

THE STORY

READ THE STORY. EXPERIENCE THE BIBLE.

Chapter 29: Paul's Mission

Key Question: Paul said, “Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.”³⁵⁵ How can we live like the Apostle Paul?

Preaching the Gospel

Pages 407–412

The Holy Spirit called Saul—who soon became known as Paul—to go on several missionary journeys. The one who once persecuted the church became one of its apostles.

This week and next we'll look at Paul's life and glimpse some of his letters.

1. Which of Paul's attributes stand out to you the most in Acts 13–16 (pages 407–412 in *The Story*)? Why?

Paul spoke boldly, and God confirmed his message with signs and wonders. Yet some refused to believe and tried to turn others against Paul.

2. What are some reasons people refuse to believe God's message of salvation even if they're given sufficient evidence (Acts 14:1–3)?

³⁵⁵ 1 Corinthians 11:1.

Planting Churches

Pages 412–419

Paul planted many churches while on his missionary journeys.

3. Which of Paul's attributes stand out to you the most in Acts 16–18 (pages 412–416 in *The Story*)? Why?

Paul kept in touch with the churches he had planted by writing letters which explained, among other things, how to live in a way that pleases God.

4. What is something you can put into practice this week from Paul's letter known as 1 Thessalonians (pages 416–419 in *The Story*)?

Debating Persuasively

Pages 419–424

Paul continued spreading the gospel. He debated persuasively and worked miracles as signs that God was with him.

5. Which of Paul's attributes stand out to you the most in Acts 18–19 (pages 419–423 in *The Story*)? Why?

6. Who else stood out to you in this section? Why?

Strengthening Churches

Pages 424–431

Sometimes Paul heard about problems arising in churches he had planted. If he couldn't visit right away, he wrote letters, such as the one he wrote to a church in Corinth, Greece, to address church conflicts.

7. What is something you can put into practice this week from Paul's letter known as 1 Corinthians (pages 424–429 in *The Story*)?

Paul's letters often corrected doctrine. Some Christian Jews mistakenly believed Gentiles had to not only have faith in Jesus, but had to become Jews who kept the Law of Moses. Paul heard this teaching had infiltrated the church in Galatia, so he wrote a letter to address it.

8. In the letter to the Galatians, what stands out to you about the way Paul balances his teaching that Christians were not under the Law of Moses, but were nonetheless not to indulge in sin (pages 429–431 in *The Story*)?

9. What is something you can put into practice this week from the letter to the Galatians?

Teaching Doctrine

Pages 431–437

Paul heard about a church springing up in Rome. He wasn't able to visit right away, so he sent a letter explaining doctrine and how Jewish and Gentile Christians should get along.

10. What stands out to you in Paul's letter to the Romans regarding the impossibility of achieving salvation by being good enough (pages 431–437 in *The Story*)?

11. What is something you can put into practice this week from the letter to the Romans?

12. What is one way you would like to imitate Paul? What steps can you take to do so?

Next week, we'll see Paul's final days as persecution against Christians increased.

Timeline: The Early Church (AD 30–90)

