

BIBLE

STUDENT BOOK



▶ **4th Grade | Unit 3**

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BIBLE 403

SAUL BEGINS TO LIVE FOR GOD

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LIFEPAC Test | **Pull-out**



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Rock Rapids, IA 51246-1759**

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SAUL BEGINS TO LIVE FOR GOD

Jesus Christ has the power to change people's lives! Through Jesus, people can become new creations. They can live for God in a new way.

In this LIFEPAC®, you will learn about a Jew named Saul. He lived in the time of the early church. Jesus changed Saul's life in a powerful way. After he received new life from Jesus, Saul became a great Christian. Jesus changed Saul's name to Paul. Paul later helped many people come to Jesus and live for God. He became a great **apostle** of Jesus Christ. He was also a great **missionary** for Jesus. He told others how they could have **salvation** through God's **grace** through their faith.

In the first section of this LIFEPAC, you will learn about Saul's background. You will also read how he persecuted the early Christians. In the second section, you will learn how Jesus changed Saul's life. In the third section, you will learn how God used Paul after He changed his life. The story of Paul's life shows how Jesus can change a person to live for God.

Objectives

Read these objectives. The objectives tell you what you will be able to do when you have successfully completed this LIFEPAK. Each section will list according to the numbers below what objectives will be met in that section. When you have finished this LIFEPAK, you should be able to:

1. Tell about Saul's background as a boy and young man.
2. Describe how Stephen's death was related to Saul's changed life.
3. Explain how and why Saul persecuted Christians.
4. Describe what happened to Paul on the road to Damascus.
5. Describe what Paul did after Jesus changed his life.
6. List the thirteen New Testament books that Paul wrote.



1. SAUL PERSECUTES CHRISTIANS

Saul grew up in a Jewish home. He was very serious about his religion. In this section of the LIFE PAC, you will learn more about Saul's background. You will also learn how and why he came to be a persecutor of Christians.

Christians believed in the **Crucifixion** and **Resurrection** of Jesus Christ. Saul did not believe in Christ's Resurrection. Saul believed that Jesus was dead. Saul did not want Christians to say that Jesus was alive. Later in life, Jesus would show Saul himself that He was alive!

Objectives

Review these objectives. When you have completed this section, you should be able to:

1. Tell about Saul's background as a boy and young man.
2. Describe how Stephen's death was related to Saul's changed life.
3. Explain how and why Saul persecuted Christians.

Vocabulary

Study these new words. Learning the meanings of these words is a good study habit and will improve your understanding of this LIFE PAC.

apostle (ə pɒs əl). One of the men who had been called by Christ to go forth and preach the Gospel.

Crucifixion (krōō sə fīk shən). The putting to death of Christ on the cross.

grace (grās). The state of being protected or sanctified by the favor of God; unmerited favor.

high priest (hī prēst). Head Jewish religious leader.

missionary (mīsh ən ər ē). A person whose business in life is to tell others about Christ.

persecutor (pûr' sī kyōō tər). Someone who harasses another in a manner designed to injure, grieve, or afflict; someone who causes suffering because of belief.

persecution (pûr' sī kyōō shən). Being treated badly.

rabbi (răb ī). A Jewish teacher.

Resurrection (rĕzə rĕk shən). Jesus raised from the dead and came to life again overcoming death forever.

salvation (săl vā shən). Being saved from sin and its punishment by the blood of Christ shed when He died on the cross.

synagogue (sīn ə gōg). A place where Jewish people gathered together to worship God.

threat (thrĕt). Statement of what will be done to harm or punish someone.

zealous (zĕl' əs). Filled with eagerness and much interest.

Note: All vocabulary words in this LIFEPAC appear in **boldface** print the first time they are used. If you are unsure of the meaning when you are reading, study the definitions given.

Pronunciation Key: hat, āge, cāre, fār; let, ēqual, tĕrm; it, ĭce; hot, ōpen, ôrder; oil; out; cup, pût, rûle; child; long; thin; /FH/ for then; /zh/ for measure; /u/ or /ə/ represents /a/ in about, /e/ in taken, /i/ in pencil, /o/ in lemon, and /u/ in circus.

Saul's Background



Read Acts 22:2-3; 26:4 - 5,
and Galatians 1:13 -14.

Saul was born and grew up in Tarsus (tar sus), an important city in his day. The people in Tarsus were eager to learn. In Tarsus, the people loved to learn, and Saul was no different. Everyone in Tarsus spoke Greek, so Saul learned Greek. Because his family was Jewish, Saul also learned Hebrew. It was the language that both his family and the teachers in the **synagogue** used.

Saul loved his parents and his home. When Saul was only three years old, his father taught him God's Law. His father was a Pharisee (far uh see). The Pharisees were very careful to observe the Law of Moses. In fact, their **scribes** made laws of their own to try to stop people from breaking God's Law.

Saul's parents learned and obeyed all the rules of the Jewish Law. They taught these rules to him. They would not eat eggs a hen laid on the Sabbath because they thought the commandment to rest on the Sabbath meant that the chickens worked by laying eggs! They would not carry a stick or light a fire on the Sabbath. Saul knew his parents had carefully guarded his life by teaching him to not do anything that was wrong according to the Law of Moses. His parents also taught him about the words of the prophets and the Psalms of the Old Testament. Psalms are songs of worship that King David and others wrote. The prophets foretold what would happen to the people if they did not follow the commandments of God. Both the Psalms and the prophets prophesied the future coming of the Messiah, a great leader from God.

Even though they trained Saul to be a tentmaker, his parents really wanted him to teach the Law of Moses. His parents knew the best training he could get to be a teacher was in the Jewish temple at Jerusalem, so they sent him to Jerusalem when he was fourteen years old to study under Gamaliel, a great teacher and rabbi. Gamaliel used only one



| Land of Israel

book to teach Saul and the other boys in the class. He used the Scriptures that had been written so far, which we know as our Old Testament. Saul studied the Scriptures and learned them well.

When Saul got older, he stayed in Jerusalem and became a Pharisee. The Sadducees (sad yu sees) were the other important religious group in Jerusalem at the time. However, Saul and the Pharisees disagreed with the Sadducees in many beliefs. The Sadducees did not believe in resurrection or life after death or in angels (Acts 23:8). They thought that God did not care about how they lived. The Pharisees disagreed with these beliefs, and Saul was glad for that.

The Pharisees believed in angels. They also believed that God would resurrect His followers from the dead, and that those who died would be judged by God based on the life they lived. These beliefs made the Pharisees want to keep all of God's Law.

When Saul was a young man, the followers of Jesus Christ became more numerous in Jerusalem. Most of the Pharisees did not like these Christians because they proclaimed that following Jesus and His teachings made people pleasing to God and not by keeping the law. The Pharisees believed that it was by keeping all the Jewish laws that a person was pleasing to God.



| Scribe



Answer true or false.

- 1.1 _____ Saul was born in Jerusalem.
- 1.2 _____ Saul learned both the Roman and Hebrew languages.
- 1.3 _____ Saul's father was a Pharisee.
- 1.4 _____ Saul was taught God's law.
- 1.5 _____ Saul was taught by the great teacher Gamaliel.
- 1.6 _____ The Sadducees believed in life after death.
- 1.7 _____ The Pharisees believed that a person could please God by keeping His laws.
- 1.8 _____ Saul was taught that some day God would send a Messiah to save his people.



Write the letter on the line to match these items.

- | | | |
|------|--------------------|--|
| 1.9 | _____ scribe | a. they did not believe in life after death |
| 1.10 | _____ resurrection | b. they believed in life after death |
| 1.11 | _____ synagogue | c. a person who studied Jewish law |
| 1.12 | _____ Pharisees | d. the belief that one day the dead will come back to life |
| 1.13 | _____ Sadducees | e. a Jewish place of worship |

Stephen Is Stoned for Being a Christian



Read Acts 7:54 – 60.

The first time that the New Testament mentioned Saul was when the Jews killed a Christian named Stephen. As a **zealous** Pharisee, Saul disliked the Christians. He was present when the Jews stoned Stephen for believing in Jesus.

Those who wanted to stone Stephen couldn't throw rocks with their robes on. They needed someone to watch them and make sure they weren't stolen, so Saul watched their robes as they stoned Stephen to death. While Stephen was being stoned, Saul must have heard him pray, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God." (Acts 7:56) Stephen was talking about seeing Jesus, who called Himself the Son of Man. Saul, however, didn't believe that Jesus was alive. Saul also probably heard Stephen ask God to forgive his killers. Saul was one of those killers that Stephen prayed for because Saul stood by and watched him die.

Even though he was being stoned to death, Stephen showed no fear because he had faith that he would be in heaven with Jesus. As Saul guarded the robes, he probably saw that peaceful look.

Later, as he arrested other Christians and had them killed, Saul must have seen a similar look of peace on the faces of those he was killing. Saul probably had a hard time forgetting the peaceful faces of the dying Christians. Although Saul did not realize it at the time, it was the Holy Spirit helping those Christians through their trials. As the Christians were dying, the Holy Spirit was comforting and reminded them of Jesus' promise that they would be with Him in heaven.



| The stoning of Stephen



Multiple Choice. Circle the letter of the correct answer.

- 1.14** Saul was present when _____ was stoned to death.
a. Samuel b. Stephen c. Paul
- 1.15** Saul guarded the _____ of those who were throwing the stones.
a. money b. sandals c. robes
- 1.16** This man was being stoned for being a _____ .
a. Christian b. Pharisee c. Sadducee
- 1.17** Saul believed Jesus was _____ .
a. God's Son b. alive c. dead



Answer true or false.

- 1.18** _____ Stephen said he saw Christ standing at God's right hand.
- 1.19** _____ Stephen sang as he was being killed.
- 1.20** _____ Stephen asked God to punish those who stoned him.
- 1.21** _____ Stephen looked at peace as he died.

Saul Forces Christians out of Jerusalem



Read Acts 8:1-3; 9:1-2; 22:4-5; and 26:9 -11.

Saul's main goal in life was to kill all the Christians. He traveled all over looking for them. When he found them, he would try to make them say they didn't believe in Jesus. He would say he was going to put them in prison or even kill them. Because of this terrible **persecution**, many Christians ran away from Jerusalem to other cities. As these Christians fled to other places, some to Damascus in Syria, word quickly spread that Saul was the Christians' biggest enemy.

Even though Christians were forced to run for their lives, they kept on telling the story of Jesus wherever they went. They told how Jesus had died on the Cross for sinners, was buried, and rose from the dead on the third day. Saul thought the Christians were

lying when they talked about Jesus being alive. He did not believe in the story of Jesus' **Resurrection** so he continued to **threaten** Christians with death because he thought God would want him to get rid of people who were lying about Jesus.

Since many Christians had run away from Jerusalem to Damascus, Saul planned a trip there to try and catch as many Christians as he could. He wanted to return them to Jerusalem to punish them. Saul did not think he would have any trouble carrying out his plan. The high priest in Jerusalem gave him letters asking the rabbis in the synagogue at Damascus to help Saul any way they could with his plan to capture Christians.



Write the letter on the line to match these items.

- | | | |
|------|--------------------|--|
| 1.22 | _____ persecution | a. head Jewish religious leader |
| 1.23 | _____ resurrection | b. being raised from the dead |
| 1.24 | _____ threats | c. being treated badly |
| 1.25 | _____ high priest | d. a Jewish teacher |
| 1.26 | _____ rabbi | e. statements of what will be done to punish someone |



Answer true or false.

- 1.27 _____ Saul's goal was to kill Christians.
- 1.28 _____ Christian fled Jerusalem because of the persecution.
- 1.29 _____ Christians stopped telling others about Christ.
- 1.30 _____ Saul planned to travel to Tarsus to persecute the Christians who lived there.



Review the material in this section to prepare for the Self Test. The Self Test will check your understanding of this section. Any items you miss on this test will show you what areas you will need to restudy in order to prepare for the unit test.

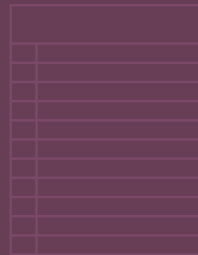
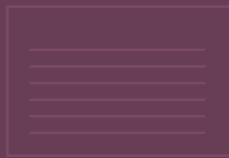
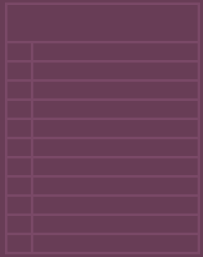
SELF TEST 1

Match these items (each answer, 4 points).

- | | | | | |
|--------------|-------|-------------|----|---|
| 1.01 | _____ | Tarsus | a. | a person who studied Jewish law |
| 1.02 | _____ | Jerusalem | b. | Saul was a member of this group |
| 1.03 | _____ | Damascus | c. | the city where Saul was raised |
| 1.04 | _____ | rabbi | d. | one of the cities where Christians fled to escape persecution |
| 1.05 | _____ | high priest | e. | a Jewish teacher |
| 1.06 | _____ | scribe | f. | the city where Stephen was stoned |
| 1.07 | _____ | synagogue | g. | a Jewish place of worship |
| 1.08 | _____ | Pharisees | h. | head Jewish religious leader |
| 1.09 | _____ | Sadducees | i. | this group followed Christ |
| 1.010 | _____ | Christians | j. | this group did not believe in the resurrection of the dead |

Put the following events in the correct order (each answer, 4 points).

- | | | |
|--------------|-------|---|
| 1.011 | _____ | Saul went to study God's laws in Jerusalem. |
| 1.012 | _____ | Saul planned to go to Damascus to persecute Christians. |
| 1.013 | _____ | Saul was born in Tarsus. |
| 1.014 | _____ | Saul persecuted the Christians in Jerusalem. |
| 1.015 | _____ | Saul guarded the robes of those who were stoning Stephen. |
| 1.016 | _____ | Saul's father taught him both Greek and Hebrew. |



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BIB0403 - Jan '16 Printing

ISBN 978-0-7403-1904-4



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