

## Walking Through the Word

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### The Missionary Journeys of Paul (Week 24)

Author: Luke (a Gentile physician). Acts is “Luke – the sequel”.

Purpose: Acts was written to give a genuine account of the beginnings of the early church.

Story: **Saul to Paul – the Miraculous Change** (E: Saul on the Road to Damascus, Saul Becomes a Follower, Saul Escapes in a Basket, Barnabas and Saul at Antioch, Barnabas and Saul – First Missionaries , p 509-516, 522-524)  
Location: **Acts 8-12.**

#### Bios & definitions

**Saul:** Saul was known for his frenzied persecution of the church. He was present at the stoning of Stephen (Acts 6-8). Those that stoned Stephen laid their clothes at Saul’s feet and he gave approval of Stephen’s death. Saul was a strict Pharisee who experienced Jesus on the road to Damascus in a blinding (literally for Saul) light and a voice that sounded as thunder. Saul was taken into Damascus to the house of Judas.

**Ananias:** Ananias was given a vision by God. He was instructed to go the Straight Street to the house of a man named Judas where he would find Saul of Tarsus. Saul was also given a vision of Ananias coming to him. Ananias was fearful as he had heard of Saul’s persecution, but God reassured him and Ananias went to Paul and prayed for him and what appeared to be scales fell from Saul’s eyes and he was able to see.

**Converted Saul:** Saul was baptized and began to preach that Jesus was the Messiah. Because of Saul’s preaching many Jew began to believe that Jesus was who he had said he was. This made the Jewish leaders mad and they planned to kill Saul. Saul had to escape Damascus in a basket.

**Barnabas:** The name given to Joseph of Cyprus by the apostles. The name means Son of Encouragement. Barnabas was the first example of an early Christian selling property and giving the proceeds to the apostles to help the needy. He was the apostle who befriended Saul in Jerusalem after his escape from Damascus. Barnabas was able to share with the other apostles about Saul’s experience on the road to Damascus and the change that followed. The church a Jerusalem received Saul gladly after hearing the great news of his conversion.

**Antioch:** The town Barnabas began to preach at. Many gentiles were being saved. Barnabas needed help and went to get Saul from Tarsus to help. This is where believers were first called “Christians”. This is also where the missionary journeys began, continuing to fulfill scripture in Acts 1:8. Saul and Barnabas left Antioch for Jerusalem to take an offering to help those that were hungry from the famine. They likely stayed with Mary, a relative of Barnabas, while they were in Jerusalem. When they returned, they brought John Mark (Mary’s Son) with them. John Mark would later write the Gospel of Mark.

**Paphos:** The stop on the first missionary journey where Saul if first and forever called Paul. The proconsul, Sergius Paulus, witnessed Paul and Barnabas afflict blindness on his sorcerer, Bar-Jesus, and believed and was amazed at the teaching of the Lord.

Story: **Paul’s Missionary Journeys** (E: Paul and Barnabas at Antioch and Iconium, Paul and Barnabas Mistaken for Gods, A Serious Problem, Paul Begins a Second Journey, The Philippian Jailer, In Other Cities of Macedonia, Paul Preaches on Mars’ Hill, Many Believe at Corinth, The Gospel is Preached in Ephesus, A Riot at Ephesus, On the Way to Jerusalem, Paul is taken Prisoner, A Young Man Saves Paul’s Life, Paul Before Felix, Paul Appeals to Caesar, King Agrippa Hears Paul’s Story, Paul is Shipwrecked, Safe on an Island, Paul Arrives in Rome , p 524-560)

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Location: **Acts 13-28**

#### Bios & definitions

**First Missionary Journey:** Saul, Barnabas and John Mark are noted for the first missionary Journey. They traveled together from Antioch to Cyprus, Pamphylia, and Galatia. Barnabas and John Mark had a break with Saul(now Paul) and went to Cyprus on their own.

**Second Missionary Journey:** Paul, Silas, Timothy and Luke are noted for the second missionary journey. They traveled from Antioch to revisit the churches in Galatia, then traveled on to Asia, Macedonia, and Achaia.

**Third Missionary Journey:** Paul, Timothy and Erastus traveled on what is known as the third missionary journey. They traveled to revisit the churches in Galatia, Asia, Macedonia and Achaia.

**Silas and Timothy:** Traveled with Paul on the second missionary journey. Silas was a preacher from Jerusalem. They met Timothy in Lystra. Paul was impressed with this young Christian and invited him on the second journey. Timothy was the son of a Gentile father and a Jewess mother. He knew of both Jewish tradition and heritage and the gentile ways.

**Luke:** Luke joined the second missionary journey along with Silas and Timothy.

**Lydia:** She and all of her household heard the message and believed and were baptized.

**Philippian Jailer:** He and all of his household believed and were baptized after the jail doors swung open, but all the prisoners remained including Paul and Silas.