

The Junior Observer

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A Good News Story

Saul Becomes a Follower of Jesus

Q&A

Who wanted to destroy the Church?

Who spoke to Saul?

Read more about it in Acts 8 & 9

Catholic News Service

A Jewish man named Saul was working to destroy the Church by helping to imprison the followers of Jesus.

He went to the high priest in Jerusalem for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, in case he found any men or women there who were Christians. If he did, he planned to bring them back to Jerusalem in chains.

As he and two companions traveled to Damascus, a light from the sky suddenly flashed around Saul. As he fell to the ground, he and his companions heard a voice.

“Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?” the voice said.

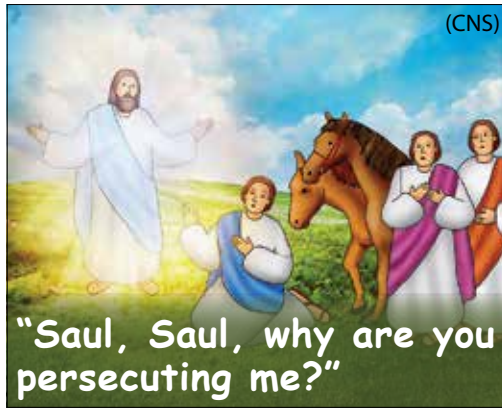
“Who are you, sir?” he asked.

“I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,” the voice replied. “Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.”

When Saul got up from the ground, he opened his eyes and could not see anything, so his companions led him to Damascus.

Meanwhile, in Damascus, a man named Ananias had a vision from Jesus.

“Get up and go to the street called Straight and ask at the house of Judas for a man from Tarsus named Saul. He



Bible Trivia

Where did Saul go on his first mission? (Hint: Acts 13:1-4)

Answer: Cyprus

is there praying, and in a vision, he has seen a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him, that he may regain his sight,” Jesus said.

“Lord, I have heard from many sources about this man, what evil things he has done to your holy ones in Jerusalem,” Ananias replied. “And here he has authority from the chief priests to imprison all who call upon your name.”

“Go, for this man is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before gentiles, kings and Israelites, and I will show him what he will have

to suffer for my name,” Jesus said.

Ananias went to find Saul.

“Saul, my brother, the Lord has sent me, Jesus who appeared to you on the way by which you came, that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit,” Ananias said as he laid his hands on Saul.

Things like scales immediately fell from Saul’s eyes, and he regained his sight. He got up and was baptized, and he ate and recovered his strength.

Saul at once began proclaiming in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God.

Turn This



Into This



(Observer screen shots/www.catholicicing.com/)

Honor the Most Holy Name of Jesus

In January, Catholics are encouraged to think about and honor the Most Holy Name of Jesus, something we celebrated on Jan. 3.

And it’s not too late to spend time on a craft to remind us of that holy name.

You may want to ask your family to help you with this project from the Catholic Icing website.

It doesn’t require much: some glue, some popsicle sticks — regular or colored — and colored paper or cellophane.

If you’re in grade school, you may be able to handle the whole project while an adult or older brother or sister watches you.

If you have preschool kids in the house, they may need more help, especially with cutting the popsicle sticks.

You’ll need enough popsicle sticks to make the five-window frame and the shorter pieces below them in the image on the left above. Ten should be enough.

1 Glue two sticks together to create the top and bottom rows.

Now the cutting starts and you need to be sure an adult is handy to help you.

2 Cut three sticks in half and glue each half to the top and bottom rows. When you finish, you should have a long box with five windows.

3 Next cut (or have an adult cut) three more sticks to match the pieces on the bottom of the picture on the left.

4 Lay them out as shown, then glue each one in place as shown in the picture on the right. When you’re done, you’ll have the name Jesus spelled out.

5 You can then glue colored craft paper or cellophane to the back of your art project.

If you glue string or yarn to each side of your frame, you can hang it on the wall or in a window to see it every day.

Note to adults: Find the original instructions at <https://www.catholicicing.com/j-e-s-u-s-craft-make-optical-illusion/>.

— Sharon Boehlefeld

Puzzle

Using the hints provided, fill in the blanks in the sentences about Saul/Paul.

1. Saul and _____ were set aside to do the Lord’s work. (Acts 13:2)

2. At Lystra, Paul healed a man who could not _____. (Acts 14:8)

3. Paul and Silas _____ and sang hymns in prison. (Acts 16:25)

4. _____ fell to his death while Paul was preaching, and Paul raised him from the dead. (Acts 20:8-12)

Answers: 1. Barnabas; 2. walk; 3. prayed; 4. Eutychus