Paul: To Rome and the Romans

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Bible texts and lessons are selected and developed by CL. The Youth and Adult quarterlies follow an eight-year cycle and provide opportunities to study all of the Bible and its doctrines. The Preschool, Primary, Junior, and Intermediate Sunday school lessons follow a three-year cycle.

In addition to Sunday school materials and take-home papers, CL also has tracts, pamphlets, books, a Bible Journey series for Bible schools, and Christian Light Education, a complete school curriculum for schools and homeschools.



Cover Artist: David W. Miller Made in U.S.A. June 5, 2022 Lesson 1



Paul Tells of His Conversion

Acts 22:1. Men. brethren, and fathers. hear ye my defence which I make now unto you. 2. (And when they heard that he spake in the Hebrew tongue to them, they kept the more silence: and he saith,) 3. I am verily a man which am a Jew, born in Tarsus, a city in Cilicia, yet brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, and taught according to the perfect manner of the law of the fathers, and was zealous toward God. as ye all are this day. 4. And I persecuted this way unto the death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women. 5. As also the high priest doth bear me witness, and all the estate of the elders: from whom also I received letters unto the

brethren, and went to Damascus, to bring them which were there bound unto Jerusalem, for to be punished. 6. And it came to pass, that, as I made my journey, and was come nigh unto Damascus about noon, suddenly there shone from heaven a great light round about me. 7. And I fell unto the ground, and heard a voice saying unto me, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? 8. And I answered, Who art thou, Lord? And he said unto me, I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom thou persecutest. 9. And they that were with me saw indeed the light, and were afraid; but they heard not the voice of him that spake to me. 10. And I said, What shall I do, Lord? And the Lord said unto me, Arise, and go into Damascus; and there it shall be

Memory Verse – 1 Timothy 1:12, 13

And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry; who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor.

them in the first place?

told thee of all things which are appointed for thee to do. 11. And when I could not see for the glory of that light, being led by the hand of them that were with me, I came into Damascus. 12. And one Ananias, a devout man according to the law, having a good report of all the Jews which dwelt there, 13. Came unto me, and stood, and said unto me, Brother Saul, receive thy sight. And the same hour I looked up upon him. 14. And he said, The God of our fathers hath chosen thee, that thou shouldest know his will, and see that Just One, and shouldest hear the voice of his mouth. 15. For thou shalt be his witness unto all men of what thou hast seen and heard. 16. And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.

BEFORE CLASS Who Said?

The following quotations come from our lesson verses. Who said

•
 1. "Who art thou, Lord?"
 2. "Brother Saul, receive thy sight."
 3. "Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?"
 4. "The God of our fathers hath chosen thee."
 5. "What shall I do, Lord?"
 6. "Arise, and be baptized."
 7. "It shall be told thee of all things which are appointed unto thee to do."
8 "Thou shalt be his witness unto all men"

To Do IN CLASS How Conversion Brought Change

Match each person with the change brought about in his life by meeting Jesus or being converted.

1. Zacchaeus	a. blessed the church instead of persecuting	it.
2. Andrew	b. returned to the master he stole from.	
3. Saul	c. believed Jesus instead of mocking.	
4. Philippian	d. gave back four times as much as he ha	ad
jailer	cheated people of.	
5. Onesimus	e. had living waters instead of dissatisfaction	
6. Peter	f. fished for men instead of fish.	
7. Penitent thief	g. brother of Andrew who witnessed bold	lly
on the cross	for Jesus after denying Him.	
8. Samaritan	h. believed Paul's words instead of killi	ng
woman	himself.	
	A Changed Life	
_	Write B beside characteristics of people was Write A beside the things that accompany	
1. love for Jesus		
2. dishonesty		
3. hatred		
4. disobedient to	parents	
5. tells others abo	out Jesus and His love	
6. loves others, ir	acluding those who mistreat him	
7. tells jokes duri	ng the preacher's sermon to distract others	
8. obedient to the	e Bible	
9. tells the truth		
10. talks back to the	ne Sunday school teacher	
11. eniovs improp	er stories and pictures	

 12. grumbles and complains
 13. swears
 14. always tries to do a good job
15. shows reverence to God and His Word

Changes to Make

Paul made a big change after he met Jesus on the road to Damascus. How should these children and young people change?

- 1. Peeking over the twisting vines of the pea plants, Lana saw Mom disappearing into the house. Immediately her fingers slowed. She eased into a more comfortable position on the hard dry ground. Absentmindedly, she picked at a snag in her dress. Her thoughts were miles away when she heard the house door slam. Immediately she straightened her posture and began picking peas furiously.
- 2. "Row four, go to the back table and choose the color of construction paper you wish to use," Miss Stoll announced.

Donna hopped out of her seat and brushed past all her classmates in row four. Planting herself in front of the table, she hastily sorted through the colorful papers. Under her arm she tucked her favorite colors to sort through later. Her classmates stood beside her, shuffling through the papers that were left.

3. "Leah, are you almost done?" Daniel pounded on the bathroom door. "Hurry up! I need to shower yet before church!"

Leah squirted more shampoo into her hair. She lathered it with her hands, enjoying the delightful smell. Slowly, she lowered her head beneath the water tap and rinsed the suds from her hair.

"Leah, did you hear me?" Daniel pounded again. "Hurry, or we'll be late!"

"Okay," Leah responded at last. She picked up the bottle of hair conditioner and applied some to her hair. She let the warm water run over her scalp. Oh, this feels so good. Again, she heard pounding on the door. That Daniel! He's so impatient! Surely he can wait five more minutes.

- 4. Brandon settled himself comfortably into the pew. As he flipped through his notepad, the pastor's voice conveniently faded away. Page after page was filled with his hand-drawn farm machinery. At last he found an empty page. With his pencil he began sketching the new style of manure spreader he had seen in the *Farm Show* magazine. Absorbed completely in his art, he forgot entirely that he was in church.
- 5. "Roger!" Mom looked over at him, astonished. "Wherever did you hear that awful word?"

"Aww, everyone says it," Roger shrugged. "Besides, it's not really that bad."

Mom's voice was firm. "Never say that word again even if others are saying it. The Bible clearly commands us not to swear. How do you think God feels when He hears you or your friends using that word?"

Teacher's Guide

To the Teacher

In the first four lessons we study Paul's journey to Rome and the events that precipitated the journey. The last nine lessons are taken from the letter Paul wrote to the Romans. We will be looking at the great themes of salvation, faith, justification, sanctification, commitment, and love. This is pretty heavy going for nine- to eleven-year-olds. We have attempted to provide resources to help you make the class period practical and interesting. We have also included paraphrases of many of the passages from Romans. These are not intended to replace or supplant Scripture in any way, but to assist you to better understand and thus explain the verses to your students.

God bless you as you help to prepare the hearts of your students for calling on the name of the Lord that they may be saved (Romans 10:13). And may your own heart be warmed and thrilled with thoughts of so great salvation.

Here are a few points of explanation about the contents and methods used in this quarterly.

- Introducing the Lesson: Several ideas are given for beginning the lesson. Use one or more in your introduction, or incorporate them elsewhere in the lesson.
- Before Class: These activities give the pupil something to do at home, to familiarize himself with some of the ideas of the lesson.
- To Do in Class: These activities are designed to help make applications and generate discussion. They also tend to be harder, and pupils may need your assistance.
- *Teaching the Lesson:* This is a general guide regarding a possible order of procedure. Feel free to adjust and adapt. You, the teacher, need to decide the timing for prayer, songs, and memory work.
- Optional Activities: You may feel more comfortable with some extra ideas and activities in mind to complete a class period. However, you need not leave them till near the conclusion of the class. Incorporate them into your lesson at any convenient point.

We are suggesting some songs. Those with numbers are selected from *Praises We Sing*, available from Christian Light Publications. Feel free to pick your own songs and have the pupils choose some too.

May the Lord bless you as you teach.

Paul Tells of His Conversion

Background Scripture: Acts 9:1-31; 22:1-24

Lesson Aims

- 1. To review Paul's conversion on the road to Damascus.
- 2. To have courage to obey God like Ananias did.

Teacher Meditation

Philip Beiler of Romania wrote in a CAM newsletter of a changed man who reminds me of the dramatic transformation in Saul's life.

"I met David and Alvina Ion that evening at youth camp. Not long before, David was one of the village drunks in Boghceni. He would drink enough to be dangerously angry and stalk the village streets with an ax, looking for a fight. The villagers would lock their gates when they saw him coming. He was truly dangerous. Once he became so angry at his wife that he picked her up and threw her into the well, intending to drown her. She was fortunate to survive.

"Through the ministry of a few CAM-supported evangelists, Alvina became saved. On the day of her baptism, David also came to the church, but not to observe. He came to make trouble.

"But during the baptismal service, God got through to David. A sinner was saved by grace. How the angels must have rejoiced! David says he came to the service as a lion but left as a lamb. How great is the love and mercy of our great God!

"I was moved to tears as I watched David that evening, leading the campers in songs of salvation, Heaven, and victory in Jesus. What a testimony to the power of God. As I watched him and his wife, I could hardly imagine their former lives. *Amazing grace, how sweet the sound.*"

Introducing the Lesson

Discuss changes which have taken place in your students' lives (height, grade in school, knowledge), or in society recently (phones, computers, transportation). Make clear that the most significant change, however, is becoming a child of God. Discuss why becoming a Christian is the most important change. (Be careful to do this in a way that will not pressure your students.)

Or, refer to a time when you were in a court session and you heard someone give an account of something that happened.

Or, tell of your conversion or that of someone you know and of the change conversion brought.

Or, tell the story in the Teacher's Meditation.

Teaching the Lesson

Introduce the lesson.

Ask various pupils to read the lesson text.

Person 1—read verse 2

Person 2—read exact words of Jesus (in vv. 7, 8, and 10)

Person 3—read exact words of Ananias (in vv. 13-16)

Person 4—read what Paul said (all the rest)

Ask questions for discussion and review:

- · To whom was Paul speaking?
- Why was he making a defence? (look back at Chapter 21)
- · What does he tell about his background?
- · Why does he describe the experience on the road to Damascus?

Correct the exercise **Who Said?** Discuss how Saul's life changed. Instead of working *against* Christ, he began working *for* Him. He had gone to the high priest for permission to carry out his own plans, but the Great High Priest came to him and gave him a mission to carry out God's plans. Previously he wanted to get others off the Way, but he got on the Way instead. Previously he trusted in his own righteousness, but now he was trembling before his Saviour. Instead of slaying Christians, he began serving them. The persecutor became the persecuted. Instead of resisting the Spirit, kicking against the pricks of conviction, he was guided by the Spirit. He planned to take liberty from others, but found true liberty himself. Instead of persecuting Christ, he straightway began preaching Christ.

Do the exercises *How Conversion Brought Change* and *A Changed Life*.

Tell this story of the dramatic conversion of Mr. Singh, whose conversion has similarities to Saul's. You could discuss the similarities after reading it.

Sundar Singh lived in India. His family followed the Sikh (sēk) religion. Sundar hated the Bible. That was because he hated Christians; they were not part of his heritage. One day he joined with other nationalists in a Bibleburning ceremony in the village square. But God was working in his heart.

Later he said, "Though I thought I had done a good deed in burning the Gospel, yet my unrest of heart increased. On the third day, when I felt I could bear it no longer, I got up at three in the morning and, after bathing, prayed that if there was a God at all He would reveal Himself to me, and show me the way of salvation. I firmly made up my mind that if this prayer was not answered, I would, before daylight, go down to the railway, and place my head on the line before the incoming train.

"I remained till about half past four, praying and waiting and expecting to see Krishna or Buddha, or some other avatar of the Hindu religion; they appeared not, but a light was shining into the room. I opened the door to see where it came from, but all was dark outside. I returned inside, and the light increased in intensity and took the form of a globe of light above the ground and in this light there appeared, not the form I had expected, but the living Christ whom I had counted as dead. To all eternity I shall never forget His glorious loving face, nor the few words which He spoke, 'Why do you persecute Me? See, I have died on the cross for you and for the whole world.' These words burned into my heart as by lightning, and I fell to the ground before Him. My heart was filled with inexpressible joy and peace, and my whole life was entirely changed."

Use the exercise *Changes to Make* as a basis of discussion.

Do Optional Activities as time permits.

Optional Activities

1. Sing: "I Met Jesus at the Crossroads," #136

"I Have Decided to Follow Jesus," #168

"Happiness Is the Lord," #203 "I Had So Many Sins"

2. Tell about schools and education at the time of Paul. He went to school "at the feet of Gamaliel, and [was] taught according to the perfect manner of the laws of the fathers" (v. 3).

In the New Testament times, the Jewish schools required each student to learn several key passages of Scripture (Deuteronomy 6:4-6; 11:13-21; and Numbers 15:37-41). The student was also required to learn the *Hallel* ("Praise") Psalms (Psalms 113-118) as well as the Creation story (Genesis 1-5). Also there were the sacrificial laws (Leviticus 1-8). If a child was unusually bright, he learned most of the Book of Leviticus.

Only the boys received formal training outside the home. They began by meeting in the teacher's house, where they read from scrolls containing small portions from the Scriptures, such as Deuteronomy 6:4, 5 known as the *Shema* (shə·mä'). This was like our elementary schools today.

When the boys were older, they met at the synagogue. Here they entered the room where the Torah scrolls were kept and prepared their lessons under the supervision of the keeper of the scrolls.

Later they were allowed to discuss questions of the Law with the Pharisaic teachers. These discussions were the "secondary" level of Jewish education.

In New Testament times, school was in session year-round. During the hot summer months the boys went to school no more than four hours a day. If it was an unusually hot day, school might be dismissed altogether. The class hours were before 10 A.M. and after 3 P.M.

The classroom contained a small raised platform where the teacher sat cross-legged. Before him on a low rack were scrolls containing selected Old Testament passages. There were no textbooks. The students sat on the ground at the teacher's feet.

Classes were not graded by age: all the students studied together in the same room. For this reason, their instruction had to be very individualized. The teacher copied down a verse for the younger students, and they recited it aloud until they mastered it. Meanwhile, the teacher helped the older boys read a passage from Leviticus. The noise probably would have been very distracting for us, but the Israelite boys soon became accustomed to it. The teachers believed a verse needed to be repeated aloud.

Source: Illustrated Manners and Customs of the Bible by Packer and Tenney.

Activity Answers

Who Said? 1-Saul, 2-Ananias, 3-Jesus, 4-Ananias, 5-Saul, 6-Ananias, 7-Jesus, 8-Ananias.

How Conversion Brought Change: 1-d, 2-f, 3-a, 4-h, 5-b, 6-g, 7-c, 8-e.

A Changed Life: 1-A, 2-B, 3-B, 4-B, 5-A, 6-A, 7-B, 8-A, 9-A, 10-B, 11-B, 12-B, 13-B, 14-A, 15-A.

Changes to Make: Class discussion.