

★ Religious Saul to Apostle Paul 4th - 6th Grade Lesson 4

★ He Fought a Good Fight

In this lesson, we are going to learn about a man whose life was completely changed! We just learned about the story of Stephen. The man we will learn about in this lesson watched Stephen die. In the last lesson, we learned that Jerusalem was having revival. The man that we will study today did not want anyone to have revival. He did not believe in Jesus. This man's name was Saul.

He Fought the Wrong Fight

Saul was from a city called Tarsus in Rome. He was a tent maker. Saul was raised in a good Jewish home. He learned from many scribes and Pharisees. He thought these new "Christians" were bad. He thought they were going against the Law of Moses. Saul decided he was going to get rid of all the Christians in Jerusalem.

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

—Acts 22:4

And I punished them oft in every synagogue, and compelled them to blaspheme; and being exceedingly mad against them, I persecuted them even unto strange cities.

—Acts 26:11

Saul hurt Christians in many different ways. He arrested them and made them go to prison.

He Saw a Great Light

Saul decided to go to Damascus so he could persecute more Christians. On the way, his life was changed forever. As he was traveling on the road to Damascus, he saw a bright light! In fact, he was blinded by the light. After Saul saw the light, he heard a voice from heaven. The voice asked, "Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me" (Acts 9:4)? Saul asked the voice, "Who art thou, Lord?" The voice answered, "I am Jesus whom thou persecutest" (Acts 9:5). Saul was very frightened! Jesus was talking to him, and Saul had been hurting people who believed in Jesus. Saul asked Jesus, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" (Acts 9:6) Saul realized that what he had been doing was wrong. He was sorry and wanted to serve Jesus. Jesus told Saul to go to the city, and then He would tell Saul what to do. Saul continued on to the city, and he was blind for three days while He waited to hear what God wanted him to do. God had a plan for Saul's life.

While Saul was traveling into the city, the Lord spoke to a man named Ananias. Ananias was a Christian. God told Ananias to go find Saul so that he could heal him of his blindness. Ananias was frightened! Saul had done many bad things to Christians. But Ananias trusted God. He went to the place where Saul was in the city and healed his blindness.

After Saul got saved, he was a very different person. He started preaching about Jesus. He used to kill people who preached about Jesus! But after he was saved, the Jews wanted to kill Saul because he had changed. Not only his life was changed, but also his name was changed. Before he was saved, the Bible calls him Saul. But while he was serving Jesus, the Bible calls him Paul.

He Fought a Good Fight

Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness.

—II Corinthians 11:24-27

Paul's life changed forever after he got saved. He had spent a lot of time fighting against Jesus. After his conversion, he fought for Jesus. He lived for Jesus until the day he died. Paul suffered through many hard situations in his life. He was stoned, put in prison, and shipwrecked. Many other things happened to him while he served Jesus that we would consider hard or bad. However, Paul was faithful to God until he died.

Even though Paul had often persecuted Christians, God forgave him of all the sins he had done. Paul's life was different after he chose to follow Jesus. Is your life different? If you have asked Jesus to save you, you should not live like people in the world live. You are different than they are if you are born again. Do you know the song, "There's Been a Great Change Since I've Been Born Again?" The verse of that song says, "The things I used to do, I don't do them any more." That song is talking about the change that happens when you ask Jesus to save you! Paul's life was changed after he got saved. If you have asked Jesus to save you, you need to have a change in your life, too. Ask Jesus to help you live on the outside like the new person you have become on the inside!