



THE LIFE OF
PAUL

FAMILY DEVOS

Saul's Conversion

Scripture: Acts 9:1-19 (see also Acts 8:1-3)

Memory Verse: Matthew 4:16

“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”

For My Family:

Who is the one person you could never imagine becoming a Christian? If you had asked the believers living in the time of the book of Acts, I bet they would have said Saul of Tarsus. After the death of Stephen, one of the leaders in the early Church, Saul went after any Christian he could find. He would throw them in jail, beat them up, and sometimes even have them killed (Acts 8:1-3). No one could have expected what was about to happen to him.

One day, on his way to arrest more Christians in the city of Damascus, he saw a bright light and heard a voice asking why he was persecuting Him (“persecuting” is when someone tries to harm Christians because of their faith). The risen Lord Jesus had appeared to Saul! Jesus commanded Saul to continue to Damascus, where he would be told what to do. Saul was left blind by this encounter and had to be led by hand to Damascus, where he didn't eat or drink for three days.

The Lord then spoke to a Christian named Ananias in a vision and told him to go to Saul and pray for him to receive his sight back. Ananias couldn't believe it! He was supposed to pray for *Saul*, the one who was persecuting Christians everywhere? Hadn't he come to Damascus to arrest the Christians? But the Lord told Ananias that He had a special plan for Saul. He was going to use Saul to preach about Him all over the world. Ananias obeyed, and he went to see Saul. Once Ananias prayed, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he believed in Jesus and was baptized.

No one could have guessed it then, but the man who had just gotten saved and had once been the great persecutor of the Church would end up being the greatest missionary in Church history. Saul (whose name would later be changed to Paul) would travel across the Roman Empire preaching the Gospel and planting churches, not to mention writing at least 13 books of the New Testament. Over the next several weeks, we are going to study the life of Paul and see how God used him to change the world.

Perhaps there is someone you know that you could never imagine getting saved. Maybe you've been praying for a family member, friend, or neighbor for years, but they just won't believe in Jesus. Don't give up! If the Lord could save Saul, He can save your loved one too. No matter who they are or what they've done, God can still forgive them if they put their faith in Jesus. So keep praying and sharing God's love with them!

Questions for Young Children:

What was Saul like before he met Jesus?

What happened to Saul on the way to Damascus?

What did Jesus tell Ananias to do?

Questions for Teens and Pre-teens:

How would you have felt if you were Ananias and the Lord asked you to pray for Saul?

Why do you think the Lord would choose to save someone like Saul?

Is there anyone that you could never imagine becoming a Christian? Pray for that person to believe in Christ.