

★ Religious Saul to Apostle Paul

1st - 3rd Grade
Lesson 4

★ He Fought a Good Fight

The devil is the enemy of God and His people. He uses many tricks to hurt God's work. Many times he uses people to do his dirty work.

Our last lesson was about Stephen. He was killed for telling people about Jesus. There was a man that stood and held the coats of the men who killed Stephen. The man who held the coats was Saul.

Saul wanted to get rid of all Christians. The Bible says that Saul went from house to house looking for Christians (Acts 8:3). Then he put them in prison. He thought this is what God wanted him to do.

This lesson tells how God gave Saul a new heart, a new work, and a new name.

He Fought the Wrong Fight

Saul was born in the city of Tarsus. He grew up in Jerusalem. He was a Jew, and he went to the synagogue school. He learned all of the Old Testament Scriptures. He was taught by Gamaliel, one of the great teachers in Jerusalem.

Saul was in Jerusalem when Peter preached. He knew that 3,000 people were saved that day. He thought he had to stop this preaching about Jesus. Later, this is what Saul said about himself:

And I persecuted this way unto the death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women.

—Acts 22:4

He Saw a Great Light

Saul asked the high priest if he could go to Damascus. He knew there were Christians there. He wanted to put them in prison too.

God is so wise and loving. He knew Saul thought he was doing the right thing. He knew that Saul's heart was blind to the truth about Jesus. Saul didn't know it, but his eyes were about to be blinded too.

Saul and his men marched toward Damascus. Suddenly, a bright light from heaven shined on him. He fell down to the ground. Then he heard God's voice: "Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?" (Acts 9:4)

Saul asked Who was speaking to him. Jesus said, "I am Jesus whom thou persecutest" (Acts 9:5). By this time, Saul was shaking. He finally understood. These Christians were right. Jesus is God's Son! He is the Savior! Next, Saul said, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" (Acts 9:6) Jesus told him to go to Damascus and wait. Jesus would tell him what to do.

He Was Different as Day and Night

Saul was different now. Now he was a believer in Jesus. His heart was not blind any more. But when he stood up, he could not see. One of his men had to take him by the hand and lead him to Damascus.

Before Saul met Jesus, he hurt the Christians. After he met Jesus, he was one of them. Before, he was their enemy. After, he was their friend. The Jews hated Saul for preaching about Jesus. Now they wanted to kill him.

God had a big job for Saul to do. Saul used to find Christians and put them in prison. Now he went to the synagogues and told people that Jesus is the Son of God. God sent Saul to other cities and countries to tell people about Jesus. He was a missionary.

God also changed Saul's name to Paul. God used Paul to write many of the New Testament books of the Bible. In all of these books, he uses his new name, Paul.

He Fought a Good Fight

Paul had a hard life. He was beaten many times. He was stoned. He was in a shipwreck. Many people hated him for preaching about Jesus. He was often hungry and thirsty and cold (II Corinthians 11:24-27).

But Paul had met Jesus. Nothing was important to him except living for Jesus. He knew that he would see Jesus when he died.

For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

—Philippians 1:21

God had a big job for Paul to do. God has a job for you too. Will you be able to say like Paul, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith" (II Timothy 4:7)?

Teacher's Notes
