

## St Andrew's Psalter Lane Church Junior Church Activity Sheet

### 31<sup>st</sup> January - Epiphany 4

Here is something to pass the time at home as we can't meet in church at the moment – a story and some activities.



**This week was the day we remember the conversion of St Paul, who was the great missionary after the life of Jesus. He travelled all over the Mediterranean world telling people about Jesus and bringing them the good news and the letters that he wrote to the churches that he started are a large part of the section of the Bible that we call the New Testament. But that was not how things started.....**

After Jesus had gone back to heaven his friends and followers started to meet together to share the stories of what Jesus had said and done. They shared meals together as Jesus had shown them at the Last Supper, and they shared all that they had with each other. Many poor people came to join them and they fed and took care of them too.

But their teaching angered many of the other Jews who thought that Jesus was not a true Messiah and they began to persecute the followers of Jesus, whom people were starting to call Christians. There was a young man called Saul, a tent-maker, who was very fierce against these new Christians. He led the persecutions, arresting them and having them beaten and, in some cases, killed, because they followed what Jesus had taught.

Saul was still trying to frighten the followers of the Lord by saying he would kill them. So he went to the high priest in Jerusalem and asked him to write letters to the synagogues in the city of Damascus. Saul wanted the high priest to give him the authority to find people in Damascus who were followers of Christ's Way. If he found any there, men or women, he would arrest them and bring them back to Jerusalem.

So Saul went to Damascus. As he came near the city, a bright light from heaven suddenly flashed around him. Saul fell to the ground. He heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul! Why are you doing things against me?"

Saul said, "Who are you, Lord?"

The voice answered, "I am Jesus. I am the One you are trying to hurt. Get up now and go into the city. Someone there will tell you what you must do."

The men traveling with Saul stood there, but they said nothing. They heard the voice, but they saw no one. Saul got up from the ground. He opened his eyes, but he could not see. So the men with Saul took his hand and led him into Damascus. For three days Saul could not see, and he did not eat or drink.

There was a follower of Jesus in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord spoke to Ananias in a vision, "Ananias!"

Ananias answered, "Here I am, Lord."

The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight Street. Find the house of Judas. Ask for a man named Saul from the city of Tarsus. He is there now, praying. Saul has seen a vision. In it a man named Ananias comes to him and lays his hands on him. Then he sees again."

But Ananias answered, "Lord, many people have told me about this man and the terrible things he did to your people in Jerusalem. Now he has come here to Damascus. The leading priests have given him the power to arrest everyone who worships you."

But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! I have chosen Saul for an important work. He must tell about me to non-Jews, to kings, and to the people of Israel. I will show him how much he must suffer for my name."

So Ananias went to the house of Judas. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus sent me. He is the one you saw on the road on your way here. He sent me so that you can see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." Immediately, something that looked like fish scales fell from Saul's eyes. He was able to see again! Then Saul got up and was baptized. After eating some food, his strength returned.

Saul stayed with the followers of Jesus in Damascus for a few days. Soon he began to preach about Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "Jesus is the Son of God!" And later, he changed his name to Paul, to show he was changed.



**Here is a picture of Saul/Paul falling off his horse. Conversion literally means that you get turned round, or turned upside down. When that happens you see the world differently. If you bend over and look at the world between your legs it all looks different. Paul learned to see things in a new way when his sight came back and Jesus became as real to him as if he had known him in real life**

#### **SOME THINGS TO DO**

Ask if you can have some old magazines to cut up. Cut things out of the pictures and make an upsidedown picture with them so the world looks different.

Look at a picture online: use this link:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Conversion\\_on\\_the\\_Way\\_to\\_Damascus#/media/File:Conversion\\_on\\_the\\_Way\\_to\\_Damascus-Caravaggio\\_\(c.1600-1\).jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Conversion_on_the_Way_to_Damascus#/media/File:Conversion_on_the_Way_to_Damascus-Caravaggio_(c.1600-1).jpg)

This is a famous painting by an artist called Caravaggio. St Paul has fallen off his horse. Can you see who he might be looking up at.? You might need to turn your head upsidedown too to see.

## WORD SEARCH

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| M | N | I | E | E | T | A | H | A | S | B | ANANIAS   |
| E | T | U | C | E | S | R | E | P | B | A | BAPTIZED  |
| L | U | A | P | P | R | E | A | C | H | E | BLIND     |
| A | M | D | E | E | L | I | L | V | D | J | DAMASCUS  |
| S | Y | N | A | G | O | G | U | E | E | H | FALL      |
| U | E | I | N | M | A | U | Z | S | E | L | HEAL      |
| R | S | L | A | R | A | I | U | T | S | U | HORSE     |
| E | U | B | N | E | T | S | E | I | R | P | JERUSALEM |
| J | A | R | I | P | B | A | C | A | O | L | JESUS     |
| D | B | F | A | L | L | C | E | U | H | R | PAUL      |
| M | A | B | S | G | R | E | A | R | S | G | PERSECUTE |

On the next page there is a join the dots picture to complete

# Connect the Dots

