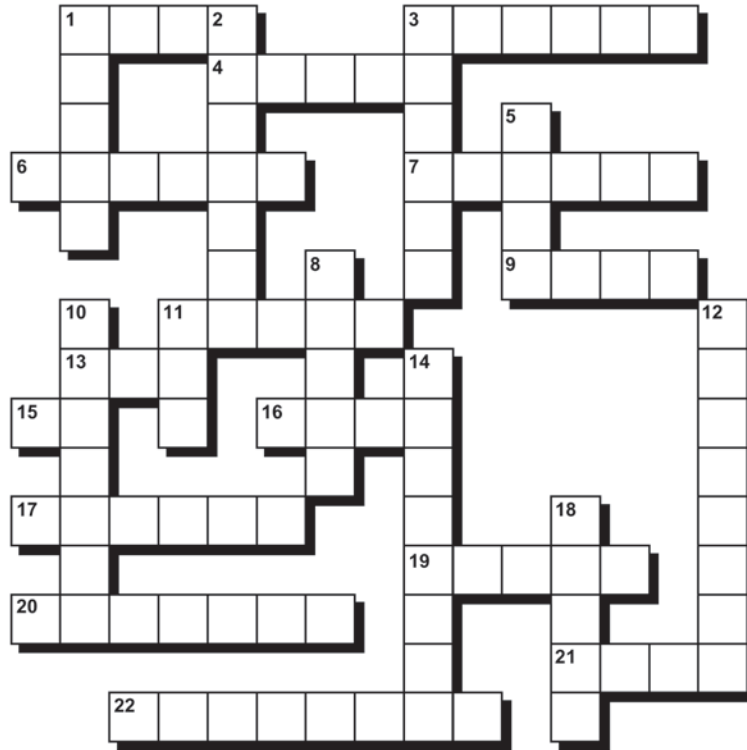


PAUL



PAUL

At first, Paul (whose name was also Saul) persecuted the followers of Jesus. After a dramatic conversion experience, Paul became one of the greatest missionaries for Christ.



ACROSS

- 1 The Lord wanted Paul to go to this city. (Acts 23:11)
- 3 Paul was dragged out of this in Jerusalem. (Acts 21:27–30)
- 4 Paul was shipwrecked on this island. (Acts 28:1)
- 6 Saul escaped danger in this. (Acts 9:25)
- 7 Paul was ___ and dragged out of the city. (Acts 14:19)
- 9 Some Jews planned to ___ Saul. (Acts 9:23)
- 11 The soldier was surprised to know that Paul could speak this. (Acts 21:37)
- 13 Paul was in prison twice for ___ years each time. (Acts 24:27; 28:30)
- 15 Saul heard a voice that said, “Why do you persecute ___?” (Acts 22:7)
- 16 The ___ priest made charges against Paul (Acts 24:1)
- 17 Saul was trying to destroy this. (Acts 8:3)
- 19 Paul was upset because of the number of these in Athens. (Acts 17:16)

- 20 He baptized Saul. (Acts 9:17–19)
- 21 Paul preached the good ___ in many places. (Acts 14:21)
- 22 Paul converted Jews and ___.

DOWN

- 1 Paul was a ___ citizen. (Acts 16:37; 22:27)
- 2 Paul wanted this man to decide his case. (Acts 25:21)
- 3 Saul was from this city. (Acts 9:11)
- 5 The Holy Spirit had ___ for Saul to do. (Acts 13:2)
- 8 Paul went to see this governor. (Acts 23:24)
- 10 Saul was present at his stoning. (Acts 7:58–60)
- 11 The people in Lystra thought Paul was a ___. (Acts 14:11–12)
- 12 He helped Saul. (Acts 9:27)
- 14 Paul was a member of this Jewish group. (Acts 23:6)
- 18 Saul’s condition after he was knocked to the ground. (Acts 9:3–9)



PAUL

No other person did more to spread Christianity in its first years than the Apostle Paul.

Paul experienced a great change in his life. He started out as a persecutor of the Church. Paul believed that people were saved from sin by following the Jewish Law. But Christians said that people were saved from sin by believing in Jesus. So Paul wanted Christians stopped—even if that meant killing them. But during a trip to persecute more Christians, Paul had an amazing encounter with the risen Christ. Afterward, he asked to be baptized and began preaching to others about Jesus.

The Church sent Paul on many long missionary journeys. When he arrived in a new town, he would begin preaching in the Jewish synagogue. If the Jews rejected him—which they often did—he would preach to the Gentiles, or non-Jews, who often welcomed his message.

Some Jewish Christians insisted that these Gentile converts should be circumcised according to Jewish Law. Paul argued against this, however. He now believed that faith in Jesus, not the Jewish Law, was the key to salvation.

Paul wrote many letters to the Christians in the cities he visited. By explaining what he had learned about faith and salvation, he helped them—and us—to better understand and live in faith.

REFLECTION

Answer these questions after you have read about Paul.

1. Read Acts 9:1–19, the story of Paul’s conversion or change of heart about Christ. Paul’s experience is very dramatic, a “wow!” moment. Still, his experience of Jesus and his gift of seeing the world in a new way can happen to anyone. Have you ever had a “wow!” experience of God? Have you ever had an experience that helped you see something in your life in a new way? How did this happen?
2. Paul is a Roman citizen, a Jew, and also someone educated by a Greek teacher. Because of this he had many experiences to draw on to make Christ’s message understandable to the people of his day. If Paul were to come to your class or youth group, what kinds of modern references, people, and ideas could he use to communicate Christ’s message to you?



BIBLE PASSAGES ABOUT PAUL

Acts 9:1–19

Paul’s conversion

Acts 16:16–40

Paul and Silas are miraculously freed from jail.

Romans 8:31–39

God’s love for us in Christ Jesus

1 Corinthians 12:12–31

Christ is one body, many parts.

2 Corinthians 4:7–12

Spiritual treasures in clay pots

Galatians 2:20

Paul’s life of Christ

BREAKTHROUGH! ARTICLES

Read these articles to learn more about Paul.

Breakthrough! Interview with Paul

Paul’s Journeys

Acts, chapters 13–21

Paul Put to the Test

Acts, chapters 25–26

Introductions to the Letters of Paul

Paul’s a Working Man

1 Thessalonians 2:9–12

Long, Full Life

2 Timothy 4:6–8