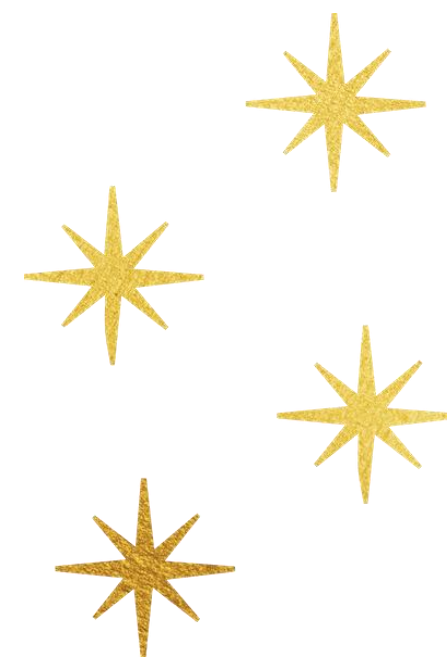


Thank
you!





SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACH-IN

with Brother Michael McCants

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30
FOLLOWING WORSHIP
FAMILY LIFE CENTER • ONLINE • DIAL-IN



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SUNDAY SCHOOL

AUGUST 16, 2026

**TITLE : SAUL OF TARSAUS
THE UNLIKELY APOSTLE**

**BACKGROUND SCRIPTURE:
ACTS 7:58–8:3; 9:1–31; 22:3–15**

Lesson Text: Acts 22:3–15

STUDY OUTLINE

I. Recounting the Past (Acts 22:3–5)

A. Studied the Law (v. 3)

B. Persecuted Followers (vv. 4–5)

II. Encountering the Lord (Acts 22:6–11)

A. Questions and Revelation (vv. 6–10a)

B. Reply and Command (vv. 10b–11)

III. Commissioned for the Future (Acts 22:12–15)

A. Renewed Sight (vv. 12–13)

B. Chosen Witness (vv. 14–15)

INTRODUCTION

WHO WAS SAUL OF TARSAUS?

Born in Tarsus; a Roman citizen.

Educated under the highly respected Jewish Rabbi-Gamaliel.

He possessed great zeal for Jewish law.

Saul passionately persecuted the early church, because of his beliefs, and then he met JESUS.

Notes to Remember

The Bible never records Jesus formally changing Saul's name to Paul. Acts continues to call him Saul after the Damascus encounter. The pivotal wording appears in Acts 13:9 in Cyprus: "Saul, who also is called Paul."

From that point, Luke normally uses the name Paul.

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

In about AD 58, at the end of his third missionary journey,
Paul returned to Jerusalem for the final time.(Acts 21:17).

Due to the economic and cultural effects of Paul's teachings, his disciples warned him that danger was likely waiting in Jerusalem, but Paul adamantly proceeded with an unwavering commitment.

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

After he arrived, a crowd seized him in the temple because of a false accusation. Roman soldiers intervened just in time and prevented the crowd from killing him.

Then Paul asked for permission to speak to the same people who had just attacked him.

Questions??

How did your life change when you totally surrendered all to Jesus??

This lesson explores a dramatic transformation and divine calling.

 **Reflect: "How has your background shaped your faith journey?"**

Let's Talk About it.

ACTS 22: 3 NRSV

3 “I am a Jew born in Tarsus in Cilicia but brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, educated strictly according to our ancestral law, being zealous for God, just as all of you are today.

ACTS 22: 4-5 NRSV

4 I persecuted the followers of this Way to their death, arresting both men and women and throwing them into prison, '

5 as the high priest and the whole council of elders can testify about me. From them I also received letters to the brothers in Damascus, and I went there to bind those who were there and to bring them back to Jerusalem for punishment.

Recounting the Past Acts 22:1–5

STRICT KEEPER OF THE LAW

Saul was zealous for Jewish law, trained under Gamaliel, and fully devoted to tradition above all else.

PERSECUTOR OF CHRISTIANS

He hunted and imprisoned followers of Christ, believing he was serving God by silencing the church.

BLIND TO CHRIST

Reflect: "In what ways can zeal without understanding be harmful?"



KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

ENCOUNTERING THE LORD

1. Saul is struck down by a blinding heavenly light.
2. He hears the voice of Jesus:
3. "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute Me?"
4. This moment changes his life and mission forever.

Reflection: Have you had an experience with Jesus that changed your direction? Give thanks!

ACTS 22: 6-7 NRSV

Paul Tells of His Conversion

6 “While I was on my way and approaching Damascus, about noon a great light from heaven suddenly shone about me.

7 I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?’

ACTS 22: 8-10 NRSV

8 I answered, 'Who are you, Lord?' Then he said to me, 'I am Jesus of Nazareth whom you are persecuting.'

9 Now those who were with me saw the light but did not hear the voice of the one who was speaking to me.

10 'I asked, 'What am I to do, Lord?' The Lord said to me, 'Get up and go to Damascus; there you will be told everything that has been assigned to you to do.' '

ACTS 22: 11-13 NRSV

- 11** Since I could not see because of the brightness of that light, those who were with me took my hand and led me to Damascus.
- 12** “A certain Ananias, who was a devout man according to the law and well spoken of by all the Jews living there,
- 13** He stood beside me and said, ‘Brother Saul, receive your sight!’ And at that very moment I was able to see him.

ACTS 22: 14-15 NRSV

14 “Then he said: ‘The God of our ancestors has chosen you to know his will and to see the Righteous One and to hear words from his mouth.

15 You will be his witness to all people of what you have seen and heard.

Commissioned for the Future Acts 22:12–15

SIGHT RESTORED

Ananias lays hands on Saul. His sight returns. He is filled with the Holy Spirit and baptized.

SENT TO WITNESS

Saul is called to be a witness of what he has seen and heard. His mission begins boldly.

WHO IS YOUR ANANIAS?

Reflect: "Who are the Ananias figures guiding your faith? How are you a witness of Christ today?"



KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

1. Divine conversion interrupts your program.

2. Obedience preceded understanding.

3. Blindness became a teaching tool.

[Acts 9:9](#) (NIV) For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything

Closing Questions

What does it mean to be a witness for God in your own context?

How can your personal experiences, the things you have “seen and heard,” be a powerful tool for evangelism?

Are you using the blessings and grace God has given you to spread the Gospel and draw others to Christ?

Or are you hiding in the shadows of your less than perfect past?

READ ROMANS CH. 8 STAND UP AND BE A WITNESS

Conclusion & Prayer

God uses the unlikely to accomplish His greatest purposes.

Pray for openness to transformation and be humble as you learn serve & grow

If you know God has work for you to do beyond where you are now. Surrender your life & seek His guidance. Jesus Never Fails.