

The Story of St Paul

<i>Section of Story</i>	<i>Summary</i>
<i>Paul's Background</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul was a member of the tribe of Benjamin. He was born in Tarsus to a wealthy family and was well-educated. • As a teenager, he went to Jerusalem to rediscover his Jewish roots and learn more about the Jewish law. • He was involved in persecuting Christian. • It is unknown if Paul was a widower or not married. • Paul was martyred, by being beheaded in Rome around AD 64.
<i>Paul's Conversion</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the time of his conversion, he was probably in his early thirties. • Paul converted to Christianity after he saw a vision of the resurrected Christ on the road to Damascus. • During his conversion, the heart of his mission was his sense of being close to Christ and being loved by him. • His Journeys: Paul was inspired to spread the Gospel and travelled extensively to spread the message of Jesus. • After his conversion, he was referred to as Paul not Saul.
<i>Paul's Journeys: 1st Journey</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • His first journey was the shortest. He was accompanied by Barnabas (a friend of Paul. Early Christian Church leader). • The Journey ended when Paul returned to Jerusalem for the Council. • He believed that all Jews and Gentiles (non-Jews) should hear about Jesus.
<i>Paul's Journeys: 2nd Journey</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In his second Journey, he travelled with Silas (member of the Early Christian Church). • They spent a considerable amount of time in Athens and Corinth, two major centres of Greek culture and learning. • He went to the synagogues to preach to the Jews and spoke in the market places to common everyday people. • Paul's message was always centered on how Jesus had come for all and there was a place in the Christian community for everyone who put their faith in the Lord.
<i>Paul's Journeys: 3rd Journey</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During his third journey, he visited many of the Christian communities he had founded or written to. • One of the groups he visited was at Ephesus. • Here, Paul preached against the worship of false gods. This made many of the local traders angry, especially the local silversmiths who made images of the local goddess, Armetis (a Greek goddess). • Paul's preaching was putting them out of business. • Many believe that his third Journey lead to his imprisonment.

<i>Characteristics of Paul</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• His energy and commitment.• He is a person of great passion.• He was prepared to endure for what he believed in.• In Paul's letters, he encourages the recipients to try to live up to what is being explained to them. For Example; in one of his letters, he asks the Philippians to do what they can to imitate Christ.
<i>A Key Teaching of Paul</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• One of the great themes in the life of St Paul was his passion to live like Christ, to get to know him better and to help others realize that Jesus loved them too and that they could also have a personal relationship with him.• Paul is traditionally named one of the Apostles.