

Class 4

Paul the Apostle: a scripture story www.biblegateway.com

Say a prayer to get them familiar with the different prayers.

In the name of the father, the son, and the Holy Spirit;

Gracious God, our heavenly Father, not king, not master nor super hero, but father, sometimes we reach out for You, wishing we could touch You, see You, or in some other way find some physical evidence that You are near, that you are in this room giving us your thoughts, and that you are truly concerned about the welfare of each of our lives.

Forgive us our doubting and please Father lift us, to higher levels of faith and understanding.

Also, Lord, please forgive us for ignoring you during our normal weekdays. We have many times during the day when we can speak with you but we chose to occupy our minds and hearts with worldly concerns and trivial pursuits.

Give us the adult courage to show you that we want you involved in our lives by being attentive to your teachings and reading our homework assignment as a sign of our faithfulness toward you.

Give us the strength to grow in our adulthood by at least giving you this one hour a week to attentively listen to the things of your kingdom that you are trying to teach us and by which we will become your children and be on a path to everlasting life in your kingdom for all eternity.

In the name of the father, the son, and the Holy Spirit;

1 This week we're going to talk about St. Paul the Apostle

Ask them what they know about St. Paul

2 There once was a very strong Jew, Saul of Tarsus

Say what he did. A devout Jew and tent maker

3 He held the coats of the men stoning St. Stephen to death, the first martyr.

4 one day on his way to a city named Damascus.....explain story and his blindness....I am the one whom you are persecuting.

After this experience he used his Roman name Paul.

5 Paul became perhaps the greatest Saint and preacher in the Catholic Church because of his many travels and sermons and letters to the infant churches of the early Catholic Church.

Had an affliction, perhaps with the eyes because of his large handwriting.

7 relatives of Paul are mentioned in the New Testament. They are Andronicus and Junia, Jason, Sosipater and Lucius. There was also mention of his sister and his nephew who helped him in prison.

He must have been eating fish with scales because the Jewish dietary laws prevents from eating fish without scales.

Paul was the most popular apostle in the early Church as he was effective in forming the Christian Community. He was educated in Jerusalem under the famous Jewish teacher named Gamaliel.

He never met Jesus during his brief years of ministry and he was also not one of the 12 apostles but according to the New Testament he did interacted with many of the original disciples, especially in Jerusalem.

He was Jewish by birth and there were questions about his commitment to Judaism both before and after his conversion to Christianity.

Because of his conversion to Christianity, the Jews plotted to kill him but Paul came to know of their plan.

They watched the gates of the city of Jerusalem day and night to kill him so the disciples took him by the night and let him through the wall in a large basket.

This is a very famous Bible story.

When Paul started preaching, the followers of Jesus who were Jews believed that Jesus was a Messiah to his chosen people but Paul made a radical departure of preaching to non-Jews or Gentiles saying that through Jesus God has extended salvation to Gentiles.

We're going to be looking at all the journeys or trips his took to spread the good news of Jesus and his message of everlasting life.

His trips were filled with great adventure and excitement and danger and they were difficult; but he kept going because he was so drawn to Jesus and his teachings.

Another very interesting fact about St. Paul the Apostle is related to a incidence when he was traveling to Rome and his boat was shipwrecked on the island of Malta. Paul survived the wreck but was bitten by poisonous snake while setting up a camp. Everyone thought he would die but he was saved by The Lord.

Paul spread the Gospel of Jesus throughout the Roman Empire of the first century.

He was a one man human "Face Book & Twitter"

Of the 27 books in the New Testament, 21 are [epistles](#), or letters, many of which were written by Paul. The names of the epistles attributed to him are Romans; I and II Corinthians; [Galatians](#); Ephesians; Philippians; [Colossians](#); I and [II Thessalonians](#); I and [II Timothy](#); Titus; and [Philemon](#).

So, of the 27 books or epistles in the new testament 13, were attributed to St. Paul and many scholars think the letter to the Hebrews was written by Paul so that would make 14.

So, 14 of 27 is 52%. Can you imagine 52% of the new testament was written by a man who persecuted Christ.

Even though he was a Jew he spread the word of Christ among the non-Jews.

Read the Background: Faith-Filled People bottom of page 77 in Teacher's Guide.

This paragraph surely described St. Paul.

You can surely see why he is held in such respect along side of St. Peter for the work he did in helping Jesus establish His Catholic Church.

6 Christian missionaries have been at work throughout the entire world ever since Jesus asked his followers to spread his teachings and good news.

Amazing testimony to the power and truth of Jesus' message: the fact that his missionaries have been acting since he walked the earth until he comes again.

THE MISSIONARY JOURNIES OF SAINT PAUL THE APOSTLE

Paul was a missionary traveling around the known world to obey the command of Jesus to spread his word throughout the entire world.

Have them look at page 30, modern day Turkey

We read about all these journeys in the Bible in the Acts of the Apostles.

His last Journey took him to Rome which was the heart of the pagan Roman Empire and Paul upset a lot of the Roman rulers there.

St. Paul said god was greater than the roman ruler Caesar so he was put to death.

7 Paul was beheaded for his faith and thus is a great martyr.

Tradition says this was on the Ostian road outside of the city of Rome.

8 Constantine erected a church in his honor **9**

Read the Background: Scripture bottom of page 78 in Teacher's Guide.

PAULS SEA ADVENTURE

10 On one of his journeys to Rome Paul was shipwrecked and he explained to everyone in the shipwreck that everything would be fine because he was on a mission for God and God would see him through since he was obeying Jesus's directive to spread his message throughout the world.

Paul's assurance gave heart to all the other men on the boat that were not drifting in the sea.

Have someone read "Paul Addressed then" on page 32 of the text book.

Paul was actually a prisoner being taken to Caesar.

¶1 He was taken to Caesar because he was a Roman citizen and every Roman citizen could appeal directly to Caesar.

Paul wanted to do this because he knew he would be beheaded but pleading his case before Caesar would get him more publicity and therefore better spread the message of Christ throughout the Roman Empire. Paul was pretty smart!

This story is in the Acts of the Apostles chapter's 27 & 28.

PAULS JOURNEY TO ROME

Let's read some of this story from the Acts of the apostles.

Have someone read the blue words on page 32 of the text book after you read the "Paul addressed them"

Do the same for the two blue word paragraphs on page 33 of the text book.

Read the Background: Catholic Tradition bottom of page 81 in Teacher's Guide.

THE MISSIONARY CHURCH

¶2 Immediately before Jesus ascended into Heaven he asked his followers to spread his word throughout the entire world.

Jesus came to share his life with everyone the Father has given life to!

St. Paul shared this word with everyone on the shipwreck, even the ones taking him to be tried.

This is what missionaries are called to do, share Christ's teachings with everyone, everyone in the world.

¶3 What these travels teach us about St. Paul is no matter how difficult the circumstances, do not lose hope.

Just like St. Paul did not lose hope in the shipwreck, he knew his immediate future was to stand before Caesar.

This is why the church exists, to spread and share the life in God the Father, Jesus the Son and the Holy Spirit.

This spreading the word and teachings of Jesus is called Evangelization.

¶4 This Good News is spread about through all geographical areas of the world to all different cultures of the world and will continue until the end of time when Jesus returns to the earth.

15 We are all called to be missionaries, not to the world but to the people in our immediate families and neighborhoods most powerfully by the way we act and live out our faith.

CHURCH YOUTH ON MISSION

16 A good example of how you can be a missionary is the story of St. Mary of the Lake parish in White Bear Lake, MN. This group of young people visit different sites each summer to help repair homes.

Read story on page 35.

Projects of this nature give young people much more than they are able to give to someone else in terms of a lifetime of memories and spiritual growth.

I do not know of any such youth projects in this area, does anyone know of any?

Mention the Rice Bowl program for the Catholic Relief Services.

Think, what is it you can do in your own area of influence to show that the God who gave your life is appreciated by you and lives within you?

These might be some good ideas.

17 Never partake in “quiet” discussions where someone’s personality is being harmed and spoken about in a negative way.

18 Never make fun of someone nor never bully anyone.

When you catch yourself in this type of activity, stop and think about your God, your creator, the one who died for you.

Realize this is not the type of activity that any one engages in who is bound for Heaven and everlasting life with the Lord.

Stop and quietly ask forgiveness of the Lord if you find yourself in this kind of activity.

Tell story about Opel.

Read Catholic Social Teachings: bottom of page 83 in the Teacher’s Guide.

LIVING WITH ZEAL AND OPTIMISM

Optimism

St. Paul’s life and his work spreading the good news about Jesus is full of Optimism.

Optimism is living with the belief everything is good and the future is bright.

As Christians we must live this way because we believe in the creator of life.

He never abandons us, always protects us and leads us in the right way of living to obtain everlasting life in a perfect realm.

19 How is it possible to be depressed with life?

The Lord never, ever intended us to live under these circumstances.

We always have him to speak with and guide us as to what we are to do about our difficulty.

Mention angels and you getting a job at Evapco.

20 Zeal

The life of St. Paul shows us that we should live our lives with zeal.

Zeal is living with an eagerness and intensity in their actions.

We as Baptized Christian are to use our energy, vitality, to share our beliefs with others.

This is a picture of World Youth Day where young people from all over the world gathered to share their belief and love of the Lord.

There are a lot of smiling people in this picture.

This is what happens with people who live their lives with Christ and the Holy Spirit within them and they are accepting the guidance in life of Christ and the Holy Spirit.

The Pope praised them for their enthusiasm and zeal in their love for the lord.

You can live with this energy and zeal right here in Littlestown because the spirit of the Lord lives within you.

Zeal and Optimism are not ways you force yourself to behave and think but naturally come from a belief and knowledge that God wants us to be happy!

Living with zeal and optimism builds you up and affects your relationship with other.

21 We especially need to pray with spirits of zeal and optimism.

22 This is why we want to live life with zeal and optimism;

23 This is Mark Twain, the man who said this. 1835-1910. Samuel Langhorne Clemens

One day this will be our experience. Mention Harry when he was told he had cancer.

Read Background: Doctrine, bottom of page 84 in the Teacher's Guide.

No wonder they call the Gospel of Christ good news. Jesus has nothing but good to offer us.

IF TIME REVIEW VOCABULARY AND MAIN IDEAS.