

The Story of the Conversion of Paul on the Road to Damascus.

Jesus had been crucified and the Jewish leaders thought that they had heard the last of him, but they soon found out that people were still talking about him. He was becoming more popular than he was when he was alive! They saw his apostles do miraculous things in Jesus' name, and became very jealous of them.

Some of them thought that the Apostles were speaking out against their God and religion. Paul was one of these people. He made it his mission to destroy the church. He went from house to house,

dragging off men and women and put them in jail. People were so afraid of him that they fled to other cities and countries to avoid him.

He heard that the “new religion” called “The Way” was spreading to Damascus so he got permission to go there to arrest anyone who preached this new religion.

Paul started to walk on the road from Jerusalem, north to the city of Damascus. (See link to the map of the area). As Paul was walking to Damascus a bright light came down from the sky. It was so bright that Paul fell to the ground holding his eyes to protect them

from the brightness. He heard a voice coming down from the sky saying, “Paul! (Saul) Paul! (Saul) Why are you persecuting me?”

Paul answered, “Who is speaking, Lord?”

The voice replied, “I am Jesus, the one you are persecuting!”

Paul, trembling and astonished asked, “What do you want me to do?”

And the voice said, “Get up and go into the city and await my further instructions.”

As Paul got up from the ground he found that he was blind. He couldn't see a thing. The men that were with Paul stood speechless at what they had heard. When they realized Paul had been blinded, they led him by the hand to Damascus.

Meanwhile the Lord talked to a man named Ananias in a vision, and told him to go to Paul and help him. Ananias had heard about Paul and all the harm he did. He questioned God because he was afraid Paul might try to kill him. But God reassured Ananias that Paul would not hurt him. And told him that he had chosen Paul to take his message to the

Gentiles (non-Jews) and their kings, and the Israelites. God told Ananias that Paul would have to suffer much for him. Ananias laid his hands on Paul and he could see again.

Three days later Ananias placed his hands on Paul and he could see again, and he was filled with the Holy Spirit. Paul not only regained his sight that day, but now he could see with his heart. He understood that Jesus was the light of the world and that he was called by God to bring this message to many nations, kings, and his own people. He became a light to the world leading many people to Christ.

Jesus also wants us to be a light to the world. He wants our light to shine. He wants us to be an example so that when people see us they can see Jesus in us. He wants us to lead others to Christ just like Paul did.

(Matthew 5:14-17) “You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.”

(See links to the craft, the song, the summary & the prayer).