

Older Kids

Scripture for Today:

Acts 26:3-18 (*The Message*, selected verses. The Apostle Paul is speaking.)



"From the time of my youth, my life has been lived among my own people in Jerusalem. Practically every Jew in town who watched me grow up knows that I lived as a strict Pharisee, the most demanding branch of our religion.

"For a time I thought it was my duty to oppose this Jesus of Nazareth with all my might. Backed with the full authority of the high priests, I threw these believers into the Jerusalem jail right and left, and whenever it came to a vote, I voted for their execution.

"One day on my way to Damascus, armed as always with authorization from the high priests, right in the middle of the day a blaze of light, light outshining the sun, poured out of the sky on me and my companions. Oh, King, it was so bright! We fell flat on our faces. Then I heard a voice in Hebrew: 'Saul, Saul, why are you out to get me? Why do you insist on going against the grain?'

"I said, 'Who are you, Master?'

"The voice answered, 'I am Jesus, the One you're hunting down like an animal. But now, up on your feet—I have a job for you.

"I'm sending you off to open the eyes of the outsiders so they can see the difference between dark and light, and choose light, and choose God. I'm sending you off to present my offer of sins forgiven, inviting them into the company of those who begin real living by believing in me.'

Questions for Reflection & Discussion:

Where did Paul say he grew up?

What did Paul (then called Saul) think was his duty for a time?

During that time, what did he do to believers in Jerusalem?

Where was Paul headed when he saw the blaze of light?

What did the voice he heard say to him?

Who was speaking to Paul?

What was Paul sent off to do?

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Can you find these words in today's Scripture?

JERUSALEM

PHARISEE

JESUS

NAZARETH

PRIESTS

BELIEVERS

JAIL

VOTE

DAMASCUS

BLAZE

LIGHT

VOICE

HEBREW

SAUL

MASTER

JOB

EYES

OUTSIDERS

GOD

FORGIVEN

Jesus talks to Saul.

