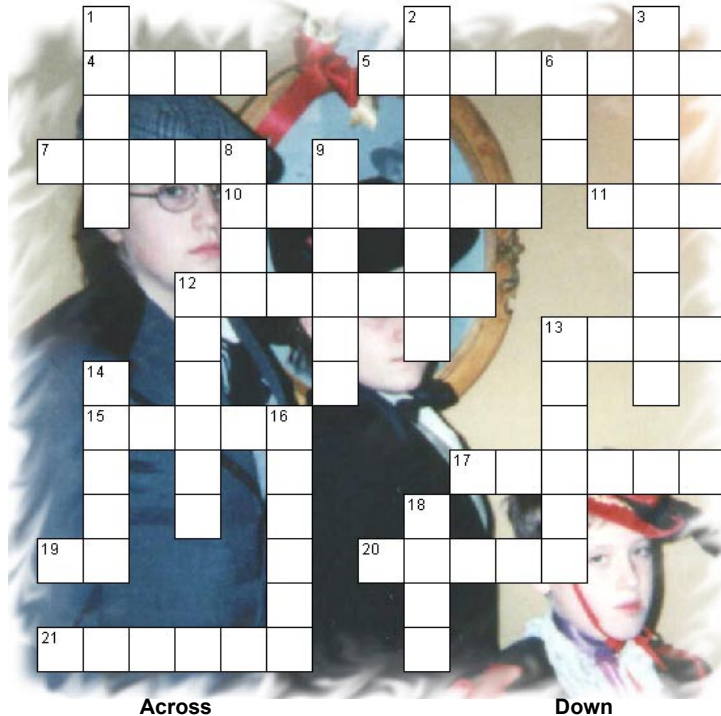


# Crossword Puzzle

## God's Calling in the New Testament

- Lesson Fifteen -

### *In Acts – Saul of Tarsus*

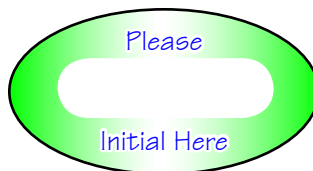


Across

Down

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 4. Saul despised hearing the _____  | 1. "_____ into the city and it will be..."                         |
| 5. The road to _____  | 2. Immediately Saul was _____                                      |
| 7. "I am _____ whom you persecute."   | 3. Saul had received _____ from...                                 |
| 10. A brother named _____ came to Saul and laid his hands on him.           | 6. ...boldly that Jesus is the _____ of God                        |
| 11. ...that _____ had raised up Jesus...                                    | 8. _____ of Tarsus.  |
| 12. Saul rose up, but he was _____.   | 9. Immediately Saul was baptized and began to meet with the _____. |
| 13. ...rise up and enter into the _____                                     | 12. ...very _____ light from the heavens                           |
| 15. ...very bright _____ from the heavens                                   | 13. ...and that He is the _____.                                   |
| 17. ...authority from the high _____  | 14. Jesus was indeed _____   |
| 19. "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute _____?"                               | 16. Saul of _____  |
| 20. Saul received a surprise _____  | 18. Saul thought he was working according to God's _____           |
| 21. Something like _____ fell from Saul's eyes and his vision was restored. |  |

**Parent's Initials:**



### I. Overview.

**G**od calls and raises up whomever He decides to. This is according to God's own sovereignty and grace. Even a person who opposes God can be called by God. In this lesson we will consider one such man who originally was against God and was called by God. God called him and made him one of the most useful vessels that there has ever been for God's purpose. This man was Saul of Tarsus.

In a recent lesson we discussed the martyrdom of Stephen.



Saul thought he was serving God while he was persecuting the church.

While Stephen was being stoned to death, there was a young man standing by named Saul of Tarsus. The Bible tells us that Saul approved of Stephen's killing. After that, Saul became part of a strong persecution that drove the entire church out of Jerusalem except for the apostles. Saul chased the disciples from city to city, putting in prison those who called upon the Lord's name.

### II. Memory Verse.

**"Who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our own works, but according to His own purpose and grace..."**

(2 Tim 1:9)

### III. Lesson.

Saul of Tarsus was a sincere religious Jew who actually thought he was serving God according to His will. Like many other Jews, he did not believe that God had raised up Jesus from the dead and thought that the Christians were lying about the resurrection. In his ignorance, he was angry at the believers and even hated them. He despised even hearing the name of Jesus. He was determined to eliminate the church.

#### On The Road to Damascus

Saul had received authority from the high priest to go to Damascus and capture any men or women who called upon the name of the Lord Jesus. He was to bring them back to Jerusalem in chains. But while he was on the way, Saul received a surprise visit from the very Jesus whom he did not believe existed. Suddenly he was surrounded by a very bright light from the heavens. Saul and the men with him fell to the ground. Then a loud voice cried out “Saul, Saul, Why are you persecuting Me?” Only Saul heard this voice, not the others who were with him.

Saul was astonished. He knew that the One who had spoken to him was “the Lord”, but still did not know “who” it was. He said



Saul received an unexpected visit from Jesus on the road to Damascus.

“Who are you Lord?” Then the Lord said to him “I am Jesus whom you persecute.” Saul was amazed. Jesus was indeed alive and He was indeed the Lord of all. The Lord then told him “Rise up and enter into the city and it will be told to you what you must do.” Saul rose up, but he was blinded. The men who were with him helped him to get into the city.

### Saul Becomes a Disciple of the One He Persecuted

After Saul arrived in Damascus, he neither ate or drank for three days – he just prayed. He realized that the One he had persecuted so terribly was now his Lord. All the believers that he treated so harshly were now his brothers and sisters. A brother named Ananias came to Saul and laid his hands on him. Something like scales fell from Saul’s eyes and his vision was restored. Immediately Saul was baptized and began to meet with the saints. He entered into the synagogues and began to proclaim boldly that Jesus is the Son of God and that He is the Christ. Those who heard him speak were amazed that he had become a disciple of the very Jesus whom he persecuted.

#### --- Questions for Discussion ---

1. Did Saul approve of the killing of Stephen?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What was Saul going to do when he was on the road to Damascus?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What did the Saul say to the Lord?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What happened after Saul was baptized?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_