

## CHURCH SCHOOL LESSONS

JUNE 7, 2020

Under normal conditions, we would have wrapped up our Church School lessons last week. But because of these unique times, I am planning to continue with the lessons on a weekly basis for a while. Not sure exactly how long that will be, it will depend on other things that will be happening with our church family.

This week our Bible story introduces us to Paul, who was an important leader in the church. Paul had to experience a big change before he could follow Christ. Here are some pictures. I want you to match each one with its changed version.



Today our Bible story shows us that changes aren't always bad – we can make changes for good. We've been reading about how the early believers lived after Jesus' resurrection and ascension. Today a new person enters the story. He is called both "Saul" and "Paul" but we'll just call him Paul to make it easier. Turn in your Bibles to Acts chapter 9. Read verses 1-6.

Why do you think Paul was trying to catch Christians? What do you think Paul thought when he saw the bright light? What do you think he thought when he heard Jesus' voice?

Read Acts 9:7-12.

The verse described Ananias as a "disciple." What does that mean?

Read Acts 9:13-16.

Why does Ananias protest? How does the Lord respond?

Read Acts 9:17-20.

What changed about Paul? How does he respond to these changes?

When Paul encountered Christ on the road, a bright light made the scene even more dramatic. Draw a picture of Paul encountering Christ on the road and seeing the bright light. The bright light that Paul saw when Jesus spoke to him reminds us that Jesus is the light of the world.

Today I am going to begin something new. We are going to learn a memory verse. We work on this for the next few weeks. Our memory verse is **"I can endure all these things through the power of the one who gives me strength. (Philippians 4:13)**

This is a reminder that with God's help, we can make it through even the hardest days.

We have been studying in the book of Acts, which is the story of how the disciples and other followers or "the Way" developed their faith and founded the church. Acts is the first book after the Gospels in the New Testament. While we think of Acts as its own book, it is actually the second volume in a two-book series. The same author who wrote Luke also wrote Acts. Look up Luke 24:50-53.

What are the disciples doing at the very end of Luke? Now look up Acts 1: 1-11. How does this passage compare to the passage in Luke that we just read?

Bible scholars have determined that both Luke and Acts were written by the same person, most likely a physician named Luke. He probably was paid by a wealthy person to write his books. The first word in Acts, *Theophilus*, is a way of addressing the book, kind of like a letter. This person was probably a follower of the Way who wanted to learn more about Jesus and the church.

How do you think people learned about Jesus after he died but before the Bible was written? In what other ways have you learned about Jesus?

Let's close our lesson with a prayer. Thank you, God for showing us that everyone can change and decide to follow you. Help us remember to be strong by trusting in you. Keep us safe and we move into summer activities with our families and friends. In Jesus name. Amen.