



# BIBLE

STUDENT BOOK

▶ **6th Grade | Unit 8**

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# BIBLE 608

## The Apostle Paul

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# The Apostle Paul

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## Introduction

A survey study of the Bible presents the Bible as a whole book. Although it has several human writers whom God used to write the sixty-six different books, the Bible is one book with one author, God, and with one theme, “God’s Plan for Man’s Redemption.” In this course you have seen how God promised a Redeemer, prepared a lineage through which the Redeemer would come, and preserved that line for the coming of the Redeemer (Old Testament). You have seen also the history of His coming and His ministry—the Lord Jesus Christ (New Testament, the Four Gospels).

In this LIFEPAK® you will see how God saved the apostle Paul, how He sent him on three missionary journeys and finally to Rome to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and how God used Paul to write at least thirteen books of the New Testament—more than any other human writer of the inspired Word. You will see also how God used Paul’s ministry both in the salvation of the lost and in the spiritual growth of the saved. You will gain some understandings of God’s messages to His people through Paul’s writings, and you will consider ways of applying those messages to your life. God intended the writings of Paul to be messages not only for the people of Paul’s day but also for people from this day to your day—for you.

## Objectives

**Read these objectives.** The objectives tell you what you will be able to do when you have successfully completed this LIFEPAK. When you have finished this LIFEPAK, you should be able to:

1. List the major events in the life of Paul before his conversion.
2. Describe Paul’s conversion experience.
3. Tell where Paul went on his three missionary journeys.
4. List the major events that happened on Paul’s three missionary journeys.
5. Describe Paul’s journey to Rome.
6. Explain Paul’s mission in Rome.
7. Name thirteen books of the New Testament written by the apostle Paul.
8. State the historical occasion of Paul’s writings.
9. Describe briefly the content of Paul’s writings.
10. Be acquainted with Paul’s teachings on salvation and where they are found in the Bible.



# 1. PAUL'S CONVERSION

Jesus came into the world that men might be saved. He said in John 10:10, "... I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." He said also in John 14:6, "... I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

Saul of Tarsus, who later became the great apostle Paul, met Jesus one day on the road to Damascus. Saul trusted Jesus as his Savior and received His life, everlasting life. Saul was converted, was changed, was saved. In this section you will learn about Saul's personal background, his religious zeal, and his conversion experience.

## Section Objectives

**Review these objectives.** When you have completed this section, you should be able to:

1. List the major events in the life of Paul before his conversion.
2. Describe Paul's conversion experience.

## Vocabulary

**Study these words to enhance your learning success in this section.**

**bar mitzvah** (bär mits' vu). Son of the commandment; a religious ceremony that celebrates a Jewish boy's thirteenth birthday and that affirms his religious responsibility.

**conversion** (kun vér' zhun). A change in one's character and conduct that results from repentance for sin and faith in Christ.

**persecute** (pèr' su kyüt). To treat badly because of one's faith.

**Note:** All vocabulary words in this LIFEPAC appear in **boldface** print the first time they are used. If you are unsure of the meaning when you are reading, study the definitions given.

**Pronunciation Key:** hat, āge, cāre, fā; let, ēqual, term; it, īce; hot, ōpen, ôrder; oil; out; cup, pūt, rüle; child; long; thin; /TH/ for then; /zh/ for measure; /u/ represents /a/ in about, /e/ in taken, /i/ in pencil, /o/ in lemon, and /u/ in circus.

## BACKGROUND

From the Bible and from history, we learn that Paul was born in Tarsus of Cilicia about A.D. 3. His home, his school, and religion were Jewish.

**Home.** Although Paul was a Roman citizen by birth, he was born into a Jewish family and in a Jewish home. His parents named him Saul. Saul was his Jewish name; Paul was his Roman, or Gentile, name. His father was from the tribe of Benjamin. Recall that the first king of Israel was also from the tribe of Benjamin, and his name was also Saul. Paul's parents may have named him after Israel's first king.

Until he was five years old, Paul learned from his mother the Bible stories of the people, which you studied in the first five LIFEPAcs in this course. Paul's mother probably told him about the oppression of their people in Egypt and about how God delivered His people from Pharaoh. From His faithful mother, Paul heard the stories of the crossing of the Red Sea and of the wilderness journeys. She surely told him about the crossing of the Jordan River and about the conquering of Jericho. From his mother Paul must have heard about the judges and the kings; especially about the first king of Israel, King Saul. Daniel might have been a favorite character of Paul in the stories of his ancestors. The stories of both Joseph and Daniel were probably among his many favorites.

**School.** When he was five, Paul's father took over his home teaching. At that age Paul began to learn Old Testament Scriptures by memorizing them. His early education was learning the Scriptures by memorizing them—hiding them in his heart—both from his father and in the rabbi's school at the synagogue.

Like other Jewish boys, at the age of thirteen, Paul was taken to the synagogue for his

### Read Acts 7:55–60



**bar mitzvah** ceremony. That ceremony indicated that he was taking upon himself the full responsibility of the Law. He became responsible for his own acts and was seated in the men's section of the synagogue. The more able young men were assigned to the best teachers in the rabbinic schools.

At about age thirteen Paul was permitted to go to Jerusalem to become a student of Gamaliel. In Jerusalem he may have stayed in the home of his married sister (Acts 22:3 and 23:16).

**Religion.** In Philippians 3:5 and 6 Paul wrote about his Jewish faith: "Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee; concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching righteousness which is in the law, blameless." In Acts 22:3 Luke also records Paul's words about his Jewish religion: "I am verily a man which am a Jew, born in Tarsus, a city in Cilicia, yet brought up in this city [Jerusalem] at the feet of Gamaliel, and taught according to the perfect manner of the law of the fathers, and was zealous toward God ..."

Paul was a Hebrew among Hebrews. His religious faith went back to Abraham. The sign of God's covenant with Abraham was circumcision. As a Pharisee, Paul was a strict man of religion. He worked hard to observe the Law in every area of life. He worked hard to accomplish righteousness before God. He looked for a Messiah who would come and free them from Roman bondage and who would establish the kingdom of God upon the earth through the Jewish religion and people. Like the other Pharisees, however, when the Messiah did come, Paul not only had failed to recognize Him but also had rejected Him.



| Tarsus: Home of Paul



### Answer true or false.

- 1.1 \_\_\_\_\_ Paul was a Roman citizen.
- 1.2 \_\_\_\_\_ Paul was from the tribe of Judah.
- 1.3 \_\_\_\_\_ The Bible tells us that Paul's parents named him after a former king of Israel, King Saul.
- 1.4 \_\_\_\_\_ Until he was five years old, Paul's teacher was his mother.
- 1.5 \_\_\_\_\_ After he was five years of age, Paul's father became his teacher at home.
- 1.6 \_\_\_\_\_ At the age of five, Paul went to the rabbi's school at the synagogue.

### Write the correct letter and answer on the blank.

- 1.7 At the age of thirteen, Paul was taken to the synagogue for his *bar mitzvah* ceremony which means *son of the* \_\_\_\_\_ .  
 a. *Pharisee*                                      b. *commandment*                                      c. *synagogue*
- 1.8 When he was thirteen, Paul went to Jerusalem \_\_\_\_\_ .  
 a. to visit his brother  
 b. to be taught by Gamaliel  
 c. to earn more money  
 d. for an extended vacation



- 1.9 Paul wrote to the Philippians that, concerning the Law, he was \_\_\_\_\_ .  
 a. a rabbi                      b. guilty                      c. a Pharisee                      d. blameless
- 1.10 Like others of his religious faith, Paul looked for a \_\_\_\_\_ who would come and free them from Roman bondage.  
 a. Pharisee                      b. Messiah                      c. rabbi

## ZEAL

As a young man Paul spent much of his time **persecuting** the church. He witnessed the death of Stephen. Persecution of the early believers in Christ caused Christianity to spread.

**Church persecuted.** Before his **conversion** Paul was zealous in his persecution of Christians. He went into their homes, arrested them, and put them into prison. To escape this severe persecution, many believers left Jerusalem for other areas. They were scattered abroad and went everywhere preaching the Word.

**Stephen martyred.** One of the first deacons chosen by the church in Jerusalem to take care of the poor was Stephen. Stephen was a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit (Acts 6:5). He was used by God to preach the Word and to

### Read Acts 8:1-4



point the lost to Christ. Paul was among those who spoke against Stephen and who brought him before the council of the Jews and before the high priest. When Stephen had preached Christ clearly to them, they rejected his message and stoned him to death. Like Jesus on the Cross (Luke 23:34), Stephen's last words formed a prayer for his murderers (Acts 7:60), "... Lord, lay not this sin to their charge ..."

**Christianity spread.** Just before He went back to Heaven, Jesus said to His followers (Acts 1:8) "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witness unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." The persecution by Paul and the other Jews in Jerusalem caused many Christians to leave for Judea, Samaria, and the uttermost part of the earth (Acts 8:1 and 4).



### Answer the following questions.

- 1.11 As a young man, what did Paul spend much of his time doing? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- 1.12 Whose death did Paul witness? \_\_\_\_\_
- 1.13 What caused the spread of early Christianity? \_\_\_\_\_
- 1.14 What was Stephen's prayer for those who stoned him? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- 1.15 What was Christ's prayer from the Cross for those who crucified Him? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Complete the following activities.**

**1.16** In your own words, tell how the prayers of Stephen and Jesus at the time of their deaths were similar. \_\_\_\_\_

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**1.17** In your own words, tell how the prayers of Stephen and Jesus at the time of their deaths were different. \_\_\_\_\_

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**EXPERIENCE**

When Paul was on his way to Damascus, Syria, to arrest Christians and to bring them bound to Jerusalem, the Lord Jesus appeared to him. Paul was converted to Christianity, and his life was transformed.

**The appearance of Jesus.** Paul took official letters with him from Jerusalem addressed to the synagogues in Damascus and set out for Damascus to arrest and bring back to Jerusalem any Christians found there. On the way a light from heaven suddenly shined around Paul, and he fell to the ground. Jesus spoke to Paul, and Paul accepted Him as Lord (Acts 9:6). Jesus told Paul that he should go on to Damascus and that he would be told there what he must do. When he arose to go on, he was blind and had to be led on to Damascus. After three days in Damascus, Ananias, a follower of Jesus, was sent to Paul.

**The transformation of Paul.** When Ananias came to Paul, he told Paul that Jesus, who had

**Read Acts 9:1–20**

appeared to Paul on the way to Damascus, had sent him that Paul might receive his sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit. Immediately Paul received his sight, arose and was baptized.

Perhaps Paul's physical blindness was given him to remind him that, although he was a greatly religious man, he was spiritually blind. He needed to be able to see spiritually. After Paul received Jesus as Lord, he not only received his physical sight but he also received spiritual sight. His life was transformed. He became a friend and a brother in Christ to those whom he had persecuted and whom he had come to arrest. He began to preach Christ openly in the synagogues. He wanted others to know the God who had changed his life from darkness to light.

One of the indications today of a changed life through the faith in the Lord Jesus is a desire to introduce others to Him—to witness to others about the saving power of Jesus Christ.



**Complete the following statements.**

- 1.18 Paul took with him official letters addressed to the \_\_\_\_\_ in Damascus.
- 1.19 On the way to Damascus, a light from a. \_\_\_\_\_ suddenly shined around Paul, and he fell to the b. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 1.20 Paul heard the voice of a. \_\_\_\_\_, and he accepted b. \_\_\_\_\_ as c. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 1.21 When Paul arose to go on to Damascus, he was \_\_\_\_\_.
- 1.22 In Damascus, Jesus sent Ananias, His disciple, to Paul that Paul might receive his a. \_\_\_\_\_ and be b. \_\_\_\_\_ with the c. \_\_\_\_\_.

**Complete the following activity.**

- 1.23 Imagine that you were with Paul that day on the road to Damascus and that you heard the voice of Jesus speaking to Paul, but you did not see anyone. On a separate sheet of paper, in two or three paragraphs, describe what you felt and thought as you listened and observed. Tell what happened to Paul—any changes you observed in him physically or in other ways. Your teacher will evaluate your paper with you.

**TEACHER CHECK**



\_\_\_\_\_ initials

\_\_\_\_\_ date

**Answer the following question.**

- 1.24 What is an indication of a changed life in a believer in Christ, which was evident in Paul's life and should be evident in ours? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Complete the following reading activity.**

- 1.25 Words that have the same spelling and pronunciation, but have different meanings, are sometimes a problem for the reader. The correct meaning will be determined by the context—by the way they are used in the sentence and in the paragraph. Using the context to determine the definition of a word with more than one meaning is still essential to reading comprehension. Write a c on the line in front of the correct meaning in context for each underlined word.

- a. At the age of thirteen, Paul became a pupil of Gamaliel in Jerusalem.  
 \_\_\_\_\_ an opening in  
 \_\_\_\_\_ a student of  
 \_\_\_\_\_ the expansion of
- b. Paul was on his way to arrest Christians in Damascus.  
 \_\_\_\_\_ to seize by authority of law  
 \_\_\_\_\_ to stop something in motion  
 \_\_\_\_\_ to slow the progress of
- c. A change in Paul's conduct showed a change in his life.  
 \_\_\_\_\_ management  
 \_\_\_\_\_ direction  
 \_\_\_\_\_ behavior
- d. Paul had planned to bring Christians from Damascus to Jerusalem for trial.  
 \_\_\_\_\_ for testing by hardship and affliction  
 \_\_\_\_\_ for learning by doing (trial and error)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ for examining by a court of law
- e. The degree of Paul's zeal was shown by his consent to Stephen's death.  
 \_\_\_\_\_ registering temperature  
 \_\_\_\_\_ showing amount, or extent  
 \_\_\_\_\_ indicating college graduation

**TEACHER CHECK**

\_\_\_\_\_ initials

\_\_\_\_\_ date



**Review the material in this section in preparation for the Self Test.** The Self Test will check your mastery of this particular section. The items missed on this Self Test will indicate specific areas where restudy is needed for mastery.

## SELF TEST 1

Match the following items (each answer, 2 points).

- |       |                          |    |  |
|-------|--------------------------|----|--|
| 1.01  | _____ conversion         | a. | to treat badly because of one's faith                          |
| 1.02  | _____ Paul, a Pharisee   | b. | Paul's teacher in Jerusalem                                    |
| 1.03  | _____ <i>bar mitzvah</i> | c. | one of the first deacons in Jerusalem, who was stoned to death |
| 1.04  | _____ Jesus' prayer      | d. | a change from unbelief to faith in Jesus Christ                |
| 1.05  | _____ Tarsus             | e. | "Lord, lay not this sin to their charge."                      |
| 1.06  | _____ Paul, blameless    | f. | city of Syria  |
| 1.07  | _____ Gamaliel           | g. | son of the commandment   |
| 1.08  | _____ Stephen's prayer   | h. | "touching the righteousness which is in the Law"               |
| 1.09  | _____ persecution        | i. | "as touching the Law"  |
| 1.010 | _____ Stephen            | j. | "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do."        |
|       |                          | k. | birthplace of Paul   |

Complete the following statements (each answer, 3 points).

- 1.011 Paul was given the Jewish name \_\_\_\_\_ by his parents.
- 1.012 *Paul* was his a. \_\_\_\_\_, or b. \_\_\_\_\_, name.
- 1.013 Paul's teacher until he was five years of age was \_\_\_\_\_.
- 1.014 Between the ages of five and thirteen, Paul learned the Scriptures a. \_\_\_\_\_ at home and in b. \_\_\_\_\_ at the synagogue.
- 1.015 Tarsus was a city of \_\_\_\_\_.
- 1.016 While in school at Jerusalem, Paul may have stayed in the home of his \_\_\_\_\_.
- 1.017 Paul was from the tribe of \_\_\_\_\_.
- 1.018 The first king of Israel was also from the tribe of \_\_\_\_\_ and was also named Saul.

**Write the correct letter on the blank** (each answer, 2 points).

- 1.019** Like others of his religious faith, Paul looked for a \_\_\_\_\_, who would come and free them from Roman bondage.  
 a. Pharisee                      b. Messiah                      c. rabbi
- 1.020** According to Acts 6:5, Stephen was a man full of \_\_\_\_\_ and of the Holy Spirit.  
 a. wisdom                      b. faith                      c. grace
- 1.021** The spread of early Christianity was caused by \_\_\_\_\_.  
 a. conversion                      b. persecution                      c. bar mitzvah
- 1.022** Paul witnessed the death of \_\_\_\_\_.  
 a. Ananias                      b. Jesus                      c. Stephen
- 1.023** "Lord, lay not their sin to their charge" was the prayer of \_\_\_\_\_.  
 a. Paul                      b. Stephen                      c. Jesus
- 1.024** As a young man before his conversion, Paul spent much of his time \_\_\_\_\_.  
 a. studying in the rabbi school in Tarsus  
 b. presenting the Gospel of Christ  
 c. persecuting the church
- 1.025** Paul took with him official letters addressed to the \_\_\_\_\_ in Damascus.  
 a. synagogues                      b. churches                      c. Romans
- 1.026** On the road to Damascus, Paul heard the voice of \_\_\_\_\_.  
 a. Stephen                      b. an angel                      c. Jesus
- 1.027** When Paul arose from the ground on the road to Damascus, he was \_\_\_\_\_.  
 a. deaf                      b. mute                      c. blind
- 1.028** In Damascus, Jesus sent Ananias so that Paul might receive his \_\_\_\_\_.  
 a. sight                      b. voice                      c. hearing

**Place these events in the correct order of time by using the numbers 1 to 5** (each answer, 2 points).

- 1.029** \_\_\_\_\_ Paul fell to the ground.
- 1.030** \_\_\_\_\_ Ananias was sent to Paul in Damascus.
- 1.031** \_\_\_\_\_ Paul left for Damascus with official letters to the synagogues.
- 1.032** \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus spoke to Paul.
- 1.033** \_\_\_\_\_ A light shone upon Paul from heaven.

Answer the following questions in complete sentences (each answer, 5 points).

1.034 What happened to Paul and to other Jewish boys at the age of thirteen? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

1.035 What is the meaning of *bar mitzvah*? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

1.036 What did the *bar mitzvah* ceremony indicate? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

1.037 What is the indication of a changed life in a believer in Christ, which was evident in Paul's life and should be evident in ours? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

	<b>SCORE</b> _____	<b>TEACHER</b> _____	initials _____	date _____
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