

# Mr Schepemaker's Year 8 Christian Living



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Term: \_\_\_\_\_

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# What do you think?

1. What is your favourite thing to do during holidays?

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2. If your house was burning down and you could save 4 objects only from it, what would they be?

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3. What do you believe the real purpose of life is?

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4. Are you so convinced of your answer that you would be willing to die for that belief? \_\_\_\_\_

5. When you look at the situation of the world, what do you think is the worst problem? \_\_\_\_\_



6. Write down as many things that you know about Christianity.

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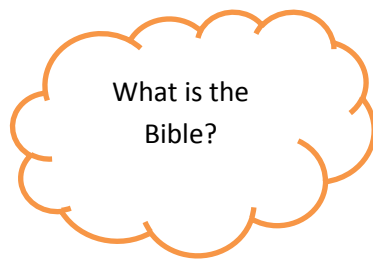
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7. What do you think that Christians believe is the purpose of life?

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8. General Question Time & UNO



# The Reliability of the Bible

1. \_\_\_\_\_

The New Testament documents are better-preserved and more numerous than any other ancient writings. Because they are so numerous, they can be cross checked for accuracy . . . and they are very consistent.

There are presently 5,686 Greek manuscripts in existence today for the New Testament. If we were to compare the number of New Testament manuscripts to other ancient writings, we find that the New Testament manuscripts far outweigh the others in quantity. As you can see, there are thousands more New Testament Greek manuscripts than any other ancient writing.

The internal consistency of the New Testament documents is about 99.5% textually pure. That is an amazing accuracy. In addition, there are over 19,000 copies in the Syriac, Latin, Coptic, and Aramaic languages. The total supporting New Testament manuscript base is over 24,000.

Almost all biblical scholars agree that the New Testament documents were all written before the close of the First Century. If Jesus was crucified in A.D. 30, then that means the entire New Testament was completed within 70 years. This is important because it means there were plenty of people around when the New Testament documents were penned--people who could have contested the writings. In other words, those who wrote the documents knew that if they were inaccurate, plenty of people would have pointed it out.

2. \_\_\_\_\_ support the existence of \_\_\_\_\_

a. Senator \_\_\_\_\_ writes about the people who followed Jesus.

3. \_\_\_\_\_ finds support the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Bible.

4. \_\_\_\_\_ Accounts from people named Matthew, Mark, \_\_\_\_\_, John and \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_ Reliability of the Bible – great scientists have studied it and consider it dependable.

6. \_\_\_\_\_ - Accumulated Evidence supports the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus.

## Questions to Discuss

1. How do you think the game we played helps support the first point under the historical reliability of the Bible?
2. Why are **multiple** eyewitness accounts useful?
3. What is the purpose of the Old Testament?
4. What did Jesus claim?
5. Why did the Jewish leaders not like Jesus?

## Acts 6:8 – 7:60: Saul vs Stephen

*Stephen received a great blessing. God gave him power to do great wonders and miraculous signs among the people. <sup>9</sup>But some of the Jews there were from the synagogue of Free Men, as it was called. The group included Jews from Cyrene, Alexandria, Cilicia, and Asia. They started arguing with Stephen. <sup>10</sup>But the Spirit was helping him speak with wisdom. His words were so strong that these Jews could not argue with him.*

*<sup>11</sup>So they told some men to say, "We heard Stephen say bad things against Moses and against God!" <sup>12</sup>By doing this, these Jews upset the people, the older Jewish leaders, and the teachers of the law. They became so angry that they came and grabbed Stephen and took him to a meeting of the high council.*

*<sup>13</sup>The Jews brought some men into the meeting to tell lies about Stephen. These men said, "This man is always saying things against this holy place and against the Law of Moses. <sup>14</sup>We heard him say that Jesus from Nazareth will destroy this place and change what Moses told us to do." <sup>15</sup>Everyone there in the council meeting was staring at Stephen. They saw that his face looked like the face of an angel.*

The high priest said to Stephen, "Is all this true?" <sup>2</sup> Stephen answered, "My Jewish fathers and brothers, listen to me. Our great and glorious God appeared to Abraham, our ancestor, when he was in Mesopotamia. This was before he lived in Haran. <sup>3</sup> God said to him, 'Leave your country and your people, and go to the country I will show you.'<sup>(a)</sup>

<sup>4</sup> "So Abraham left the country of Chaldea.<sup>(b)</sup> He went to live in Haran. After his father died, God sent him to this place, where you live now. <sup>5</sup> But God did not give Abraham any of this land, not even a foot of it. But God promised that in the future he would give Abraham this land for himself and for his children. This was before Abraham had any children.

<sup>6</sup> "This is what God said to him: 'Your descendants will live in another country. They will be strangers. The people there will make them slaves and mistreat them for 400 years. <sup>7</sup> But I will punish the nation that made them slaves.'<sup>(c)</sup> And God also said, 'After those things happen, your people will come out of that country. Then they will worship me here in this place.'<sup>(d)</sup>

<sup>8</sup> "God made an agreement with Abraham; the sign for this agreement was circumcision. And so when Abraham had a son, he circumcised him when he was eight days old. His son's name was Isaac. Isaac also circumcised his son Jacob. And Jacob did the same for his sons, who became the twelve great ancestors of our people.

<sup>9</sup> "These ancestors of ours became jealous of their brother Joseph and sold him to be a slave in Egypt. But God was with him <sup>10</sup> and saved him from all his troubles. Pharaoh was the king of Egypt then. He liked Joseph and respected him because of the wisdom God gave him. Pharaoh gave Joseph the job of being a governor of Egypt. He even let him rule over all the people in Pharaoh's house. <sup>11</sup> But all the land of Egypt and of Canaan became dry. It became so dry that food could not grow, and the people suffered very much. Our people could not find anything to eat.

<sup>12</sup> "But Jacob heard that there was food in Egypt. So he sent our people there. This was their first trip to Egypt. <sup>13</sup> Then they went there a second time. This time Joseph told his brothers who he was. And Pharaoh learned about Joseph's family. <sup>14</sup> Then Joseph sent some men to tell Jacob, his father, to come to Egypt. He also invited all his relatives, a total of 75 people. <sup>15</sup> So Jacob went down to Egypt. He and our other ancestors lived there until they died. <sup>16</sup> Later, their bodies were moved to Shechem, where they were put in a tomb. It was the same tomb that Abraham had bought in Shechem from the sons of Hamor. He paid them with silver.

<sup>17</sup> "The number of our people in Egypt grew. There were more and more of our people there. The promise that God made to Abraham was soon to come true. <sup>18</sup> Then a different king began to rule Egypt, one who knew nothing about Joseph. <sup>19</sup> This king tricked our people. He treated them badly, making them leave their children outside to die.

<sup>20</sup> "This was the time when Moses was born. He was a very beautiful child, and for three months his parents took care of him at home. <sup>21</sup> When they put him outside, Pharaoh's daughter took him. She raised him as her own son. <sup>22</sup> The Egyptians taught Moses everything they knew. He was powerful in all he said and did.

<sup>23</sup> "When Moses was about 40 years old, he decided to visit his own people, the people of Israel. <sup>24</sup> He saw one of them being mistreated by an Egyptian, so he defended him. Moses hit the Egyptian to pay him back for hurting the man. He hit him so hard that it killed him. <sup>25</sup> Moses thought that his people would understand that God was using him to save them. But they did not understand.

<sup>26</sup> "The next day, Moses saw two of his own people fighting. He tried to make peace between them. He said, 'Men, you are brothers! Why are you trying to hurt each other?' <sup>27</sup> The man who was hurting the other one pushed Moses away and said to him, 'Did anyone say you could be our ruler and judge?' <sup>28</sup> Will you kill me just as you killed that Egyptian yesterday?'<sup>(e)</sup> <sup>29</sup> When Moses heard him say this, he left Egypt. He went to live in the land of Midian, where he was a stranger. During the time he lived there, he had two sons.

<sup>30</sup> "Forty years later Moses was in the desert near Mount Sinai. An angel appeared to him in the flame of a burning bush. <sup>31</sup> When Moses saw this, he was amazed. He went near to look closer at it. He heard a voice; it was the Lord's. <sup>32</sup> The Lord said, 'I am the same God your ancestors had—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.'<sup>(f)</sup> Moses began to shake with fear. He was afraid to look at the bush.

<sup>33</sup> "The Lord said to him, 'Take off your sandals, because the place where you are now standing is holy ground. <sup>34</sup> I have seen my people suffer much in Egypt. I have heard my people crying and have come down to save them. Come now, Moses, I am sending you back to Egypt.'<sup>(g)</sup>

<sup>35</sup> "This Moses was the one his people said they did not want. They said, 'Did anyone say you could be our ruler and judge?'<sup>[1]</sup> But he is the one God sent to be a ruler and savior. God sent him with the help of an angel, the one Moses saw in the burning bush. <sup>36</sup> So Moses led the people out of Egypt. He worked wonders and miraculous signs in Egypt, at the Red Sea, and then in the desert for 40 years.

<sup>37</sup> "This is the same Moses who said these words to the people of Israel: 'God will give you a prophet. That prophet will come from among your own people. He will be like me.'<sup>[1]</sup> <sup>38</sup> This same Moses was with the gathering of God's people in the desert. He was with the angel who spoke to him at Mount Sinai, and he was with our ancestors. He received life-giving words from God to give to us.

<sup>39</sup> "But our ancestors did not want to obey Moses. They rejected him. They wanted to go back to Egypt again. <sup>40</sup> They said to Aaron, 'Moses led us out of the country of Egypt. But we don't know what has happened to him. So make some gods to go before us and lead us.'<sup>[1]</sup> <sup>41</sup> So the people made an idol that looked like a calf. Then they brought sacrifices to it. They were very happy with what they had made with their own hands. <sup>42</sup> But God turned against them and let them continue worshiping the army of false gods in the sky. This is what God says in the book that contains what the prophets wrote:

'People of Israel, you did not bring me blood offerings and sacrifices

in the desert for 40 years;

<sup>43</sup> You carried with you the tent for worshiping Moloch and the image of the star of your god Rephan.

These were the idols you made to worship.

So I will send you away beyond Babylon.'

<sup>44</sup> "The Holy Tent<sup>[1]</sup> was with our ancestors in the desert. God told Moses how to make this tent. He made it like the plan that God showed him. <sup>45</sup> Later, Joshua led our ancestors to capture the lands of the other nations. Our people went in and God made the other people go out. When our people went into this new land, they took with them this same tent. Our people received this tent from their fathers, and our people kept it until the time of David. <sup>46</sup> God was very pleased with David. He asked God to let him build a Temple for the people of Jacob.<sup>[1]</sup> <sup>47</sup> But Solomon was the one who built the Temple.

<sup>48</sup> "But the Most High God does not live in houses built by human hands. This is what the prophet<sup>[1]</sup> writes:

<sup>49</sup> 'The Lord says, Heaven is my throne, and the earth is where I rest my feet.

So do you think you can build a house for me?

Do I need a place to rest?

<sup>50</sup> Remember, I made all these things!'"

*<sup>51</sup> Then Stephen said, "You stubborn Jewish leaders! You refuse to give your hearts to God or even listen to him. You are always against what the Holy Spirit wants you to do. That's how your ancestors were, and you are just like them! <sup>52</sup> They persecuted every prophet who ever lived. They even killed those who long ago said that the Righteous One would come. And now you have turned against that Righteous One and killed him. <sup>53</sup> You are the people who received God's law, which he gave you through his angels. But you don't obey it!"*



*<sup>54</sup> When those in the council meeting heard this, they became very angry. They were so mad they were grinding their teeth at him. <sup>55</sup> But Stephen was full of the Holy Spirit. He looked up into heaven and saw the glory of God. And he saw Jesus standing at God's right side. <sup>56</sup> Stephen said, "Look! I see heaven open. And I see the Son of Man standing at God's right side."*

*<sup>57</sup> Everyone there started shouting loudly, covering their ears with their hands. Together they all ran at Stephen. <sup>58</sup> They took him out of the city and began throwing stones at him. The men who told lies against Stephen gave their coats to a young man named Saul. <sup>59</sup> As they were throwing the stones at him, Stephen was praying. He said, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!" <sup>60</sup> He fell on his knees and shouted, "Lord, don't blame them for this sin!" These were his last words before he died.*

## Questions to Discuss

1. What was the name of the group of Jews that Stephen was arguing with?
2. What did they say that Stephen was saying?
3. What were some of the things that Stephen accused the people at the council of?
4. What **event** in the story makes you think that Stephen genuinely believed what he was talking about?
5. What was the name of the person who was watching the whole event and at whose feet the people laid their cloaks before stoning Stephen?
6. (Deep thinking) What did Stephen say just before he died from the stoning and why is it a bit contrary to how people normally would act?



## **Acts 8:1-4 & 9:1-30: Nothing Like a Bit of Light**

*Saul agreed that the killing of Stephen was a good thing. Some godly men buried Stephen and cried loudly for him.*

*On that day the Jews began to persecute the church in Jerusalem, making them suffer very much. Saul was also trying to destroy the group. He went into their houses, dragged out men and women, and put them in jail. All the believers left Jerusalem. Only the apostles stayed. The believers went to different places in Judea and Samaria. <sup>4</sup> They were scattered everywhere, and in every place they went, they told people the Good News..*

*... In Jerusalem Saul was still trying to scare the followers of the Lord, even saying he would kill them. He went to the high priest and asked him to write letters to the synagogues in the city of Damascus. Saul wanted the high priest to give him the authority to find people in Damascus who were followers of the Way. If he found any believers there, men or women, he would arrest them and bring them back to Jerusalem.*

*So Saul went to Damascus. When he came near the city, a very bright light from heaven suddenly shined around him. <sup>4</sup> He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul! Why are you persecuting me?"*

*<sup>5</sup> Saul said, "Who are you, Lord?"*

*The voice answered, "I am Jesus, the one you are persecuting. <sup>6</sup> Get up now and go into the city. Someone there will tell you what you must do."*

*<sup>7</sup> The men traveling with Saul just stood there, unable to speak. They heard the voice, but they saw no one. <sup>8</sup> Saul got up from the ground and opened his eyes, but he could not see. So the men with him held his hand and led him into Damascus. <sup>9</sup> For three days, Saul could not see; he did not eat or drink.*

*There was a follower of Jesus in Damascus named Ananias. In a vision the Lord said to him, "Ananias!"*

*Ananias answered, "Here I am, Lord."*

*<sup>11</sup> The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight Street. Find the house of Judas<sup>[a]</sup> and ask for a man named Saul from the city of Tarsus. He*



is there now, praying. <sup>12</sup> He has seen a vision in which a man named Ananias came and laid his hands on him so that he could see again.”

<sup>13</sup> But Ananias answered, “Lord, many people have told me about this man. They told me about the many bad things he did to your holy people in Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup> Now he has come here to Damascus. The leading priests have given him the power to arrest all people who trust in you”

<sup>15</sup> But the Lord Jesus said to Ananias, “Go! I have chosen Saul for an important work. I want him to tell other nations, their rulers, and the people of Israel about me. <sup>16</sup> I will show him all that he must suffer for me.”

<sup>17</sup> So Ananias left and went to the house of Judas. He laid his hands on Saul and said, “Saul, my brother, the Lord Jesus sent me. He is the one you saw on the road when you came here. He sent me so that you can see again and also be filled with the Holy Spirit.” <sup>18</sup> Immediately, something that looked like fish scales fell off Saul’s eyes. He was able to see! Then he got up and was baptized. <sup>19</sup> After he ate, he began to feel strong again.

Saul stayed with the followers of Jesus in Damascus for a few days. <sup>20</sup> Soon he began to go to the synagogues and tell people about Jesus. He told the people, “Jesus is the Son of God!” <sup>21</sup> All the people who heard Saul were amazed. They said, “This is the same man who was in Jerusalem trying to destroy the people who trust in Jesus! And that’s why he has come here—to arrest the followers of Jesus and take them back to the leading priests. “But Saul became more and more powerful in proving that Jesus is the Messiah. His proofs were so strong that the Jews who lived in Damascus could not argue with him. After many days, some Jews made plans to kill Saul. <sup>24</sup> They were watching the city gates day and night. They wanted to kill Saul, but he learned about their plan. <sup>25</sup> One night some followers that Saul had taught helped him leave the city. They put him in a basket and lowered it down through a hole in the city wall.

Then Saul went to Jerusalem. He tried to join the group of followers, but they were all afraid of him. They did not believe that he was really a follower of Jesus. <sup>27</sup> But Barnabas accepted Saul and took him to the apostles. He told them how Saul had seen the Lord on the road and how the Lord had spoken to Saul. Then he told them how boldly Saul had spoken for the Lord in Damascus.

<sup>28</sup> And so Saul stayed with the followers and went all around Jerusalem speaking boldly for the Lord. <sup>29</sup> He often had arguments with the Greek-speaking Jews, who began making plans to kill him. <sup>30</sup> When the believers learned about this, they took Saul to Caesarea, and from there they sent him to the city of Tarsus.

## Questions to Discuss

1. What did Saul do after seeing the stoning of Stephen?
2. What did all the Christians do to get away from being persecuted?
3. What specific things happened that made Saul believe it was God speaking to him on the road?
4. Why did Ananias not want to go help Saul?
5. What two things did Jesus say that Saul was chosen to do?
6. What do think the followers of Jesus were thinking when Saul came up to them saying he was going to join them?
7. (Deep thinking) Can you think of any OTHER possible reason why a person would change their mind like this?

## Acts 13:1-39: Abracadabra?

*In the church at Antioch there were some prophets and teachers. They were Barnabas, Simeon (also called Niger), Lucius (from the city of Cyrene), Manaen (who had grown up with King Herod<sup>[a]</sup>), and Saul. <sup>2</sup>These men were all serving the Lord and fasting when the Holy Spirit said to them, "Appoint Barnabas and Saul to do a special work for me. They are the ones I have chosen to do it."*

*<sup>3</sup>So the church fasted and prayed. They laid their hands on Barnabas and Saul and sent them out.*

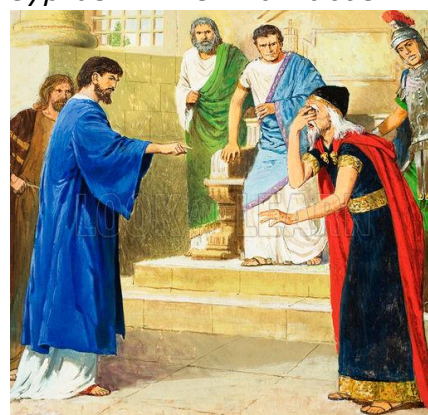
*<sup>4</sup>Barnabas and Saul were sent out by the Holy Spirit. They went to the city of Seleucia. Then they sailed from there to the island of Cyprus. <sup>5</sup>When Barnabas and Saul came to the city of Salamis, they told the message of God in the Jewish synagogues. John Mark was with them to help.*

*<sup>6</sup>They went across the whole island to the city of Paphos. There they met a Jewish man named Barjesus who did magic. He was a false prophet. <sup>7</sup>He always stayed close to Sergius Paulus, who was the governor and a very smart man. He invited Barnabas and Saul to come visit him,*

*because he wanted to hear the message of God. <sup>8</sup>But the magician Elymas (as Barjesus was called in Greek) spoke against them, trying to stop the governor from believing in Jesus. <sup>9</sup>But Saul (also known as Paul), filled with the Holy Spirit, looked hard at Elymas <sup>10</sup>and said, "You son of the devil, full of lies and all kinds of evil tricks! You are an enemy of everything that is right. Will you never stop trying to change the Lord's truths into lies? <sup>11</sup>Now the Lord will touch you and you will be blind. For a time you will not be able to see anything—not even the light from the sun."*

*Then everything became dark for Elymas. He walked around lost. He was trying to find someone to lead him by the hand. <sup>12</sup>When the governor saw this, he believed. He was greatly amazed at the teaching about the Lord.*

*<sup>13</sup>Paul and the people with him sailed away from Paphos. They came to Perga, a city in Pamphylia. There John Mark left them and returned to Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup>They continued their trip from Perga and went to Antioch, a city near Pisidia.*



On the Sabbath day they went into the Jewish synagogue and sat down. <sup>15</sup>The Law of Moses and the writings of the prophets were read. Then the leaders of the synagogue sent a message to Paul and Barnabas: "Brothers, if you have something to say that will help the people here, please speak."

<sup>16</sup>Paul stood up, raised his hand to get their attention, and said, "People of Israel and all you others who worship the true God, please listen to me!

<sup>17</sup>The God of Israel chose our ancestors. And during the time our people lived in Egypt as foreigners, he made them great. Then he brought them out of that country with great power. <sup>18</sup>And he was patient with them for 40 years in the desert. <sup>19</sup>God destroyed seven nations in the land of Canaan and gave their land to his people. <sup>20</sup>All this happened in about 450 years.

"After this, God gave our people judges until the time of Samuel the prophet. <sup>21</sup>Then the people asked for a king. God gave them Saul, the son of Kish. Saul was from the tribe of Benjamin. He was king for 40 years. <sup>22</sup>After God took Saul away, God made David their king. This is what God said about David: 'David, the son of Jesse, is the kind of person who does what pleases me. He will do everything I want him to do.'

<sup>23</sup>"As he promised, God has brought one of David's descendants to Israel to be their Savior. That descendant is Jesus. <sup>24</sup>Before he came, John told all the people of Israel what they should do. He told them to be baptized to show they wanted to change their lives. <sup>25</sup>When John was finishing his work, he said, 'Who do you think I am? I am not the Messiah.<sup>[b]</sup> He is coming later, and I am not worthy to be the slave who unties his sandals.'

<sup>26</sup>"My brothers, sons in the family of Abraham, and you other people who also worship the true God, listen! The news about this salvation has been sent to us. <sup>27</sup>The Jews living in Jerusalem and their leaders did not realize that Jesus was the Savior. The words the prophets wrote about him were read every Sabbath day, but they did not understand. They condemned Jesus. When they did this, they made the words of the prophets come true. <sup>28</sup>They could not find any real reason why Jesus should die, but they asked Pilate to kill him.

<sup>29</sup>"These Jews did all the bad things that the Scriptures said would happen to Jesus. Then they took Jesus down from the cross and put him in a tomb. <sup>30</sup>But God raised him up from death! <sup>31</sup>After this, for many days, those who had gone with Jesus from Galilee to Jerusalem saw him. They are now his witnesses to our people.

<sup>32</sup>"We tell you the Good News about the promise God made to our ancestors. <sup>33</sup>We are their descendants, and God has made this promise come true for us. God did this by raising Jesus from death.

We also read about this in Psalm 2:

'You are my Son.

Today I have become your Father.'

<sup>34</sup>God raised Jesus from death. Jesus will never go back to the grave and become dust. So God said,

'I will give you the true and holy promises that I made to David.'

<sup>35</sup>But in another Psalm it says,

'You will not let your Holy One rot in the grave.'

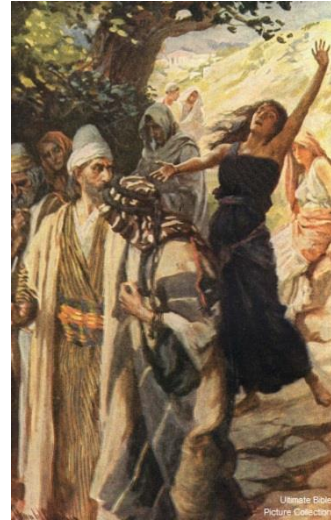
<sup>36</sup>"David did God's will during the time he lived. Then he died and was buried like all his ancestors. And his body did rot in the grave! <sup>37</sup>But the one God raised from death did not rot in the grave. <sup>38-39</sup>Brothers, understand what we are telling you. You can have forgiveness of your sins through this Jesus. The Law of Moses could not free you from your sins. But you can be made right with God if you believe in Jesus.

## Questions to Discuss

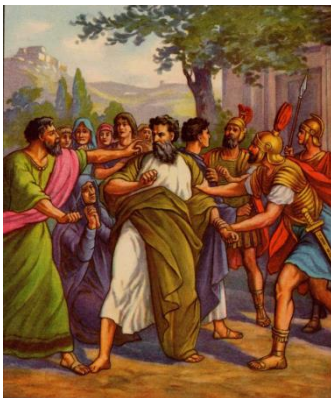
1. (Deep thinking) Why do you think there is so much detail when it comes to people's names and locations?
2. What was the magician Elymas doing when Saul was speaking to the intelligent governor Sergius Paulus?
3. On whom did Saul/Paul call on to deal with the magician?
4. While the governor was surprised by the blinding of Elymas, what was he **greatly amazed** at?
5. Why did Stephen, the people in the synagogue, and Saul/Paul keep referring back to history?
6. What is the whole point of Saul/Paul's argument?

## Acts 16:16-40: Paul and the Predictor

*One day we were going to the place for prayer, and a servant girl met us. She had a spirit in her that gave her the power to tell what would happen in the future. By doing this she earned a lot of money for the men who owned her. She started following Paul and the rest of us around. She kept shouting, "These men are servants of the Most High God! They are telling you how you can be saved!" She continued doing this for many days. This bothered Paul, so he turned and said to the spirit, "By the power of Jesus Christ, I command you to come out of her!" Immediately, the spirit came out.*



*When the men who owned the servant girl saw this, they realized that they could no longer use her to make money. So they grabbed Paul and Silas and dragged them to the public square to meet with the authorities. They brought Paul and Silas before the Roman officials and said, "These men are Jews, and they are making trouble in our city. They are telling people to do things that are not right for us as Romans to do."*



*The whole crowd turned against Paul and Silas. The officials tore the clothes off both men and ordered that they be beaten with rods. They were beaten severely and thrown into jail. The officials told the jailer, "Guard them very carefully!" When the jailer heard this special order, he put Paul and Silas far inside the jail and bound their feet between large blocks of wood.*

*About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing songs to God. The other prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was an earthquake so strong that it shook the foundation of the jail. All the doors of the jail opened, and the chains on all the prisoners fell off. The jailer woke up and saw that the jail doors were open. He thought that the prisoners had already escaped, so he got his sword and was ready to kill himself. But Paul shouted, "Don't hurt yourself! We are all here!"*

*The jailer told someone to bring a light. Then he ran inside and, shaking with fear, fell down in front of Paul and Silas. Then he brought them outside and said, "Men, what must I do to be saved?"*



*They said to him, "Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved—you and all who live in your house." So Paul and Silas told the message of the Lord to the jailer and all the people who lived in his house. It was late at night, but the jailer took Paul and Silas and washed their wounds. Then the jailer and all his people were baptized. After this the jailer took Paul and Silas home and gave them some food. All the people were very happy because they now believed in God.*

## **Questions to Discuss**

1. Do you think there are people who can actually tell the future?
2. Why did the people who owned the girl get upset with Paul when he healed her?
3. What were Paul and Silas doing when the earthquake hit?
4. Why did the jailer want to kill himself when he thought the prisoners had escaped?
5. What do you think led the jailer say "What must I do to be saved?"
6. What again was the message that Paul was preaching?



## **Acts 27:27 – 28:11: Paul gets Wrecked**

*On the fourteenth night we were still being blown around in the Adriatic Sea. The sailors thought we were close to land. They threw a rope into the water with a weight on the end of it. They found that the water was 120 feet deep. They went a little farther and threw the rope in again. It was 90 feet deep. The sailors were afraid that we would hit the rocks, so they threw four anchors into the water. Then they prayed for daylight to come. Some of the sailors wanted to leave the ship, and they lowered the lifeboat to the water. They wanted the other men to think that they were throwing more anchors from the front of the ship. But Paul told the army officer and the other soldiers, "If these men do not stay in the ship, you will lose all hope of survival." So the soldiers cut the ropes and let the lifeboat fall into the water.*



*Just before dawn Paul began persuading all the people to eat something. He said, "For the past two weeks you have been waiting and watching. You have not eaten for 14 days. Now I beg you to eat something. You need it to stay alive. None of you will lose even one hair off your heads." After he said this, Paul took some bread and thanked God for it before all of them. He broke off a piece and began eating. All the men felt better and started eating too. (There were 276 people on the ship.) We ate all we wanted. Then we began making the ship lighter by throwing the grain into the sea.*

*When daylight came, the sailors saw land, but they did not know what land it was. They saw a bay with a beach and wanted to sail the ship to the beach if they could. So they cut the ropes to the anchors and left the anchors in the sea. At the same time, they untied the ropes that were holding the rudders. Then they raised the front sail into the wind and sailed toward the beach. But the ship hit a sandbank. The front of the ship stuck there and could not move. Then the big waves began to break the back of the ship to pieces.*

*The soldiers decided to kill the prisoners so that none of the prisoners could swim away and escape. But Julius the army officer wanted to let Paul live. So he*

*did not allow the soldiers to kill the prisoners. He told the people who could swim to jump into the water and swim to land. The others used wooden boards or pieces of the ship. And this is how all the people went safely to land.*

*When we were safe on land, we learned that the island was called Malta. The people who lived there were very good to us. It was raining and very cold, so they built a fire and welcomed all of us. Paul gathered a pile of sticks for the fire. He was putting the sticks on the fire, and a poisonous snake came out because of the heat and bit him on the hand. When the people living on the island saw the snake hanging from his hand, they said, "This man must be a murderer! He did not die in the sea, but Justice does not want him to live."*



*But Paul shook the snake off into the fire and was not hurt. The people thought he would swell up or fall down dead. They waited and watched him for a long time, but nothing bad happened to him. So they changed their opinion. They said, "He is a god!"*



*There were some fields around that same area. They were owned by a man named Publius, the most important Roman official on the island. He welcomed us into his home and was very good to us. We stayed in his house for three days. Publius' father was very sick. He had a fever and dysentery, but Paul went to him and prayed for him. He laid his hands on the man and healed him. After this happened, all the other sick people on the island came to Paul, and he healed them too.*

## Questions to Discuss

1. What was the sea that they were shipwrecked in?
2. What were the sailors specifically afraid of?
3. When the sailors were going to try and leave the ship in a rowboat, what did they act like they were doing?
4. Paul made a promise to the people on the boat. What was it?
5. Why did the soldiers want to kill the prisoners?
6. What was the name of the army officer that told them not to?
7. How many people died in the shipwreck?
8. What bit Paul when he was collecting firewood?
9. What did the people think he was after that happened.
10. When he didn't die, what did they think he was?
11. What was Paul doing on the island for the three months they were there?

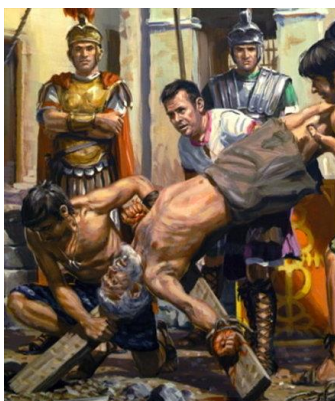
## The Death of Paul

**On the 29th June 67 AD**, Paul the Apostle, formerly known as Saul of Tarsus was taken about 3 kilometers outside of the city of Rome. There, a Roman soldier, during the reign of the Emperor Nero, beheaded the apostle Paul. His friend and fellow apostle Peter was killed around the same time. He was condemned to death for preaching the 'Good News' about Christ Jesus. Paul played a huge role in founding the churches of the western Roman Empire. As a testament to his work, the churches he laboured to build endured for centuries.



Paul was aware of his own influence but realised that it was only because of God's mercy that he was able to do any of it. He said:

*"For I am the least of all the apostles—I do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted God's church. But by God's grace I am what I am, and the grace that he gave me was not without effect. On the contrary, I have worked harder than any of the other apostles, although it was not really my own doing, but God's grace working with me."*



Paul was ideally equipped to be a great apostle in the west. Because he was a Roman citizen, he could move freely throughout the entire Roman world. Because he was educated in Greek literature, he understood the Greek mindset. Finally, because he was previously a Pharisee, he could freely enter into the Jewish synagogues and temple and reason with his fellow-countrymen.

When we first read of Paul in the Bible, he was a zealous Jew, a persecutor of those who followed "the way," as the early Christians called their movement. After Christ blinded him with a vision on the road to Damascus—where he was headed to arrest Christians—his life turned around. To a Christian believer

named Ananias, Jesus foretold that Paul would suffer much. This promise was fulfilled. Writing a dozen years before his execution, Paul detailed a list of beatings, floggings, stonings, and shipwrecks. He had at least one more shipwreck and many years of prison ahead of him.

Many of Paul's letters were written while he was in prison. In fact, Paul and his close associates penned the bulk of the New Testament in prison.

In the end, he gave his life for the Saviour he had proclaimed. His beheading was the culmination of a life made as an "offering" to the Lord Jesus Christ.

### Key Letter Moments

- **Letter to the \_\_\_\_\_** – Explained how Jesus Christ was fully God, and the creator of the universe.
- **Letter to the \_\_\_\_\_** – A clear, evidence based explanation of Christianity.
- **Letter to the \_\_\_\_\_** - "I decided that while I was with you I would forget about everything except Jesus Christ and his death on the cross."
- **Letter to the \_\_\_\_\_** - "It is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. This life that I live now, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave his life for me."
- **Letter to the \_\_\_\_\_** - "God did this (sent Jesus) so that every person will bow down to honour the name of Jesus. Everyone in heaven, on earth, and under the earth will bow."

### Paul's Final Goodbye

*"My life is being given as an offering for God. The time has come for me to leave this life here. I have fought the good fight. I have finished the race. I have served the Lord faithfully. Now, a prize is waiting for me—**the crown that will show I am right with God.** The Lord, the judge who judges rightly, will give it to me on that Day. Yes, he will give it to me and to everyone else who is eagerly looking forward to his coming."*

# Questions

1. In what month was Paul beheaded?
2. Who was the other apostle that also was killed in Rome?
3. Because Paul was a Roman citizen, how did that help him spread the 'good news'?
4. To what specifically did Paul attribute all of his life's work?
5. Where did Paul write most of his letters?
6. In which letter did Paul give an evidence based defence of Christianity?
7. Recall what God told Ananias about what would happen to Saul/Paul.
8. What was 'prize' that Paul was given?
9. Do you think this prize was worth all the difficulties that he experienced?  
Why or why not?

## Assessments

### Assessment 1: Religion Comparison Presentations

Refer to your teacher's instructions to the order that you will be presenting your religion comparison task.



### Assessment 2: Pixton Cartoon Strip

The comic strip demonstrating the life of Paul must be true to the story, but you are allowed the freedom to use modern or silly characters and backgrounds if you wish.

Refer to the website: [Schepemaker.weebly.com](http://Schepemaker.weebly.com) for task instructions and view the pre-made cartoon for inspiration.

Your teacher will assess your PowToon comic strip during class time.



## Religion Comparison Task

<b>My Team Members:</b>	
1. _____	2. _____
3. _____	4. _____
<b>My Topic:</b>	
<b>Powtoon's Login:</b>	
<b>Username:</b>	_____
<b>Password:</b>	_____

**The Task:** Through the next couple of classes provided this week and next, your aim is to gather information on a chosen religion, using your devices.

Each group will present the information they have found using Powtoons. Each group is to have no more than 3 members.

**Religions Options:** Atheism, Buddhism, Christianity, Confucianism, Deism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Mormonism, New Age movement, Scientology or Taoism.

*Note: If you have another religion in particular that you would like to do then ask your teacher for permission.*

**Important:** Make your presentation accurate and interesting. Ensure you answer all of the questions. On each slide in the presentation, write both the question and the answer. Use animations to enhance the presentation and choose a complimentary soundtrack. Check your spelling and grammar. Make sure the time for each slide is enough to allow people to read it.



## Questions

1. What is the religion known as? (Name)
2. What is the origin/beginning of the religion and when did this happen?
3. How many people follow the belief?
4. Who/what is their god(s)?
5. What does the religion say their life purpose is?
6. What is involved in the afterlife?
7. What practical rituals or acts do they perform within this religion?
8. Is there a text/book that is involved with the religion?



# Grill – A – Christian Questions

1. Why do ...

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2. Why does God \_\_\_\_\_

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3. If God is \_\_\_\_\_ then why \_\_\_\_\_

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4. \_\_\_\_\_

## Teacher Feedback

If '1 is the VERY LOW and '10' is VERY HIGH. Rate the following aspects of the course.

1. How much you enjoyed the lesson introduction activities.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Which was your favourite activity? \_\_\_\_\_

2. How much you learned about the life of Saul/Paul

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Which was your favourite story? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Any other feedback?

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