

January: Who is Paul?

Opening Prayer: Lord, we ask you to guide us during this study of Paul. Help us to be faithful and courageous like him. Give us the wisdom, knowledge and desire to understand and relate to Paul as one who is grounded in his Faith and desire to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Time Period Covered: Paul's conversion experience turns into the journey of a lifetime.
Where we are on the journey: Jesus died, ascended...now it's time for His followers to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ.
Opening Question: Who is Paul?

Saul Named Paul: The Outstanding Character of the Early Church

Background

Birthplace: Tarsus

Citizenship: A Jew and a Roman citizen since Tarsus was controlled by the Romans

5 – 15 AD: Arrived in Jerusalem

34 – 36 AD: Conversion to Christianity

About: He was a Tent Maker
Never saw Jesus
Came to Jerusalem after the death of Jesus
He was a young adult man at the time of Stephen's death, the first martyr of Christianity

Faith: As a Jew he was a rigid Pharisee and studied under Gamaliel (Outstanding teacher of the Jewish Faith).
He had been killing Jews who followed Jesus

Conversion: His conversion happened on the road to Damascus.
Jesus appeared to him and gave him his new mission
It was from this experience he was named Paul.

"Desert": He went to Arabia for 3 years after this experience.
This was sort of his desert experience to become ready for his new mission

Witness: He went back to Jerusalem and was not accepted by the converted Jews.

Antioch: He went to Antioch with Barnabas and in the church of Antioch he became the apostle to the gentiles. The Gentile converts resided in Antioch. *Gentiles were people who were not Jewish; heathen (atheist – don't believe in God) or pagan (have not even heard about God).*

Journeys: Paul had three long missionary journeys in which he tried to convert the Jews but ended up bringing hundreds of Gentiles into the Christian Faith.

Character: Paul was a man of strong passions, keen mind, disciplined, and fiery personality.
Great Leadership
Organizational tools, zealous and always called by his converts an apostle.

Death: He was put to death in Rome in 67 or 68 because he was a Christian

Missionary Life of Paul

Conversion: Acts Chapter 9:1 – 30

Mission: Acts Chapter 13:1 – 52

Last Days: Acts Chapter 28 Then on to death in Rome because he was a Christian.

Writer of the development of the Early Church

Books with Paul as the main source of knowledge:

- Romans
- 1 Corinthians and 2 Corinthians
- Galatians
- Ephesians
- Philippians
- Colossians
- 1 Thessalonians and 2 Thessalonians

Paul, the apostle of the Gentiles has given us the history of the development of the Early Church of Christianity through his letters back and forth to the first convert communities of the Christian Faith.

SAINT MARY of THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Youth Ministry In-Service

February 2012

Paul's Journeys

Follow along Paul's journey's using your maps:

Journey 1 Paul left Jerusalem and went north into Antioch
West over to the Island of Cyprus
Northwest to Attalia
Through Pisidia
Antioch in Galatia
Southeast over to Iconium, Derbe
Back to the Mediterranean Sea
To Antioch in Syria

Journey 2 Paul left Jerusalem and traveled to
Ptolemais, Tyre
Sidon, Seleucia
Antioch, Tarsus
Derbe, Lystra
Iconium
Antioch, Troas
Neapolis, Philippi
Amphipolis
Thessalonica
Beroea, Athens
Corinth, Ephesus
Across the Mediterranean
To Jerusalem

Outline of all the Journeys of Paul along the Mediterranean

1. Came to a stop area – visited the Synagogue to talk to the Jewish people (mostly rejected)
2. Preach in the open to the Gentiles (mostly accepted)
3. Stay in the area according to need.
4. Moved on to another area
5. Keep in touch through letters – some are in the Bible
6. Encountered all different sub-cultures
7. Jews were constantly attacking Paul

Review Chapter 18

- Corinth was a University city
- Paul met Aquila and Priscilla
- Aquila was also a tentmaker
- On Saturdays Paul would argue in the synagogue
- Silas and Timothy arrived – also went to the Jews and were rejected
- Many became believers in Corinth
- Some Jews, many Gentiles
- Paul stayed in Corinth a year preaching and teaching
- Paul eventually brought to a hearing – Acts 18:12-17
- Next stop Ephesus – Reflect Acts 18:19-28

Morality: The Jewish who are the opposers of Paul

Liturgical Life: Lent – A time of repentance for sin

- Reconciliation – Sacrament
- Purple – repentance
- Ashes – “From dust we came and to dust we shall return
- Penance – Making up for sin committed
- Doing charitable acts
- Doing acts of Penance

Accountable Lives – Justice

What are unjust situations today:

- In the world
- In the country
- In the local area
- In your life