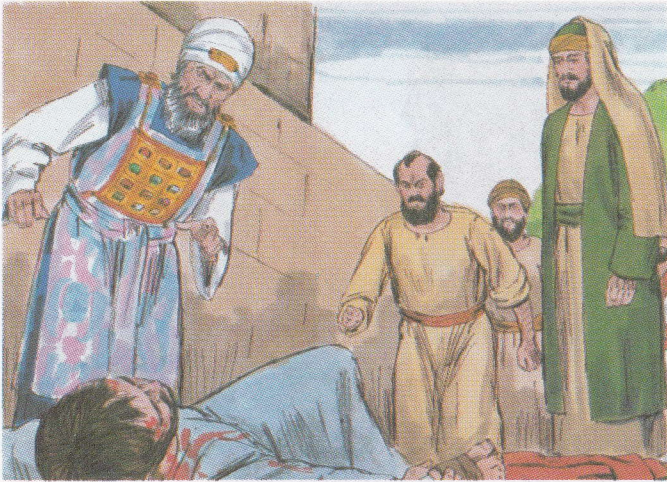


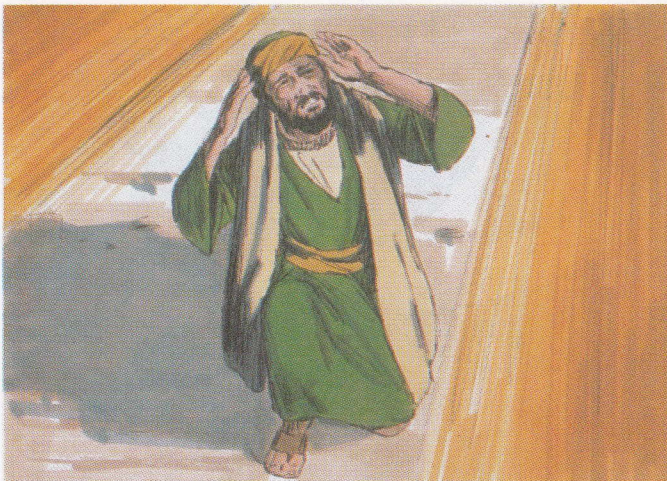
The Conversion of Saul



1 When Stephen was stoned, the witnesses laid their garments at the feet of a man named Saul. Saul began to persecute the church in Jerusalem, throwing both men and women into prison.



2 Saul then asked the high priest for letters to the synagogues in Damascus. He wanted permission to arrest any Christians he found there and to bring them back to Jerusalem.



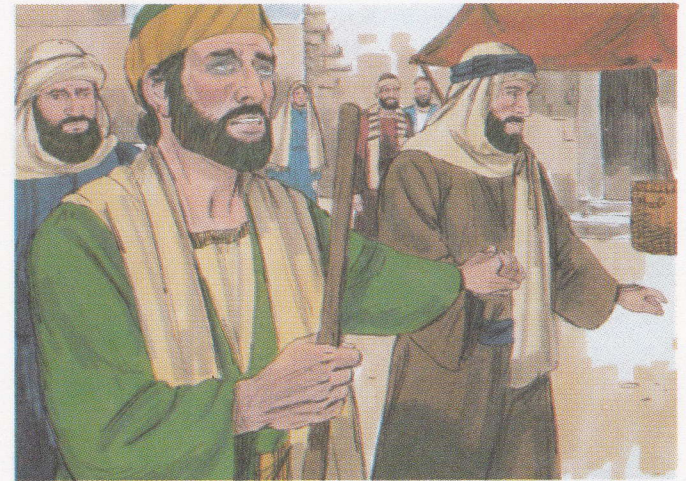
3 Obtaining this authority, Saul went to Damascus. But when he got near the city, a light from heaven suddenly flashed around him.



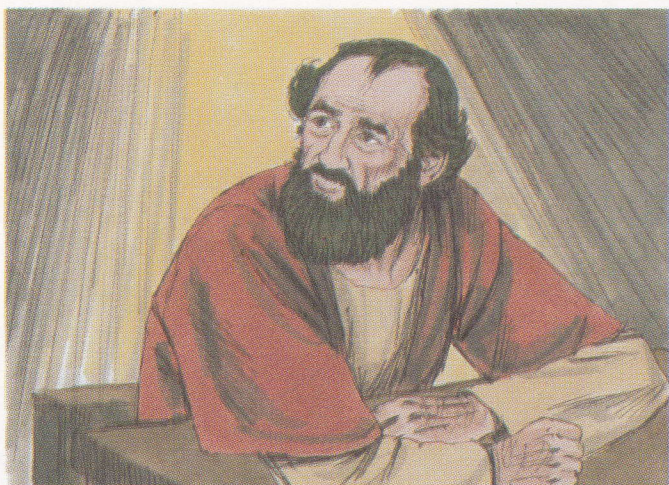
4 Saul fell to the ground. He heard a voice say, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" "Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked. "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," the voice replied.



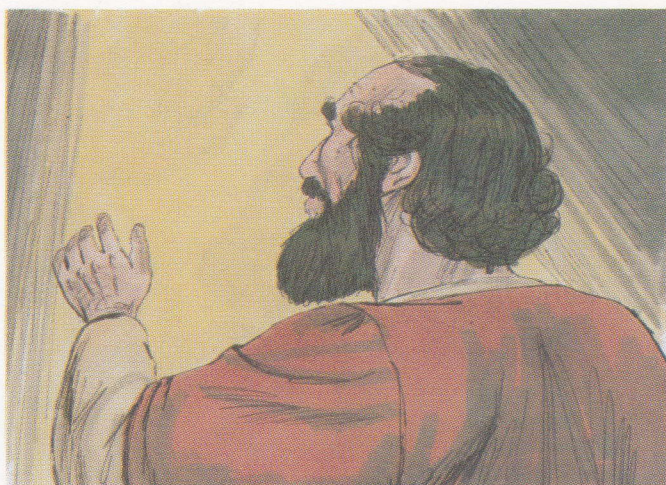
5 "Get up and go into the city," the Lord said. "You will be told what you must do." Now the men who were with Saul heard the sound, but they saw no one. They stood there speechless.



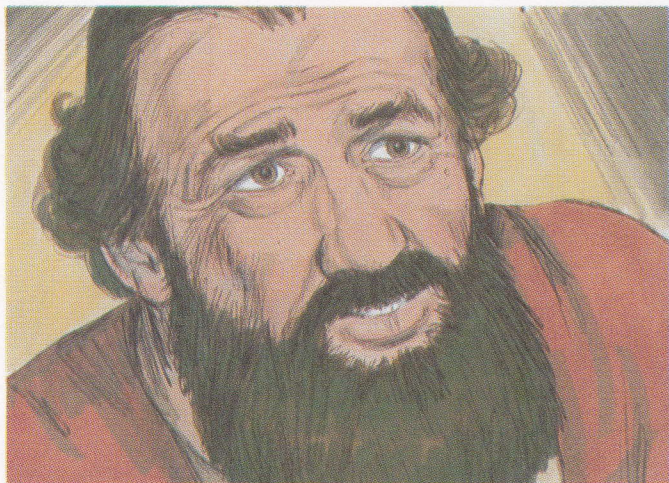
6 When Saul got up from the ground, he could not see. He had to be led by the hand into Damascus. For the next three days, he was blind. He neither ate nor drank anything.



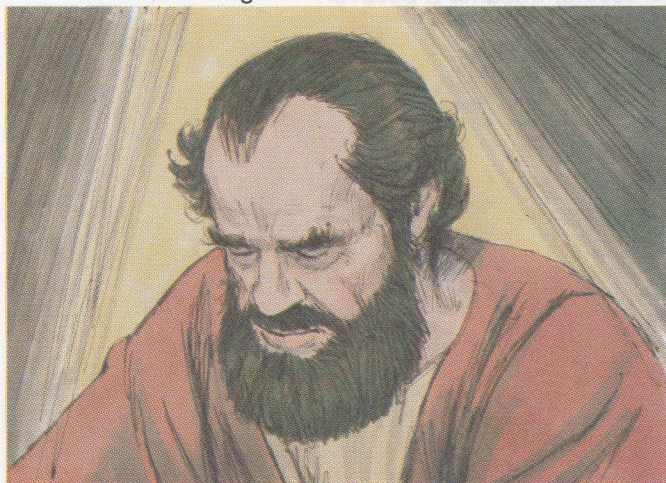
7 In Damascus, there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!" "Yes, Lord," he answered.



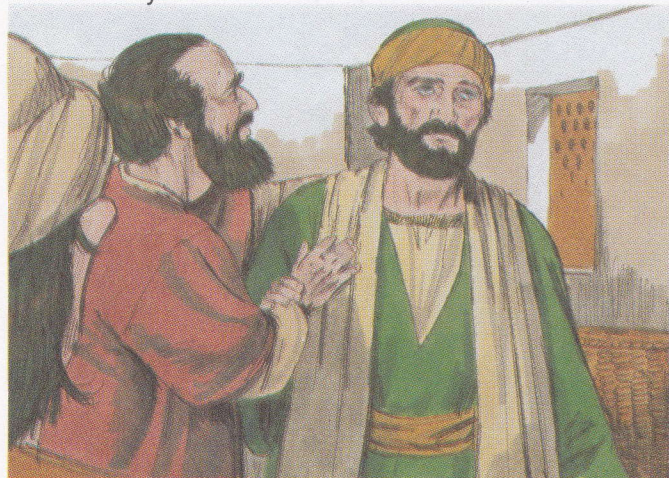
8 The Lord said, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man named Saul. In a vision, Saul has seen you come and place your hands on him to restore his sight."



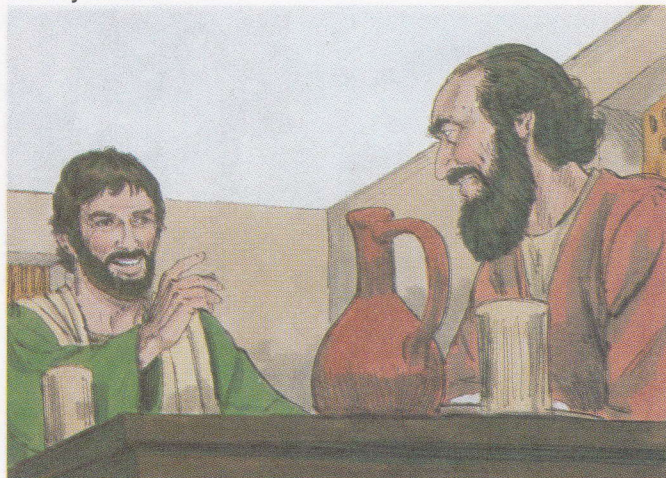
9 Ananias replied, "But Lord, I have heard about all the harm this man has done to the believers in Jerusalem. He has come here with authority to arrest all who call on your name."



10 But the Lord said, "Go! I have chosen this man to carry my name before the Gentiles and before the people of Israel. I will show him how much he must suffer for my name."



11 So Ananias went to Saul and placed his hands on him. He said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you, sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit."



12 Immediately, Saul was able to see again. He got up and was baptized. After he ate, he regained his strength. Thus did Saul, an enemy of the church, become a servant of Jesus.