

The Conversion of St. Paul

The feast day on which Christians recall the conversion of the Jewish Pharisee and Christian-persecutor, Saul, on the road to Damascus. There are discrepancies in the accounts of the New Testament [The Book of Acts and Paul's Epistle to the Galatians], but the traditionally accepted version is of Saul's blinding by a great light when addressed by Jesus, of his continued journey to Damascus and of his healing there by the Christian Ananias, followed by his baptism into the Christian faith.



- ① Sit down with the children and show them the series of pictures overleaf. You may wish to lay the sheets out either on a table or the floor, and then read the story.
- ② Ask the children the following questions and discuss them:-
What part of the story did you like?
What part of the story didn't you like?
What makes you cross?
How do you think Paul felt when he saw the bright light?
- ③ Maybe retell the story again to make sure they all understood the facts.
- ④ Explore the feeling of both the leader and the led.
- ⑤ For older children identify the faith from which the story has come.
- ⑥ Play a game of blind fold by one person being blindfolded and another leading them to a given place.

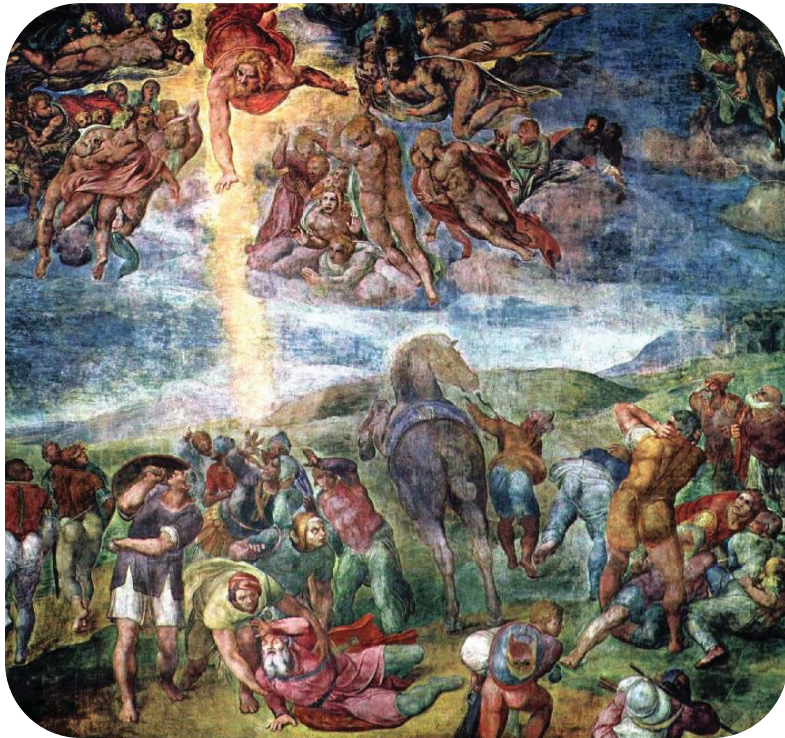
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Paul was a Pharisee and he did not like the stories Jesus told.

He decided to put a stop to the stories that were being told about Jesus.

He went to find Jesus' friends in order to stop them teaching other people about Jesus.



On the way he saw a very bright light and suddenly he was blinded by that light and fell off his horse. He was very frightened about losing his sight.



He was rescued and taken into Damascus and looked after by some of Jesus' friends.

He learnt all about Jesus and realised how silly he had been, not believing what a special person Jesus was.



After he had learnt about Jesus he was able to SEE again. His eyes were cured and he was able to see. His mind was also clear and he was able to understand more about the Christian message.

St Paul travelled all over the place telling stories about Jesus and he gained many new friends.