

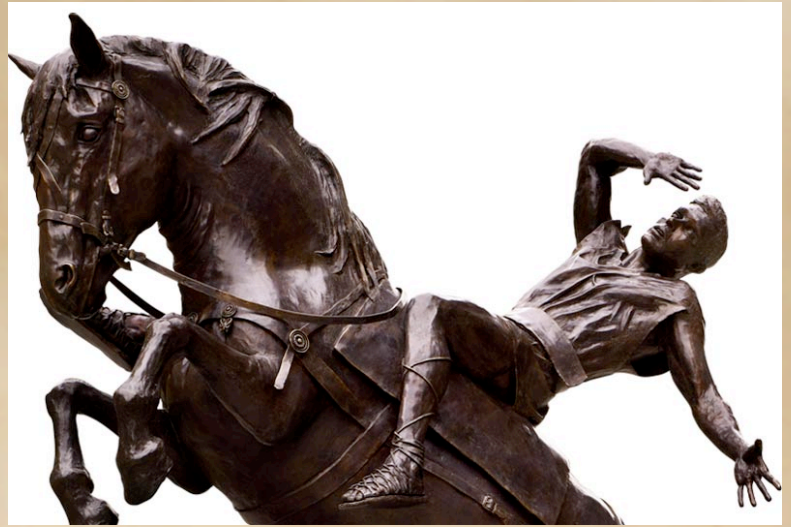
May 4, 2014

Lesson 29: Called Into Christ's Service

Acts 9:1-19

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?' He asked, 'Who are you, Lord?' The reply came, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.' The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, 'Ananias.' He answered, 'Here I am, Lord.' The Lord said to him, 'Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.' But Ananias answered, 'Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name.' But the Lord said to him, 'Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.' So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, 'Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.' And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength.



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The Big Story Truth: Jesus, The Light of the World, is alive and active... calling forth servants to spread the Gospel!

About This Scripture Passage: If ever there was an unlikely candidate to become a missionary it was Saul. Saul was the one who was known for being the worst persecutor of the followers of Jesus! (At this time "the Way" was the description for followers of Jesus.)

Saul was a great Jew and he was a strong defender of the Jewish faith. And yet, God chose Saul to be the one to spread the good news of Jesus! What a sense of humor our God has!

"Saul" became "Paul" and indeed became a great missionary, spreading the good news of Jesus to the ends of the earth!



Making the Connection: Many of our kids met Paul in Vacation Bible School this summer. This is an opportunity to remember with them what we learned last summer and to hear the story of how Jesus met Saul and turned him into Paul. It's also an opportunity for us to teach that God can use ANYONE to tell about the good news of Jesus!

Where in the World Are We? Saul was on the road between Jerusalem and Damascus when he heard the voice of Jesus call out to him. It was in Damascus that he met Ananias and was baptized. The dotted red lines show one possible route he would have taken.

For Your Reflection:

Many Christians grew up in the church and never remember a time when they didn't believe in Jesus. Others, like Saul/Paul, have powerful experiences later in life that dramatically change their lives and call them to faith. How were you brought to faith? How would your life be different today if you didn't have the gift of faith in the risen Jesus?

