



# PAUL



# Paul

## Apostle Paul

**Apostle Paul**, also known as **Saint Paul**, was a very important person in the history of **Christianity**. He lived a long time ago, around 2,000 years back.

1. **Start of His Journey:** Paul was born with the name **Saul** in a place that is now part of **Turkey**. He was Jewish and didn't like the followers of **Jesus**. He even wanted to punish anyone who believed in Jesus.
2. **Big Change:** One day, while traveling to **Damascus**, something magical happened. A bright light appeared, and Jesus spoke to Saul! After this, Saul became a believer in Jesus and changed his name to **Paul**.
3. **Missionary Work:** Paul traveled a lot and told people about Jesus. He helped create many **churches** in different places like **Asia Minor** and **Europe**. Because of his work, Christianity spread all over the world.
4. **Letters to Churches:** Paul wrote many letters to churches and Christians. These letters are now part of the **Bible**. They talk about Jesus, God, and how to live a good life.
5. **End of His Journey:** Paul went to **Jerusalem** and got arrested for bringing non-Jewish people into the **Temple**. He was sent to **Rome**, where he stayed for two years. We're not sure exactly how he died, but some believe he was beheaded by the emperor **Nero**.

So, remember, Apostle Paul was like a superhero for Christianity, spreading the good news about Jesus!

## Power Point

**It's possible for God to change lives.**

## MEMORY VERSE

Acts 1:8, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations...and surely I am with you always." (NIV)

## Apply the Lesson

Let's explore **five important lessons** we can learn from the life of the **Apostle Paul**:

**Never Give Up:** Paul faced many challenges, like being put in jail and shipwrecked. But he never gave up on sharing the good news about Jesus. Even when things were tough, he kept going. So, remember, when you face difficulties, keep trying!

**Be Kind to Others:** Paul was once a mean person who didn't like Jesus' followers. But after meeting Jesus, he changed. He became kind and caring. We can learn from him to treat others with kindness, even if they're different from us.

**Share Your Faith:** Paul traveled to different places, telling people about Jesus. He wrote letters to churches too! You don't need to travel far, but you can share your faith with friends and family. Talk about Jesus and how much He loves us.

**God's Love Is for Everyone:** Paul taught that Jesus loves everyone, no matter who they are. He welcomed people from different backgrounds. So, be like Paul—show love to everyone, even if they're not like you.

**Trust God:** Paul trusted God even when things were hard. He knew God was with him. When you feel scared or worried, remember that God is always there to help you. Trust Him like Paul did! So, let's be brave, kind, and share God's love, just like the amazing Apostle Paul!





## Group Activity

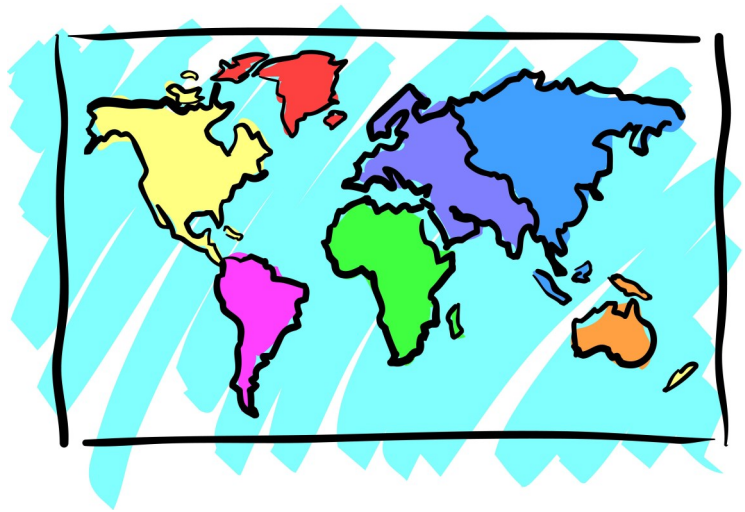
**ICEBREAKER:** What country would you most like to travel to?

**MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:** **Read:** Matthew 28:19-20 **Ask** the kids what they think the writer was trying to say when he wrote these words. Then ask them how this verse is connected to today’s story about the Apostle Paul.

**GAME/ACTIVITY:** Ahead of time ask your pastor to tell you about a missionary family that your church supports. Tell your class about them and what country they serve in. On a world map see who can be the first to locate that country.

Then choose one child to be a “missionary.” Take them off to the side and tell them to whisper “Jesus loves you” into each of the other kids ears. Tell the other children that they are going to get a message from the missionary and that you will time them to see how long it takes for everyone to get the message.

Then do it again, but the second time, tell the children receiving the message to go tell another kid as soon as they hear the message. See how much faster God’s love spreads when we all share the Good News.



**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:** Read Act 9:1-19.

1. Why was Saul on his way to Damascus?
2. Who did Saul meet on the road?
3. For how long was Saul blind?
4. Why was Ananias afraid to go to see Saul?
5. What happened when Ananias spoke to Saul?





### Games

Some lessons have a related game, which is ideal. Often you must improvise your own games. Don't call it wasted time if the kids are making friends and learning to work together. Remember having a positive experience (aka fun) is one of the things kids need at church.

Here are three classic games that kids have enjoyed for years and still do:

#### Duck, Duck, Goose

Have the kids form a circle sitting on the floor. One child walks around the circle tapping each child on the head and reciting the word "Duck" as they do so. When they tap the child they wish to select, they say/yell "Goose." That child then has to get up and chase the child who selected them (the "tapper") around the circle. The tapper tries to get back to the spot vacated by the Goose before the Goose catches and tags them. The Goose becomes the tapper for the second round.

#### Keep Away

Have the kids stand in a circle. Select one, or a small group of kids, to be in the middle of the circle. The kids on the outside throw a ball to other kids in the circle trying to keep the kid(s) in the middle from intercepting the ball. If a child in the middle of the circle does get the ball, they trade places with whoever threw the ball.

#### Hot Potato

Have the kids stand/sit in a circle. They pass/throw an object (with a large enough group you can use more than one) around the circle as music plays. Whoever has the object when the music stops is out.

### Object Lesson: Cleaning Supplies

We have come to realize how important it is to keep things clean, right? We make sure to wash our hands and sanitize surfaces, because we want to keep germs away. Well, I have several items here that you might use to clean. Let's see if you can identify them. What might I use this product for? (*Hold up different types of cleaning products, inviting students to describe their purposes. Examples could include hand soap, dish soap, laundry soap, sanitizer, or body wash.*)

These cleaning supplies are great for getting us clean on the OUTSIDE. However, my question for you today is, "How do we get on the INSIDE?" (Teacher: Prepare your heart ahead of time by reading Mark 7:1-15.) **Say:** Jesus and his disciples were criticized by the Pharisees for eating without washing their hands and Jesus explained that it is what comes out of our INSIDE that is unclean. Jesus said that the attitudes of our hearts are more important than the words that we say or the rules that we have. Washing hands in just the right way wasn't going to truly impact how the Pharisees followed God. Jesus turned the criticism back onto the Pharisees by pointing out how they were so upset about the rules that they failed to consider the reason for the rules. They didn't follow God with their hearts.

**Ask:** How can Jesus make us clean inside? (Let kids answer.)

**Say:** Jesus gave Himself for us, so that even when we make mistakes and don't keep all of the rules just right, we have forgiveness. He cleanses us from our sinful thoughts and behaviors. He helps us to have faith and believe in that truth to give us new hope and peace.



"AS THE FATHER HAS SENT ME,



SO I SEND YOU." (Jn 20:21)