

New Life

*Learning Focus 4
The Story of Paul.*

- ▣ This week, you will be learning about the life of Paul.
- ▣ Read the information on the pages below
- ▣ Think and discuss the questions with your family
- ▣ Complete the task to create two character sketches of Paul - one **before** he became a follower of Jesus and one for **after** he became a follower of Jesus
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Who was Paul?

Paul was originally called Saul. He was a Jew who came from Tarsus. He grew up in a Jewish home. He was a Pharisee * and did everything he could to be a good man. He kept every rule there was to keep, but he did not like the followers of Jesus. He did his best to wipe them out; however, God filled his mind and heart with the light of truth, and he recognised who Jesus was.

* Pharisees were a distinct group of Jewish people, who believed in both the written and oral tradition of the Torah (the first 5 books of the Old Testament). They were very strict in their observance of the laws.

He knew he owed everything to God's love. All he wanted to do was spread the Good News of that love all over the world. When he became a Christian his name was changed to Paul.

He travelled many thousands of miles, on foot, on horseback and by boat to spread the Good News, mainly to the Gentiles, the people who were not Jews. In every place, he told people about Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit.

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He explained the Good News that Jesus had come to bring - God loves everyone.

He told them how Jesus had died and been raised to a new life by his Father in heaven and how the Holy Spirit helps people.

He told them that Jesus wanted them to share this new life.

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When they asked him what they had to do to live this new life, he told them that they must believe and be baptised and try to live like Jesus, loving God and loving one another.

They were to share their faith with one another, pray together and break bread together as Jesus had done with his friends at the Last Supper.

Questions to think about and discuss with your family

- ▣ Who was Paul?
- ▣ How did he change?
- ▣ Why did he want to go all over the world spreading the Good News?
- ▣ What was the Good News that he gave?
- ▣ Why did Paul think it was important for him to do this?

Lesson 4 Task to complete

Create a character sketch by drawing a picture of Paul and write descriptions around of what he was like before he became a follower of Jesus.

Create a second character sketch of Paul after he became a follower of Jesus and write information on your character sketch to show how he changed and why.