkey) and Italy.
6. How many journeys did Paul make to preach the Gospel?
3 journeys.
7. Name some of the things Paul suffered on his journeys.
Shipwreck, prison, beatings, stoned, dangers, cold, hunger etc.
8. What happened to Paul at Jerusalem?
The Jews caused a riot. Paul was arrested. He was in prison 2 years.
9. Why did Paul go to Rome? What did he do there?
He went to have a fair trial before Caesar. He preached the Gospel and wrote letters to the churches.
10. What was more important to Paul than the things he suffered?
The love of God and Jesus and the hope of salvation.

Memory verses

Galatians 3:27—29 Philippians 3:8 2 Timothy 4:2

Discussion

After his conversion Paul spent his life preaching the Gospel and suffered many things. Why did he do this? We should preach the Gospel. What lessons can we learn from Paul? Read 1 Corinthians 9:19—23.

Writing

Choose one of these places and write about Paul's experiences there: Lystra, Philippi, Corinth, Ephesus, Troas, Malta.

CBM Senior Lessons



Lesson 41 Paul—Apostle to the Gentiles

READING Acts 9:1—19; Galatians 3:26—29; 2 Corinthians 11:24—27; Acts 14:8—15; 16:16—34; 18:1—4; 19:23—41; 20:7—12; 28:1—6

LESSON

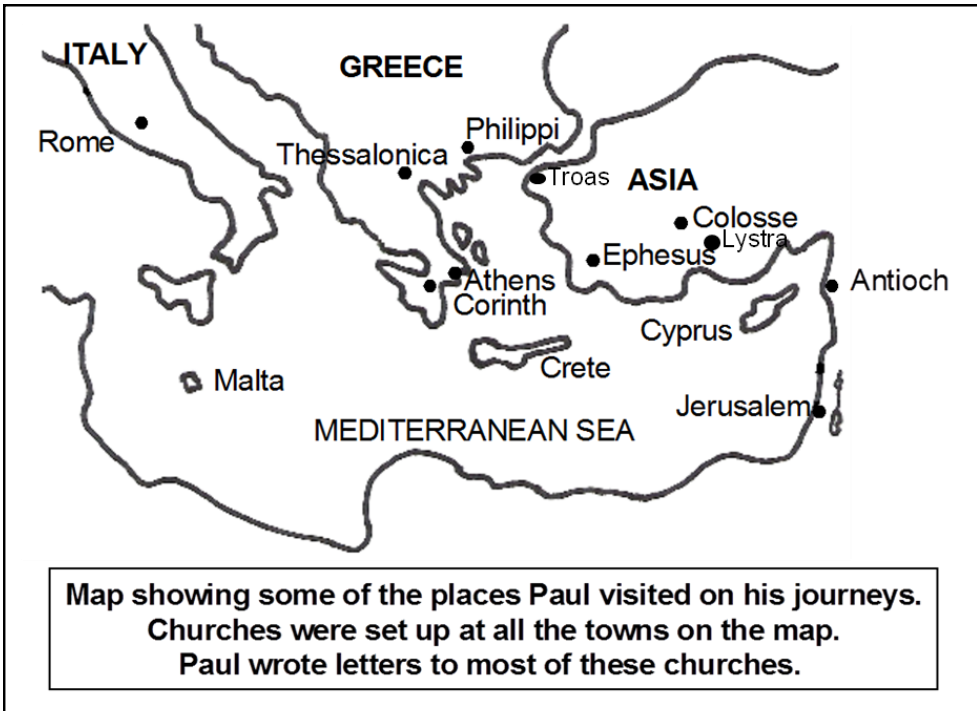
Saul was a Pharisee. He studied the Law at Jerusalem. Saul was very angry about the teaching of the Christians at Jerusalem. Saul hated the Christians. He tried to stop them teaching people about Jesus. Saul watched Stephen being stoned. He persecuted many Christians and threw them into prison at Jerusalem. Saul heard that there were a lot of Christians at Damascus. He travelled to Damascus to arrest and persecute the Christians there.

When Saul was near Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell on the ground and heard a voice asking him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" "Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked. The Lord said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. Get up and go into the city. You will be told what to do." When Saul opened his eyes, he was blind. His men led him into Damascus.

Jesus sent a Christian called Ananias to see Saul. Jesus told Ananias that he had chosen Saul to preach the Gospel to the Gentiles. Ananias healed Saul so that he could see again. He gave Saul the gift of the Holy Spirit. Saul was baptised immediately. He was converted and became a Christian. Saul changed his name to Paul.

Jesus and the disciples were Jews. God's promises to Abraham and David were to His people, the Jews. At first the Gospel was preached only to the Jews. The Jews found it hard to understand that the Gentiles could share in God's promises. They did not understand that God wanted all nations to have salvation through Jesus Christ. Read Galatians 3:26-29. Those who are baptised into Jesus Christ become related to Christ. They are part of God's family. Gentiles who are baptised are adopted Jews and have a part in God's promises. The disciples preached mainly to the Jews. God chose Paul to preach to the Gentiles.

Paul's work was to spread the news about Jesus Christ and God's Kingdom to other countries in the Roman Empire. Paul went on three great journeys to preach the Gospel to the Gentiles. He preached the Gospel in Asia (now called Turkey), Greece and Italy. Paul set up churches of Christian believers all over the Roman Empire.



Paul did not often travel alone. On his first journey Barnabas went to help him. Later he travelled with Timothy, Luke, Silas and others. Travel was slow and sometimes dangerous. Paul made long journeys by sea. Paul was shipwrecked three times. He spent a whole day and night in the sea. He travelled along the great Roman roads. The roads were often dangerous and difficult and robbers hid among the rocks.

When Paul arrived in a town, he preached the Gospel first in the Jewish synagogue. The Jews often became angry about his teaching. Then Paul would leave the Jews and preach the Gospel to anyone who would listen. Paul taught the Gospel to many people. When they believed, he would baptise them. Paul taught the new believers how to worship God and how to break bread to remember the sacrifice of Jesus. Paul set up Christian churches in many of the towns he visited. After a time Paul would move on to another town.

On his second and third journeys, Paul visited many of the churches he had set up earlier. He encouraged and helped them. Paul also wrote many letters to the new churches he had set up. The churches were very new. They had questions and problems. Paul wrote letters to help and encourage them. We have some of Paul's letters in our New Testament.

Paul had many adventures and experiences during his travels. Find the following places on the map and read what Paul did there:

Lystra	Paul healed a crippled man. The people wanted to offer sacrifices to Paul and Barnabas. Acts 14:8 - 15
Philippi	Paul and Silas were put in prison. God sent an earthquake and they were set free. Acts 16:16-34.
Corinth	Paul met Aquila and Priscilla who were tentmakers like Paul. Acts 18:1-4
Ephesus	The silversmiths caused a riot in the theatre in Ephesus because Paul said their gods were not real Acts 19:23-41.
Troas	Eutychus fell out of a window. Paul raised him from the dead. Acts 20:7-12
Malta	Paul was shipwrecked. A poisonous snake fastened itself on his hand, but he was not harmed. Acts 28:1-6

The Jewish rulers hated the Christians. They tried to stop Paul preaching. The Jews often attacked Paul and caused trouble for him. The Jews plotted to kill him on many occasions. Paul suffered many things because he preached the Gospel. Read what Paul says in *2 Corinthians 11:24 - 27*.

The Jews hated Paul and plotted to kill him. At Jerusalem the Jews caused a riot and Paul was arrested by the Roman soldiers. Paul was kept in prison for over two years. Eventually Paul asked for a fair trial before Caesar in Rome. Paul was sent by ship to Rome.

Paul lived as a prisoner in a hired house in Rome for about two years. He was chained to a Roman soldier. Paul continued to work for God. He preached the Gospel to everyone who visited him and wrote many letters to the churches he had set up.

Paul was tried before Caesar. He was probably executed. The love of God and the Lord Jesus and the hope of salvation were more important to Paul than the suffering he endured. When Jesus comes back to the earth, he will raise Paul to life again. Paul will live for ever in God's wonderful Kingdom on the earth.