



THE LIFE OF  
**PAUL**

FAMILY DEVOS

# Saul's Commission

**Scripture:** Acts 13:1-12

See also Acts 11:25-30; 12:25; Matthew 28:18-20

**Memory Verse:** Matthew 28:19-20

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’ Amen.”

## For My Family:

After his conversion and initial preaching ministry in Acts 9, Saul spent about 10 years in Tarsus. We don't know very much about his time there, but no doubt God was preparing him for what was ahead. His story picks up again in Acts 13, with Saul serving in the church at Antioch with a group of four other men. As these men prayed and fasted, the Holy Spirit commanded them to separate Saul and Barnabas for a work He had called them to. The other men prayed and fasted over Saul and Barnabas and then sent them out to go wherever the Spirit might lead them. On this journey, Saul began using his Roman name, Paul, which he would go by for the rest of his life.

Paul and Barnabas sailed for the island of Cyprus and preached about Jesus all over the island. When they got to the town of Paphos, they met an important government official named Sergius Paulus who wanted to hear more about God's Word. But Sergius Paulus had a friend named Bar-Jesus (also known as Elymas) who was a sorcerer. The sorcerer didn't want Sergius Paulus to believe the message and tried to turn him away from the faith. This angered Paul, so Paul called on the Lord to curse this man with blindness for trying to keep someone from coming to the Lord, and Elymas became blind. Upon seeing this, Sergius Paulus believed in the Lord.

The Lord had called Paul and Barnabas to be missionaries. A missionary is someone who goes to another country or culture to preach the Gospel (the message that Jesus died and rose again so that your sins can be forgiven and you can be with Him forever). Paul would end up spending the rest of his life as a missionary, a journey which we will look at over the next several weeks of our devotions.

While you might not be a missionary, every Christian is supposed to do the work of a missionary and spread the Gospel wherever they go (Matthew 28:18-20). At your school, in your neighborhoods, at your activities, and even among family you may know unbelievers who need to hear the message of Jesus. In addition to sharing the Gospel yourself, you can support missionaries by learning about who they are and where they are serving the Lord, and then praying for them. You could even write them a letter, send them an email, or give them financial support. When you support missionaries through prayer or other ways, you are helping to spread the Gospel all over the world.

## Questions for Young Children:

What did the Holy Spirit ask Paul and Barnabas to do?

What did Paul do to Elymas the sorcerer?

What is a missionary? What can you do to help missionaries?

## Questions for Teens and Pre-teens:

Being a missionary is just one way to fulfill Jesus' command to make disciples of all nations in Matthew 28:18-20. What are some things *you* can do to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ?

Do you support or pray for any missionaries? If you don't know any, do some research. Go to [missions.ccphilly.org](http://missions.ccphilly.org) to learn more about some of our church's missionaries and commit to praying for one.