Religious Education

Year: 5   Teacher: Mr McPhail Week Beginning: 18th May 2020

Christianity was originally banned in the Roman Empire (which included Jerusalem). Early followers of Christ would be sent to prison (or worse) for their beliefs, but over time more and more people converted to be a Christian. These new Christians came from all walks of life.

One well-known convert was a man called Saul – originally he persecuted Christians. He had a religious experience, became a Christian and changed his name to Paul. He was to become St Paul, one of the most well-known Christian saints.

Read the below story of the conversion of Saul. There is also a painting called “The conversion of Saul” (Fra Angelico). Can you spot features of the story in the painting? Fill out the below grid with what you find.

(There is no need to print the table off – you can draw columns into you book and write the information below!)

Story of the conversion of Saul

Saul went to the high priest **2**and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. **3**As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. **4**He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?”

**5**“Who are you, Lord?” Saul asked.

“I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,” he replied. **6**“Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.”

**7**The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. **8**Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. **9**For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything.

**10**In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, “Ananias!”

“Yes, Lord,” he answered.

**11**The Lord told him, “Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. **12**In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight.”

**13**“Lord,” Ananias answered, “I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your holy people in Jerusalem. **14**And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name.”

**15**But the Lord said to Ananias, “Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel. **16**I will show him how much he must suffer for my name.”

**17**Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” **18**Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul’s eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, **19**and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

The conversion of St Paul



