

SAUL'S CONVERSION

Acts 9:1-19a

**KIDS
3RD-6TH**

NL

Key Verse:

[Saul] asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting."

Acts 9:5

The Point:

God sometimes calls the most unlikely people to do the work of spreading the gospel.

Making Connections:

Good News Spreads

Bible Nuts & Bolts:

Paul's Travels (Bible Maps)

Spiritual Practice:

Service



BACKGROUND

Making Connections

Last week, we heard the glorious story of Jesus' resurrection from the dead and the disciples believing this good news. As we move to Acts, the good news spreads. The early Christian believers faced great persecution at the hands of Saul and other Jewish leaders who did not agree that Jesus was the Messiah. Yet today's story is one of both conversion and calling. It is powerful to witness the way that God's call transforms people's hearts and lives. Saul's encounter with the risen Jesus changed him from opponent to apostle, sent out to wholeheartedly preach God's word and teach others about Jesus' death and resurrection. This story opens discussions about what it means to be a Christ-follower in our everyday lives and how we hear God's call.

Story Summary:

Saul's Conversion

Saul was a leader among the persecutors of early Christians. He was a devout Jew who, like many others, did not believe that Jesus was the promised Messiah. He defended his faith by doing whatever it took to eliminate the spreading of the news that Jesus is Lord, including imprisoning believers and persecuting leaders in the Christian church.

As Saul walked along the road toward Damascus with the specific purpose of interrupting the preaching and teaching of Christians, he is literally stopped in his tracks along the road by a bright, blinding light. He fell to the ground as he heard the words, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" Blinded by the experience, he was led to Damascus by his fellow travelers where he remained without sight for three days before God called a believer named Ananias to heal him. Saul was later called by his Roman name, Paul.

The Point

God sometimes calls the most unlikely people to do the work of spreading the gospel. This dramatic calling along the road to Damascus demonstrates the Holy Spirit's ability to change the hearts of people. Both Saul and Ananias were reluctant to carry out what they were called to do. God's love transforms people, changing their hearts and minds, and calls them to serve others by sharing Jesus' love in word and deed.

Bible Nuts and Bolts:

Paul's Travels (Bible Maps)

To understand Paul's missionary journeys and his relationship with the people of the early church, it is helpful to understand the geography affecting these relationships. Paul traveled to many cities and towns, spreading the story of Jesus. A map will show where these different churches were beginning, and how Paul traveled between them.

Spiritual Practice: Service

Ananias, originally frightened by the prospect of going near Saul, ends up partnering with him in his calling. Christians are called to work alongside one another, support one another, and work together to share God's love in their daily lives.



WORD SEARCH



Ananias

Blind

Jesus

Lord

Saul

Travel

Baptized

Damascus

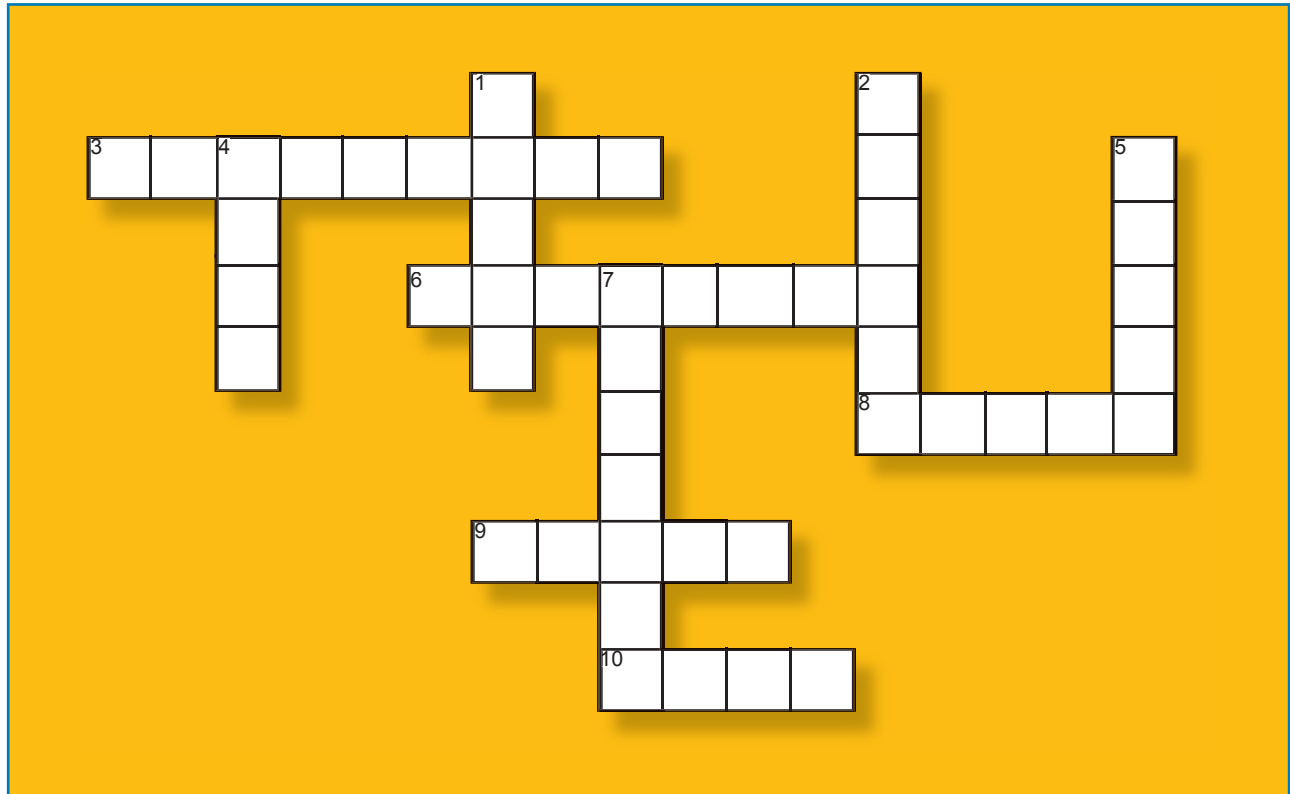
Light

Road

Synagogues

Voice

Paul: The Road to Damascus Crossword Puzzle



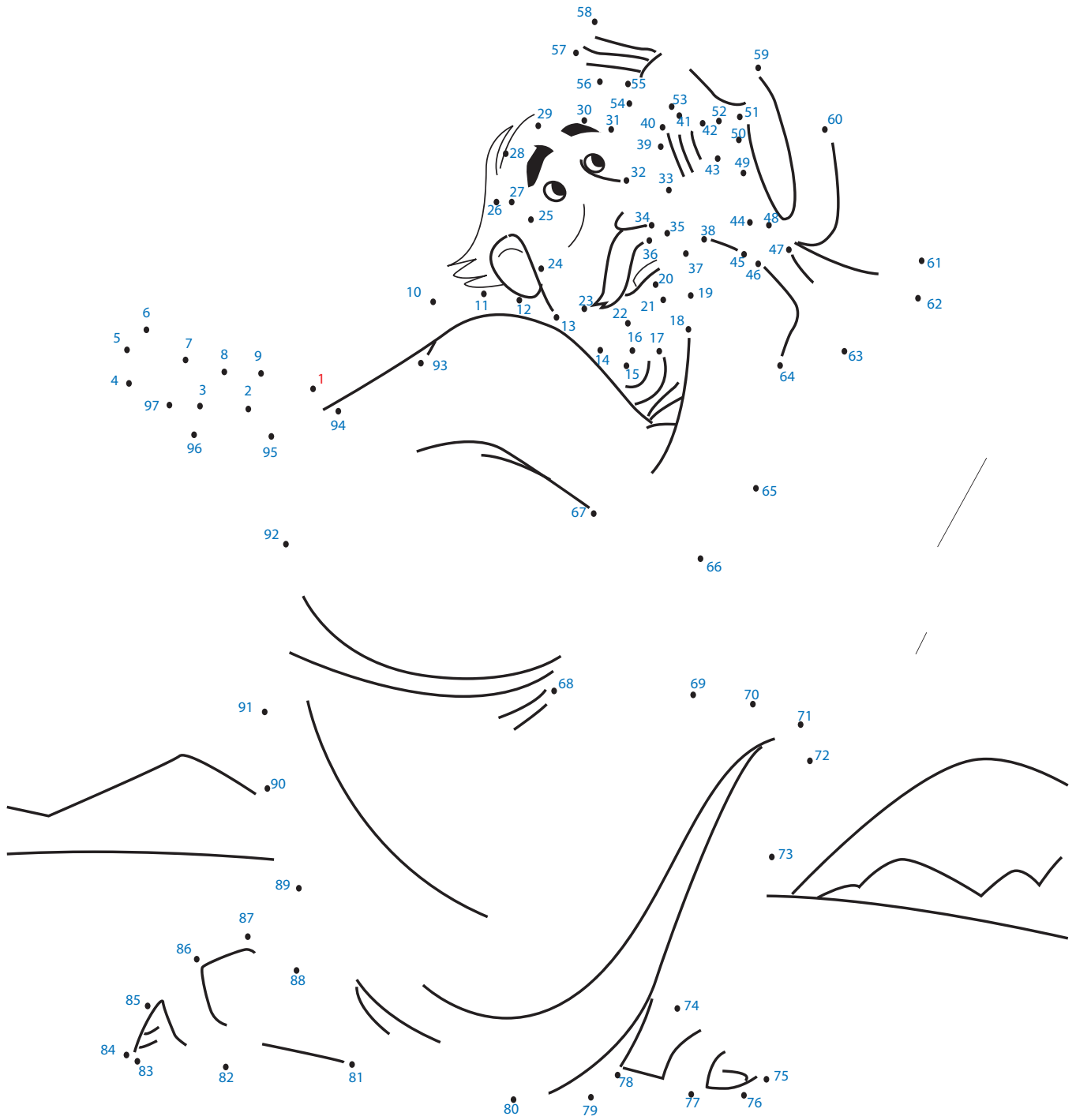
ACROSS

3. Jesus asked Paul "Why do you _____ me?"
6. City where Paul was going
8. After he heard Jesus, Paul lost his _____.
9. Paul heard Jesus' _____.
10. Paul's original name

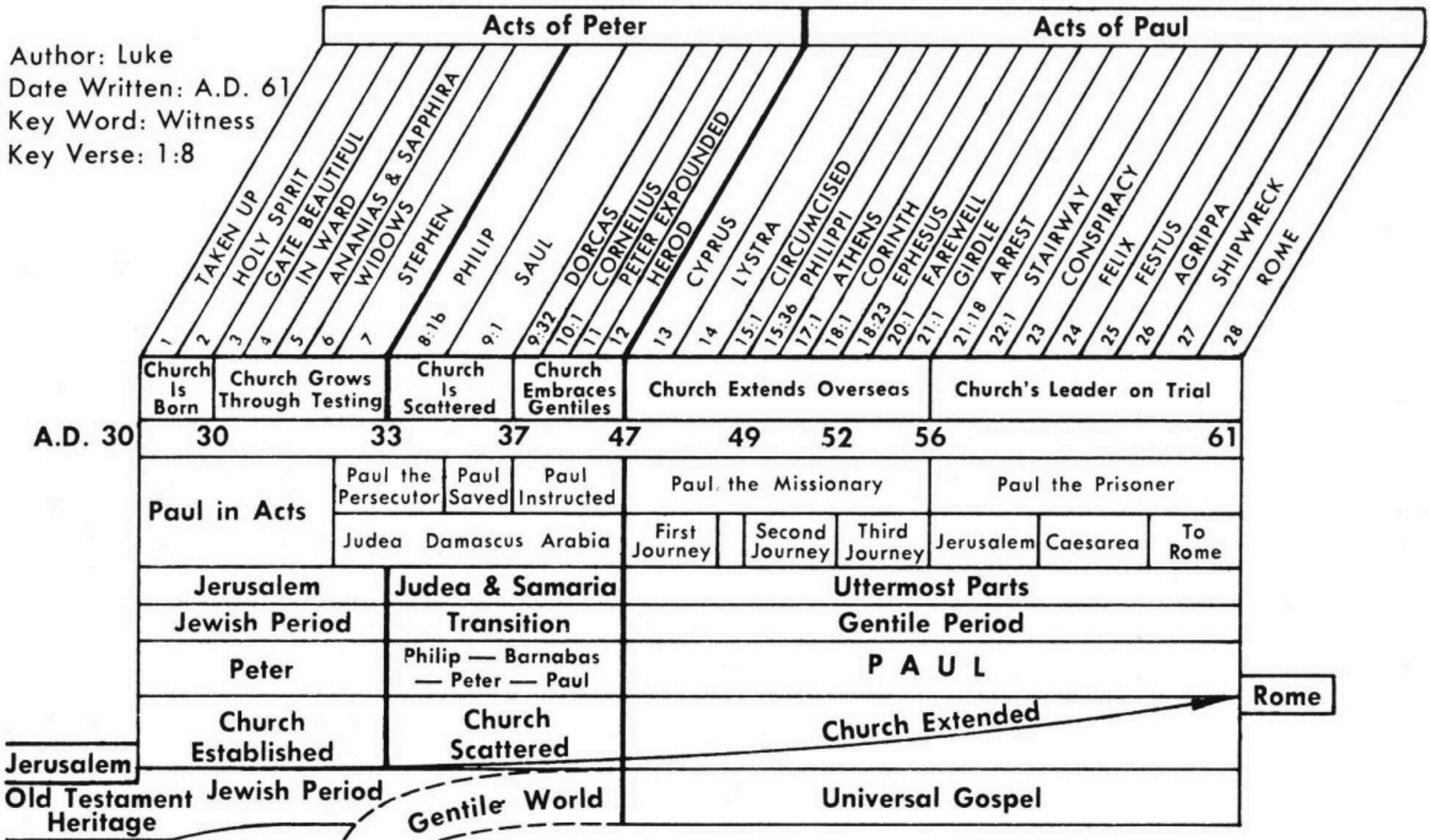
DOWN

1. Owned the house where Paul stayed
2. Paul was from here.
4. Path or highway
5. Paul saw this.
7. God sent him to help Paul.

Connect the Dots



Author: Luke
 Date Written: A.D. 61
 Key Word: Witness
 Key Verse: 1:8





THE STORY @ HOME

**KIDS
3RD-6TH**

NL

Living the Word: Teaching Kids God's Story

Narrative Lectionary, Year 4 (2025-2026)

Lesson #4-31

Acts 9:1-19a

LAST WEEK

The sorrow of the crucifixion turned to celebration when Jesus was raised and gave this good news to Mary Magdalene (John 20:1-18). Jesus later appeared to the other disciples, including Thomas (John 20:19-31).

THIS WEEK

Saul, a persecutor of Christians, has an experience with the risen Jesus on the road to Damascus that changes his life dramatically (Acts 9:1-19a).

THE POINT

God sometimes calls the most unlikely people to do the work of spreading the gospel.

BIBLE NUTS & BOLTS

Paul's Travels (Bible Maps)

To understand Paul's missionary journeys and his relationship with the people of the early church, it is helpful to understand the geography affecting these relationships. Paul traveled to many cities and towns, spreading the story of Jesus. A map will show where these different churches were beginning, and how Paul traveled between them.

STORY SUMMARY

Saul's Conversion

Saul was persecuting Christians. On his way to Damascus, a light struck Saul blind, and he heard the voice of the Lord Jesus telling him to continue to the city where he would receive new instructions. In Damascus, a man named Ananias had a vision in which the Lord told him to go to Saul, lay hands on him, and fill him with the Holy Spirit. When Ananias did this, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. Saul was later called by his Roman name, Paul.

PRACTICE SERVICE

Ananias, originally frightened by the prospect of going near Saul, ends up partnering with him in his calling. Christians are called to work alongside one another, support one another, and work together to share God's love in their daily lives. Think of a way you can serve someone who has a sad face and help give them a happy face this week.

NEXT WEEK

When Paul and Silas are imprisoned for sharing the gospel, an earthquake opens their cell door and the jailer comes to believe (Acts 16:16-34).

Family Discussions

Use the questions below—or any you have—to discuss this lesson’s Scripture reading with your family.

- † Did you find anything in this reading that was surprising?
- † What does this Scripture have to do with our lives today?
- † What part of this Scripture is the most interesting to you? Why?

Family Devotions

As you hear and study these stories each week, consider what God has to say to you and your family. What is God’s message to us? How should we respond?

Sunday—Read Acts 9:1-19a

Saul encounters Jesus and is changed forever. Take turns trying to accomplish simple tasks with your eyes closed to understand what it was like for Paul to be blinded for three days.

Monday—Read Acts 9:19b-25

Saul begins to preach. When have you expected someone to act mean and they turned out to be nice?

Tuesday—Read Acts 9:26-31

Saul comes to Jerusalem. Who is one person that you might be afraid to talk to about Jesus? Make a plan to approach that person.

Wednesday—Read Acts 13:1-12

Barnabas and Saul are commissioned. Lay hands on each other and bless each other to tell others about Jesus. Say something like, “May the love of Jesus go with you as you share his good news.”

Thursday—Read Acts 15:1-21

The council at Jerusalem. What are some rules that are important to follow? What ones do you think are less important?

Friday—Read Acts 15:36–16:5

Timothy joins Paul. Timothy was young. What are ways that young people can tell the story of Jesus that adults cannot?

Saturday—Read Acts 16:11-15

God opens Lydia’s heart, and she believes. Find things in your house that are purple.