

Lesson 23: Acts 9:1-19 The Conversion of Saul

Background: Saul is blinded by Jesus on the road to Damascus.

Acts 9:1-2 What did Saul want the high priest to give him? _____

Acts 9:3-9 What happened to Saul on his way to Damascus? _____

Acts 9:10-19 Who did Jesus tell to meet Saul in Damascus? _____

4 Prize dollars if an adult reads the Bible passage with the student and helps them fill out their Study Sheet.

Adult Signature X _____

Acts 9:1-19 Question Answers

Acts 9:1-2 Saul believed that he was serving the One True God by arresting the followers of Jesus, who were claiming that Jesus was God. God had told His people in Daniel 7 that He would send them a good and perfect King, who would come “riding the clouds of heaven” as only God does, and that this King would rule His kingdom forever, as only God can do. The Jews should have known that the Christ, the coming King they were waiting for was Jesus, God the Son, but the Jewish high priest and Saul did not believe it. The Jews who had plotted to kill Jesus thought that Jesus was just a man lying about being God. Many people thought Jesus was the promised King, but they would not believe that He was God the Son. To stop the followers of Jesus from showing more and more people that Jesus really was God the Son, Saul asked the high priest for **letters to take to the synagogues in Damascus**, saying that he could arrest anyone who was a follower of Jesus. Synagogues are places where the Jewish people would meet to hear God’s Word read aloud and to pray. As more and more Jews were learning that Jesus was the King they were waiting for, Saul knew that he would find many followers of Jesus as they met for synagogue in the region of Damascus.

Acts 9:3-9 While traveling to Damascus, **Saul was suddenly knocked to the ground and blinded by Jesus**. His traveling companions did not see this light, but they heard the voice of Jesus tell Saul that he was to go into Damascus and wait to be told what to do next. This event of being blinded by the resurrected Jesus changed Saul’s mind. While Saul used to think that Jesus was just a man, he now knew that Jesus was God, because Jesus had the power to come back from the dead, appear out of nowhere, and blind Saul as only God could do.

Acts 9:10-19 Jesus, God the Son, appeared to Ananias in a vision to tell him to meet the blinded Saul and to lay his hands on him so that he would be able to see again. Ananias had heard about how Saul had been arresting Christians, followers of Jesus, and that Saul had come to Damascus to arrest anyone following Jesus there. Ananias was scared, but because he trusted Jesus, he did what he was told. Finding Saul, Ananias laid his hands on him and explained that the risen Jesus had sent him. Saul’s sight was restored and Saul came to believe in and follow Jesus.

Lesson 24: Acts 9:19-22 Saul Proclaims Jesus in Synagogues

Background: Saul in the Jewish synagogues of Damascus.

Acts 9:19-20 After Saul became a believer in Jesus, what did he begin telling the unbelieving Jewish people of Damascus? _____

Acts 9:21 What did the unbelieving Jews of Damascus think when they heard Saul saying that Jesus was God the Son? _____

Acts 9:22 How did the unbelieving Jews respond to what Saul taught about Jesus? _____

4 Prize dollars if an adult reads the Bible passage with the student and helps them fill out their Study Sheet.

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Acts 9:19-22 Question Answers

Acts 9:19-20 After meeting the resurrected Jesus on the road to Damascus, Saul had gone from wanting to arrest and kill all of the followers of Jesus to believing that Jesus was God the Son. Saul stayed with Jesus' disciples in Damascus for several days, and while still in Damascus, Saul began going from synagogue to synagogue teaching other Jews how Jesus is the King that God had promised to send and that Jesus is God the Son. Saul was himself a Jew, an ancestor of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the family God chose to represent His kingdom on earth. God had promised many times throughout history to send the Jewish people a Christ, a King who would come riding on the clouds of heaven to rule the whole world with an everlasting kingdom. Because this King from God would rule forever and because only God is said to ride on the clouds of heaven, this King had to Himself be God. Synagogues were places where Jewish people would gather to hear the Word of God read and taught. Because the Jews were already learning about God the Father's promised King in the synagogues, many Jews came to believe **that Jesus was their King and that Jesus was God the Son.**

Acts 9:21 Saul had been hunting the followers of Jesus to have them arrested and killed, because he had thought that Jesus was just a man. In the mind of Saul and the unbelieving Jews, Jesus' followers were not worshiping the One True God, but a man who had just pretended to be God. Everyone knew that Saul was on a mission to stop people from believing in Jesus by arresting and killing all of Jesus' followers. So when Saul suddenly became a believer in Jesus and started teaching people from the Hebrew Scriptures that Jesus was God the Son, **they were confused.** Some people were even a little suspicious, thinking that maybe Saul was just pretending to believe in Jesus, just to find out who Jesus' true followers were, so he could arrest and kill them too.

Acts 9:22 Because Saul was teaching the Jewish people using their own Scriptures, the books of the Bible given to God's people by God, **the unbelieving Jews of Damascus came to know that Jesus really was the promised King,** but many still refused to trust and follow Him.

Lesson 25: Acts 9:23-25 Saul Escapes from Damascus

Background: Saul being lowered down the city wall of Damascus in a basket.

Acts 9:23 Why were the Jews of Damascus planning to kill Saul? _____

Acts 9:24-25 What happened when Saul found out that Jews of Damascus were going to try and kill him? _____

4 Prize dollars if an adult reads the Bible passage with the student and helps them fill out their Study Sheet.

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Acts 9:23-25 Question Answers

Acts 9:23 Before talking to the resurrected Jesus on the road to Damascus, Saul of Tarsus was well respected by the Jewish leaders of Judea. Saul may have even been a member of the high Jewish council, the Sanhedrin. In Acts 26:10-11 he said that before meeting Jesus, he had not only arrested and locked up Christians, Jesus' followers, but he had cast his vote for them to be executed. After meeting the resurrected Jesus though, Saul was completely changed. Instead of killing people who were saying that "Jesus was God the Son and that He had come back from the dead to prove it," Saul was now the one going around saying that "Jesus was God the Son and that He had come back from the dead to prove it." The Jewish high priest and the members of the Sanhedrin were afraid that Jesus' followers would convince everyone that Jesus really was God the Son. They knew that the only way Saul would have suddenly changed his mind about Jesus was if he had really seen the resurrected Jesus, so **they had to stop him from convincing everyone that Jesus was God the Son.**

Acts 9:24-25 The Jews in Damascus who did not believe that Jesus was God the Son, the promised King from heaven, were watching the gates to the city, making sure that Saul could not get out alive. But **Saul's own students, took him to an opening in the city wall and lowered him down the wall in a basket** allowing him to escape.

Lesson 26: Acts 9:26-31 Saul in Jerusalem

Background: Saul in the streets of Jerusalem.

Acts 9:26 Why were the other disciples of Jesus afraid to let Saul join them? _____

Acts 9:27 Who brought Saul to the Apostles and declared that Saul had met the resurrected Jesus?

Acts 9:28-31 What happened to the church after Saul came to know Jesus and joined with Jesus' disciples? _____

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Acts 9:26-31 Question Answers

Acts 9:26 Before meeting the resurrected Jesus on the road to Damascus, Saul had been arresting members of Jesus' church family. It was because of Saul's persecution of the church that many of the disciples had already fled Jerusalem and were spreading the Good News about Jesus all over the surrounding lands. Saul's change of heart happened so suddenly that **the other disciples were afraid that Saul was just pretending** to be a disciple of Jesus in order to arrest more of Jesus' church family.

Acts 9:27 Only Barnabas believed that Saul was really a follower of Jesus. **Barnabas had witnessed how Saul was telling everyone that Jesus really came back from the dead** and that Jesus is God the Son. Because Barnabas could see what God had done in Saul's heart, he brought him into the church family of Jesus.

Acts 9:28-31 Because Saul had met the resurrected Jesus on the road to Damascus, he knew that Jesus really was God the Son, the King of the Jews, and the Ruler of the eternal kingdom of God. Everywhere Saul went, he told everyone the Good News that Jesus had died on the cross to take the punishment for their sins. As Saul taught people about Jesus, many tried to prove him wrong, but they failed. The Hellenists, the Greek Jews living in Jerusalem, did not believe what Saul said about Jesus. But because they could not explain how Jesus' followers were able to heal the sick and cast out demons in Jesus' name, the Hellenists plotted to kill Saul. Because Saul was now a member of Jesus' church family though, the other disciples of Jesus took Saul to the city of Caesarea, which was about 55 miles north-west of Jerusalem. From there, they sent Saul to Tarsus. Since Saul, the leader of the persecution against the early church, was now a member of the early church, there was a time of peace for God's church family and **the church spread throughout the regions of Judea, Galilee, and Samaria.**

Lesson 27: Acts 9:32-35 The Healing of Aeneas

Background: Peter in the home of Aeneas in Lydda.

Acts 9:32 Where did the apostle Peter go to visit the saints, the followers of Jesus? _____

Acts 9:33 What was wrong with Aeneas? _____

Acts 9:34 What did Peter say to Aeneas? _____

Acts 9:35 What did the people of Lydda and Sharon do when they saw Aeneas walking again? _____

4 Prize dollars if an adult reads the Bible passage with the student and helps them fill out their Study Sheet.

Adult Signature X _____.

Acts 9:32-35 Question Answers

Acts 9:32 Peter went from the city of Jerusalem to the city of Lydda. **Lydda was the first stop Peter made after leaving Jerusalem.** Joppa, a city on the West coast of Judea would be his next stop, followed by a trip up the coast to Caesarea.

Acts 9:33 In Lydda, Peter met Aeneas. **Aeneas was paralyzed and had been bed-ridden for eight years.** Because Aeneas could not walk and had been lying down for so long, his muscles were very weak.

Acts 9:34 Because Jesus had given His twelve apostles the ability to heal people in His name, Peter was able to say, **“Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you; rise and make your bed.”** When Peter said this to Aeneas, Jesus, God the Son healed him from heaven. Peter’s ability to heal was given to him so that everyone would know that Jesus is God the Son.

Acts 9:35 It takes a lot of different muscles throughout the human body to walk. Even if a doctor could have cured Aeneas of whatever paralyzed his legs, he would have still been too weak to get out of bed, because he had been lying down for so long. When his whole body was suddenly healed and made strong, everyone in the cities of Lydda and Sharon knew that only God could have healed him. Because Peter had healed Aeneas in the name of Jesus, now everyone knew that Jesus must be God the Son, like He had said He was. For this reason, **all the people living in Lydda and Sharon became followers of Jesus.**

Lesson 28: Acts 9:36-43 Dorcas Restored to Life

Background: Peter in the home of Dorcas in Joppa.

Acts 9:36-37 What was Dorcas known for before she became ill and died? _____

Acts 9:38-39 Who did the disciples of Jesus send for when Dorcas died? _____

Acts 9:40-43 What did Peter do when he arrived at Dorcas' house? _____

4 Prize dollars if an adult reads the Bible passage with the student and helps them fill out their Study Sheet.

Adult Signature X _____.

Acts 9:36-43 Question Answers

Acts 9:36-37 Tabitha, which is Dorcas in Greek, meaning Gazelle, was known **for her good works and acts of charity.** When she became sick and died, many widows, women whose husbands had died, came to the house she was in to show the clothing she had made for them.

Acts 9:38-39 When they heard that the apostle Peter was in Lydda, the disciples sent two men to ask Peter to come with them back to Joppa. A disciple is a follower of Jesus who is learning to become more and more like Jesus everyday. Everyone who trusts and follows Jesus is His disciple. Peter though was both a disciple of Jesus and an apostle. An apostle is someone who was sent by Jesus Himself to grow the church family of God. Before Jesus' crucifixion and death, He called twelve men to be His apostles. Jesus promised them that if they asked for anything in His name, Jesus, who is God the Son, would do it for them. So they were able to heal the sick, cast out demons, and even raise the dead in Jesus' name. **Because Peter was one of Jesus' twelve apostles, whenever he asked for someone to be healed, God healed them.**

Acts 9:40-43 When Peter got to the home of Dorcas, he sent all of the other people outside. Kneeling down beside Dorcas' dead body, **Peter said, "Tabitha, arise"** and Dorcas, who was also known as Tabitha, came back to life. Peter presented her alive to the widows and to all of the saints, believers in Jesus. When the news of this spread throughout Joppa, many other people came to trust and follow Jesus.