

SAUL TO PAUL (KS2 & 3)

Concept – Change

Saul's conversion to Christianity is well documented. It highlights the 'awakening moment' when belief becomes reality, when all doubts cease and behaviour changes as a result.

When the early Christians began telling others about their faith many people wanted to silence them. One of these was a man called Saul. In Jerusalem he watched as Stephen, one of Jesus' followers, was stoned to death for his faith. Saul was a man with a mission, to search for believers and put them in jail.

His search took him to Damascus and it was on the way there that his life changed forever. He had almost reached the city when a bright light from heaven suddenly flashed around him. He fell to the ground as a voice echoed from heaven, "Saul, Saul, why are you so cruel to me?" "Who are you?" Saul asked. "I am Jesus. Now get up and go to the city where you will be told what to do."

Saul got up from the ground, and when he opened his eyes, he could not see any thing. The men with him had heard the voice but not seen anyone. They knew something had happened to Saul because he had changed, and not just because he could not see. Slowly they led him by the hand to Damascus.

That experience changed Saul from the hunter to the hunted, from persecutor to persecuted, from enemy of Christianity to friend of Christ. His sight returned after a few days and he was baptised and welcomed in to the Christian faith. Before long others wanted to kill him and he had to be smuggled out of Damascus in a basket lowered over the city wall. His life as a Christian missionary had begun.



Share experiences when pupils changed their opinions and explore what made them change.

Consider concepts of allegiance, commitment, persecution.

Hot-seat Paul and one of his travelling companions.

Research, using the biblical text, what Paul went on to do later in his life.