

ST MARY'S COPTIC CHURCH
ST PAUL THE APOSTLE
INTROUCTION TO THE PAULINE EPISTLS

HIGH SCHOOL

2022

Table of Contents

LESSON #1- THE CHARACTER OF THE APOSTLE PAUL 3

Goal: 3

Reference: 3

1. ST PAUL DEMOGRAPHY 4

2. ST PAUL THE PERSECUTOR 6

What is meant to be a pharisee? 6

Why Paul was persecuting the church of Christ 6

3. ST PAUL THE CONVERTED 7

He is a VESSEL. 7

LESSON #2- THE CHARACTER OF THE APOSTLE PAUL 9

Goal: 9

Reference: 9

Reminder of last lesson: 9

Lessons Outline 9

4. ST PAUL THE MISSIONARY 9

5. ST PAUL THE PREACHER 10

6. ST PAUL THE PERSECUTED 11

7. ST PAUL THE PRISONER 11

8. THE APOSTLE PAUL IS 12

LESSON #3-SAINT PAUL MISSIONARY JOURNEYS 13

Saint Paul's Strategy - Church planter 14

9. FOUR MISSIONARY JOURNEYS 15

Paul's 1st Missionary Journey – Acts 13:1-15:35 [Cyprus –Asia Minor] 15

Paul's 2nd Missionary Journey – Acts 15:36-18:22 [Asia minor- Greece] 18

Paul's 3rd Missionary Journey – Acts 18:23-21:14 [Visiting the believers in previous cities] 20

Paul's Journey to Rome – Acts 27:1-28:31 [establishing a church in Rome] 23

What We Can Learn From Paul's Journeys 24

LESSON #4-SAINT PAUL WRITNGS 26

I. Saint Paul's Writings and Journeys 27

II. St. Paul's Writing Style 28

Body – the body of the epistle The body, or main part of Paul's letters, is divided into two main sections. 29

III. Classification according to the content 29

IV. Classification according to the receiver 30

Epistles to 8 Churches (congregation) =10 epistles 30

Activity, print each epistle's paragraph in a flash card and distribute to the students, let them quiz each other in teams or individually. 30

V. Epistles Summary and outline 30

1. Romans 30
2. First Corinthians 31
3. Second Corinthians 31

LESSON #5- OVERVIEW OF THE PAULINE EPISTLES..... 32

4. Galatians 32
5. Ephesians 33
6. Philippians 33
7. Colossians 34
8. First and 34
9. Second Thessalonians 34
10. First Timothy 35
11. Second Timothy 35
12. Titus 36
13. Philemon 36
14. Hebrews 37

LESSON #1- THE CHARACTER OF THE APOSTLE PAUL

Goal:

Introduction to Paul the Apostle
His background, why he was persecuting the Church of Christ
Saint Paul the Persecutor, the Converted, the Missionary, the preacher, the prisoner and the persecuted,
Saint Paul journeys and writings

Lessons Plan

Lesson #1

1. Demography
2. Saint Paul The Persecuting Pharisee
3. Saint Paul The Converted

Lesson #2

4. Saint Paul The Missionary
5. Saint Paul The Preacher
6. Saint Paul The Persecuted
7. Saint Paul The Prisoner
8. Saint Paul Is:

Lesson #3

9. Saint Paul's Journeys

Lesson #4

10. Saint Paul Writings (part I)

Lesson #5

11. Saint Paul Writings (part II), OVERVIEW OF THE PAULINE EPISTLES

Reference:

- Acts 8:1, 9:1-2 (click the link to read the passages)

1. St Paul Demography

Next to Jesus, no figure has had more influence in Christian tradition and history than Paul. In fact, studying Paul's letters is essential for understanding Christianity.

- Name: Hebrew name Saul. Roman name Paul.
- Meaning of name: Saul = "asked". Paul = "little"
    - "Paul" is from the Latin Paulus, which means "little." The earliest physical description of Paul we have comes from a second-century apocryphal writing: It described Paul as "a man of small stature, with a bald head and crooked legs, in a good state of body, with eyebrows meeting and nose somewhat hooked, full of friendliness; for now he appeared like a man, and now he had the face of an angel."[18] The apostle's Hebrew name was "Saul." As the apostle to the Gentiles, he consistently used his Gentile name, "Paul," in his epistles.
- Circumcised the eighth day,
- Benjamite Jew "Hellenistic Jew", means a Greek-speaking been raised in the Diaspora,
- The son of a Pharisee (Acts 23:6),
- was born a Roman citizen in a major city in Tarsus Cilicia in Asia Minor. (born ~4 BCE —died 67~68 CE, Rome [Italy]),
- St Paul is known worldwide as one of the earliest Christian missionaries, along with Saint Peter and James the Just. He was also known as:
    - Paul the Apostle,
    - the Apostle Paul and
    - the Paul of Tarsus.



However, he preferred to call himself 'Apostle to the Gentiles'. Paul had a broad outlook and was perhaps endowed as the most brilliant person to carry Christianity to varied lands, such as Cyprus, Asia Minor (modern Turkey), mainland Greece, Crete and Rome.

- His letters are written in Koine, or "common" Greek, rather than in the elegant literary Greek of his wealthy contemporary the Jewish philosopher Philo Judaeus of Alexandria, and this too argues against the view that Paul was an aristocrat. Moreover, he knew how to dictate, and he could write with his own hand in large letters (Galatians 6:11), though not in the small, neat letters of the professional scribe.
- Education: He came to Jerusalem to be taught by Gamaliel, an eminent rabbi who was a prominent Pharisee and a member of the Sanhedrin. Saul proved to be an apt pupil, becoming a strict Pharisee who was intent on keeping the many requirements of the Law (Phil. 3:6). He was also sent to Athens to learn Philosophy,
- Job: In his childhood and youth, Paul learned how to "work with [his] own hands" (1 Corinthians 4:12). Because the Jews had a rule that their children should learn a trade along with their studies, Saul learned to make tents. His trade, tent making, which he continued to practice after his conversion to Christianity, helps to explain important aspects of his apostleship. He could travel with a few leather-working tools and set up shop anywhere. It is doubtful that his family was wealthy or aristocratic, but, since he found it noteworthy that he sometimes worked with his own hands, it may be assumed that he was not a common laborer.

What to learn from St Paul Conversion:
There is much we can learn from the conversion of St. Paul. One lesson is that we should never judge others. St. Paul, the worst enemy of the early Christians, would seem to be the most unlikely convert to the Church. But God had a plan for Saul, just as He does for each of us. We never know how some small thing that we may say or do will affect another person. When Paul watched Stephen die a holy death, praying for his persecutors, it had to have an impact on him. And Stephen's prayer was heard by God. The seed that Stephen planted by his Christian forgiveness of his enemies helped in the conversion of St. Paul. We are all called to be evangelists, to plant seeds of faith wherever we can — in our families and our workplaces. We never know when something we do or say might transform another or even bring a great saint and missionary to the Church like St. Paul

2. ST PAUL THE PERSECUTOR

What is meant to be a pharisee?

- Paul is Pharisee son of Pharisee:
- The Pharisees formed the largest and most influential religious-political party in New Testament times. They are consistently depicted in the Gospels as antagonists or opponents of Jesus Christ and the early Christians.
- The name "Pharisee" means "separated one." The Pharisees separated themselves from society to study and teach the law, but they also separated themselves from the common people because they considered them religiously unclean. They also consider themselves the observants of the Law, to keep themselves pure and the Jewish society pure
- Pharisees were very careful students of the Hebrew Bible, and Paul was able to quote extensively from the Greek translation. (It was fairly easy for a bright, ambitious young boy to memorize the Bible, and it would have been very difficult and expensive for Paul as an adult to carry around dozens of bulky scrolls.) By his own account, Paul was the best Jew and the best Pharisee of his generation (Philippians 3:4–6; Galatians 1:13–14), though he claimed to be the least apostle of Christ (2 Corinthians 11:22–3; 1 Corin**thians 15:9–10) and attributed his** successes to the grace of God..

Why Paul was persecuting the church of Christ

Studying in Jerusalem at the feet of Gamaliel pioneer teacher of the Law, Paul grew as an ultra - Orthodox, fanatical proud Hebrew of the Hebrews, Pharisee of the pharisees.
As a young man, he witnessed the death of the first Christian martyr, Stephen, which caused him to see the faith as a serious threat to the Jewish religion. Against the restraints of his conscience, Saul became a zealous persecutor of the Church, pursuing the believers even beyond the borders.

For thought and contemplation:
What made Saul react in such a negative way to the preaching and witness of the early Christians?
The basic reason was—fear. It is this which lies at the root of most wrong reactions.
But fear of what? What do you think?
"Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven…" (Matt. 5:11-12, NIV)

3. St Paul The Converted

The story of Paul's conversion on the road to Damascus is told in Acts 9:1-19 and retold by Paul in Acts 22:6-21 and Acts 26:12-18.

Armed with letters of authority from the Sanhedrin to the Jews in Damascus to extend his ardent persecution of the Christians there (Acts 22:5), Saul was nearing the city when he was stopped in his tracks by the appearance of the risen Christ. Though Saul was physically blinded by the mysterious light which surrounded him, his spiritual eyes were now opened to the truth which he had been fighting so hard—namely, that Jesus Christ was the Son of God and the Savior of the world.

After three days of prayer and fasting, Saul's sight is restored when a local disciple, Ananias, comes and lays hands upon him in obedience to a vision.

He had a great conscience, he truly loved God and wanted to serve Him, that is why when he was called, he accepted the call as he had no intentions to benefit from his religious like the Jews leaders.

Saul immediately begins to preach the new truth he has discovered, and finds himself being persecuted for the very reason for which he has persecuted others.

From then on, his only work was to "present everyone perfect in Christ. For this I labor and struggle, in accord with the exercise of his power working within me" (Colossians 1:28b-29). "For our gospel did not come to you in word alone, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and [with] much conviction" (1 Thessalonians 1:5a).

Paul's life became a tireless proclaiming and living out of the message of the cross: Christians die baptismally to sin and are buried with Christ; they are dead to all that is sinful and unredeemed in the world. They are made into a new creation, already sharing Christ's victory and someday to rise from the dead like him. Through this risen Christ the Father pours out the Spirit on them, making them completely new.

So Paul's great message to the world was: You are saved entirely by God, not by anything you can do. Saving faith is the gift of total, free, personal and loving commitment to Christ, a commitment that then bears fruit in more work, the work of abiding God live the life of repentance and obey his commands.

He is a VESSEL.

The word means either an "instrument" in the hands of the Divine Agent to carry out His purposes, or a "vessel" into which the Lord Jesus poured abundantly of His mind and His love. We are not fountains which give forth. "All our springs are in Thee." God is an infinite Spring giving inexhaustibly forth; men are empty vessels receiving everlastingly of His fulness. The difference between men is not in their power to originate, but in their power to take in.

For thought and contemplation:
Saul, later called Paul, has been described as the "greatest Christian of all time". No other man, save Jesus of Nazareth, has left such an impression on history. Paul's conversion has been described by the critics as 'an hallucination' or 'a mild form of insanity'. Well, it's a strange kind of insanity that produces a man who has done more to make people truly sane than any other man!

Matthew 18:3 and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. (NKJV)

Summarize the text in the boxes and review the lesson with the students before closing, important to mention in the middle and repeat at the end.