

June 28 – Saul’s Conversion to Paul

Sunday School Bible Reading: Acts 9:1-31

Commentary from Megan

We’re in the CPH curriculum this week and for the next few weeks as we finish out unit 3. This unit was meant to be a survey of some New Testament Bible Lessons. These lessons are from the early Church, after Pentecost.

Resources in this PDF

Lesson 12 Opening

Lesson 12 Activity Page – An Enemy Converts – Saul; Baptism Changes Us

Note about the activity page: As you work together to fill in the chart, guide children to think about how God changed Paul. Suggestions for the blanks in the “New Me” column include the following: God’s child, Cleansed, Holy Spirit-filled, Full of growing faith, Eternally alive. As you discuss these changes, remind children that when we are baptized, the Holy Spirit enters our heart. The Holy Spirit gives us faith in the triune God. He grows this faith in us throughout our lives through Word and Sacraments. Through this faith, we receive God’s forgiveness and eternal life. In Holy Baptism, God marks us as His own and makes us part of His family. The Holy Spirit works constantly in our hearts to lead us to repent of our sins and to live and serve God as His forgiven children.

9 Activity related to Saul’s Conversion to Paul and Paul’s escape

Scripture Snapshot

On the road to Damascus, Saul encounters the risen Lord, who converts him from a persecutor of the Church to its greatest missionary – Paul. God sends Ananias to lay hands upon the temporarily blinded Saul, baptizing him in the name of the Living God. Despite the disciples’ distrust of Saul’s motives, Barnabas speaks boldly on Saul’s behalf.

Discussion Ideas

Name as many superheroes as you can. What powers do they have to fight evil? God’s Word shows us that Jesus was a real superhero with the power to fight off sin, death, and the devil.

How was Saul blind before Jesus spoke to him? You were once blind in the same way. What event healed Saul of his blindness? What event healed you of your blindness?

How did God change Saul from an enemy to someone who believed in Jesus? (Through His Word and Baptism) Saul heard God’s Word from Jesus. Then God sent Ananias to baptize Saul. God changed Saul’s heart and gave him faith in Jesus! Saul became a new person, a child of God. Now he wanted to tell others about Jesus, instead of hurting them. He became a missionary, a special helper who goes to faraway countries to tell about Jesus. God changes us through Baptism and His Word so we, too, believe in Jesus and live as His children.

This true event occurs approximately three years after Jesus’ resurrection. Saul has been persecuting Christians for at least a year. He was putting both men and women into jail for following Jesus. He is the last person one would expect Jesus to choose. Because of this, his proclamation in the temple that Jesus is Lord is pretty shocking to all who hear it—so shocking that some of the Jews want to kill him.

Events in the life of Saul/Paul covered in this lesson include the following: (1) Saul persecutes Christians. (2) Jesus knocks Saul off his horse and blinds him on the road to Damascus. (3) Ananias shares the Gospel with Saul and baptizes him. (4) Saul goes to the synagogue and declares Jesus as Lord. (5) Jews want to kill him and he escapes. (6) Saul goes to Jerusalem and with the help of the Holy Spirit, the Church multiplies.

In reality, we are no more deserving of Christ's love than Saul was. We may not openly persecute God's people as Saul did, but we are still sinners who break God's Law every day. It is only through the redeeming work of Jesus on the cross and with the help of the Holy Spirit that we can share the love of Jesus with our neighbor.

Eventually Saul becomes known as Paul. He writes many epistles in Scripture and becomes a great missionary for Jesus throughout the Roman world.

Christ called Saul to faith not because Saul was a good guy but out of His great mercy and grace. God also has called us to faith because of His great mercy and grace to us.

Other Ideas & Resources

[Children's Message Video](#) from St. Paul in Munster, IN

Using chalk, make a heart and cross on the sidewalk. As you do so, remember how Jesus cleanses our hearts by forgiving our sins. He makes us new people, a new creation.

Saul was temporarily blinded by a bright light. Find out more about how the Church shares God's message with those who are blind. Here is one starting point: [Lutheran Braille Workers](#)

Songs

[This Little Light of Mine](#) – with actions

[Power in Your Word](#) – with actions

[Let's Go, Go, Go!](#)

[Jesus Loves Me](#) – with lyrics and actions

[I was Baptized \(Happy Day\)](#)

[God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It](#) with lyrics

Prayers

Thank you, Jesus, for making us Your children. Help us show Your love for others. Help us tell about You and invite our friends to church to hear how You died on the cross and rose again to pay for our sins. Amen.

Dear Jesus, thank you for calling Saul to spread Your Gospel message to the world. Thank You for calling me to be Your child in Baptism. Help me to share Your Gospel message to all the people in my world. In Your name we pray, Jesus. Amen.

LESSON 12 OPENING

AN ENEMY CONVERTS: SAUL

Hold up or wear reversible article of clothing. What is this? Allow children to answer. That is correct! You have identified this item correctly. You did so by looking at it and then telling me what you saw. The color, the materials, the type of item all became parts of your answer. At times, we may believe something to be something other than what it is or less than it is. Reverse item. What would you say this item is now? Allow for answers. Once again correct! It is not what it seemed at first, though, is it? The item is reversible and can be converted from being one thing into being another.

The answer to what we believed the item to be changed, did it not? New information was revealed to us, and suddenly our answer changed. In our case, our first answer was not wrong, but it was incomplete. Sometimes new information actually changes our understanding or belief about something from being in error to being correct. This change from error to correct understanding will likely also affect what we say or do thereafter.

In today's Bible lesson, we will learn of another man named Saul. Saul had a very significant event happen to him. Information changed for Saul. As you study the lesson, listen carefully to learn what information changed. Take note of how this new data affected Saul. You will learn about a number of things that changed for Saul. In fact, you will learn about changes to his identity, what he said, what he did, and even more. Listen for all of these changes and see how they came about. Be sure not to miss who changed Saul.

Each of us is a lot like Saul. We, too, did not believe in Jesus. In fact, we were enemies of Him in our sin. Jesus suffered and died for our sins so that He could grant us forgiveness. He changed us from being His enemies into being His redeemed children. His Word transformed us in our Baptism, and we were converted from unbelief to belief in Him. We were changed from error in sin to life in Christ.

Pray: Lord Jesus, thank You for changing us from sinner to redeemed child of God. Help us always rightly to believe in You. Amen.

LESSON TEXT

Acts 9:1–31

BIBLE TRUTH

Jesus chooses us, even when we are enemies of God.

FAITH FOCUS

The Fifth Petition

LAW & GOSPEL

Born in sin, we are enemies of God.

God chooses us to be His own in Baptism and makes us a new creation in Christ Jesus, our Savior.

BIBLE VERSE

If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.
2 Corinthians 5:17

VISUAL HELPS

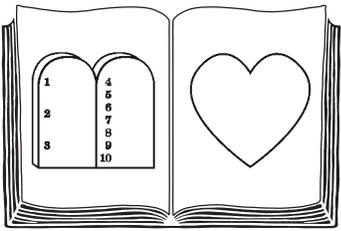
Reversible article of clothing

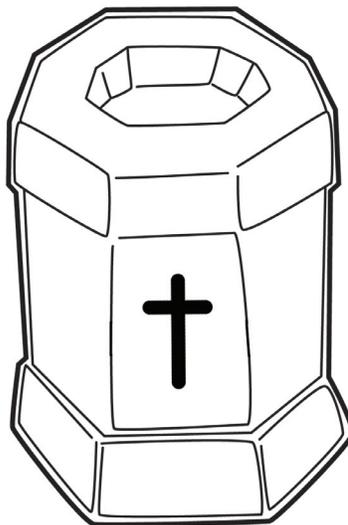
AN ENEMY CONVERTS—SAUL

Unit 3, Lesson 12

Baptism Changes Us

Directions: Through Holy Baptism, God changes us. As you review the Bible account of Saul and as you think about your own Baptism, fill in the chart below with the ways that God changes us through water and His Word.

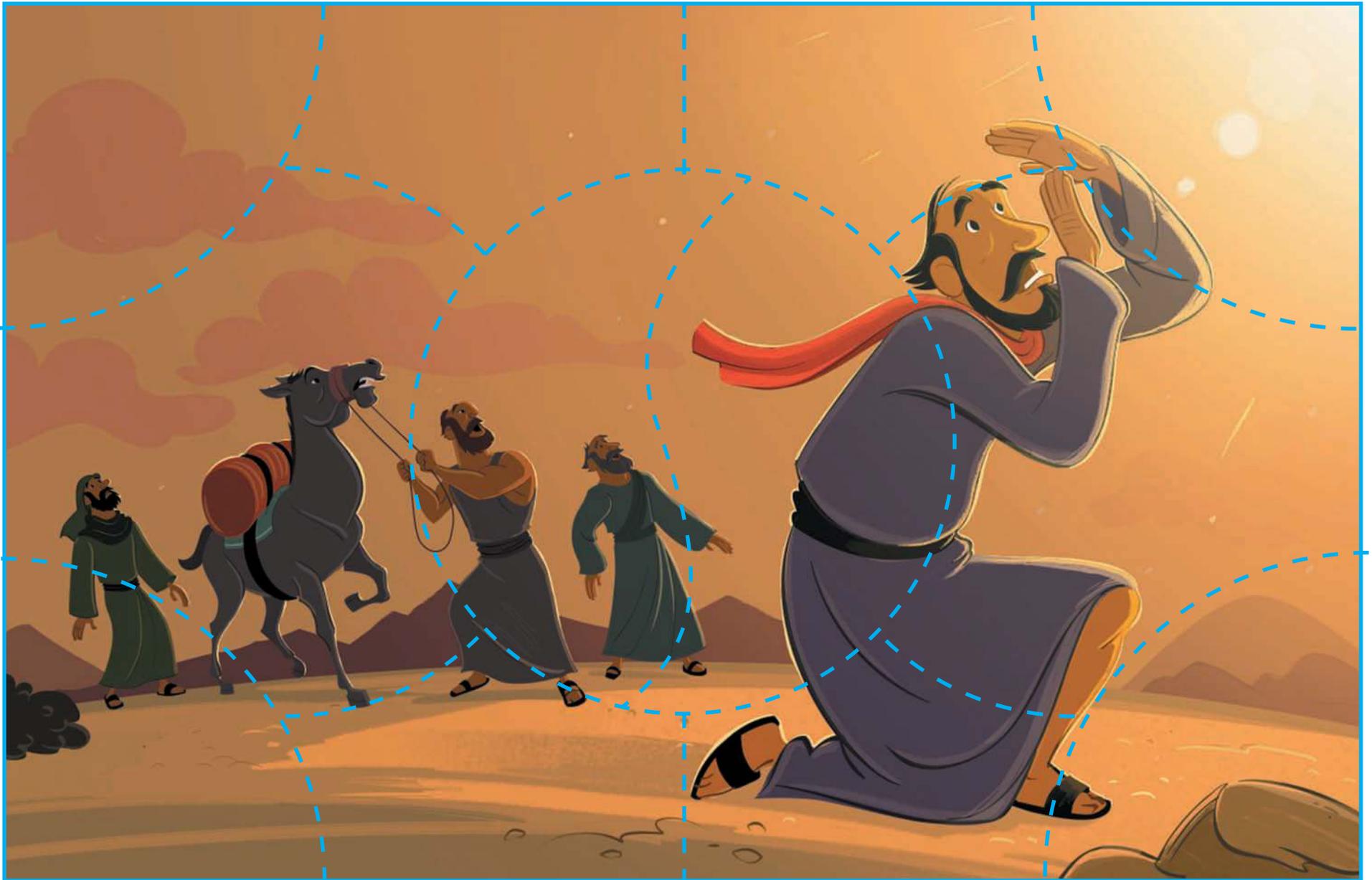
<u>OLD ME</u>		<u>NEW ME</u>
Enemy of God		
Sin-filled heart		
Holy Spirit-less		
Without faith in the triune God		
Eternally dead		



If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Paul's Conversion Jigsaw Puzzle

Cut the puzzle apart on the blue lines, mix the pieces up, and put the picture back together.



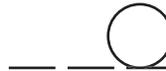
Paul Believed in Jesus Word Line Up

Unscramble each of the clue words. Take the letters that appear in the circled spaces and unscramble them for the final question.

ULPA



ESE



SSURAT



SAANIAN



ALSEJRUME



MADCASUS



LASU



HILGT

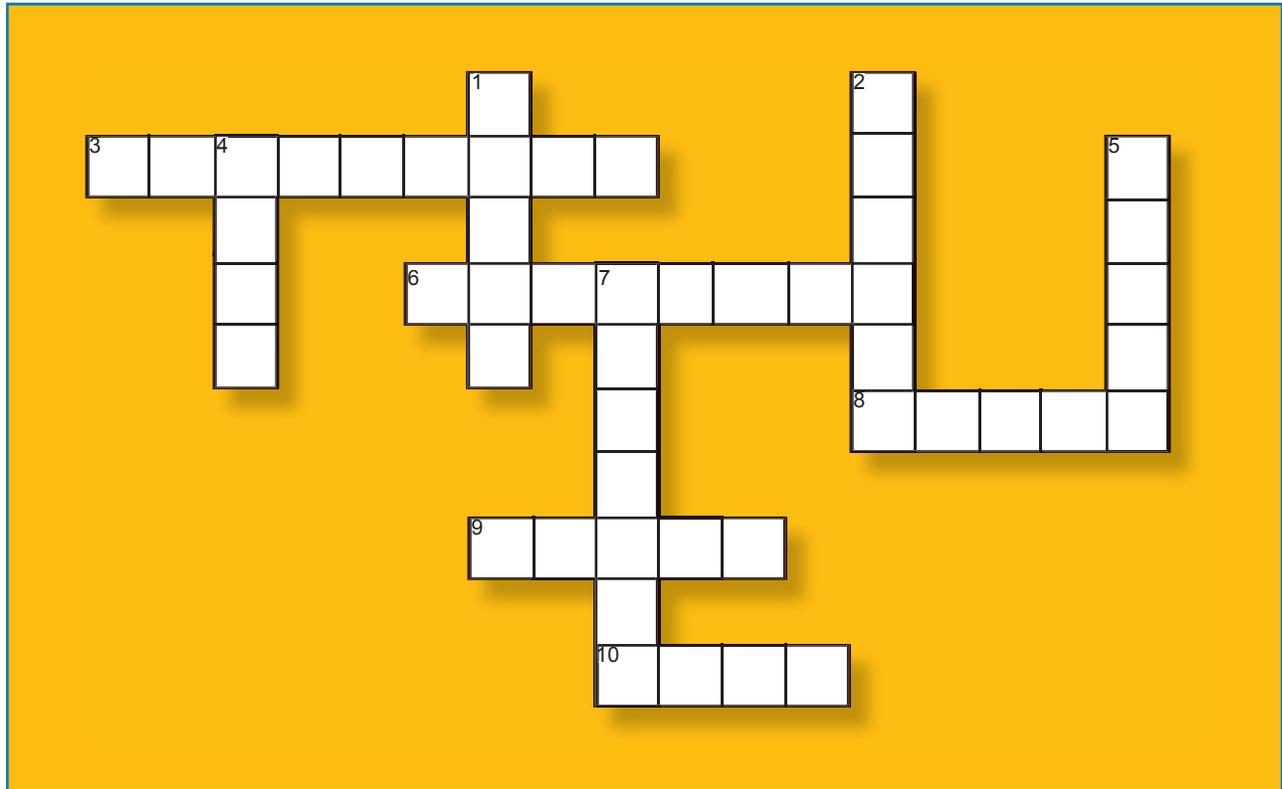


SLEGTNIE



Jesus asked Paul "Why do you _____ me?"

Paul: The Road to Damascus Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

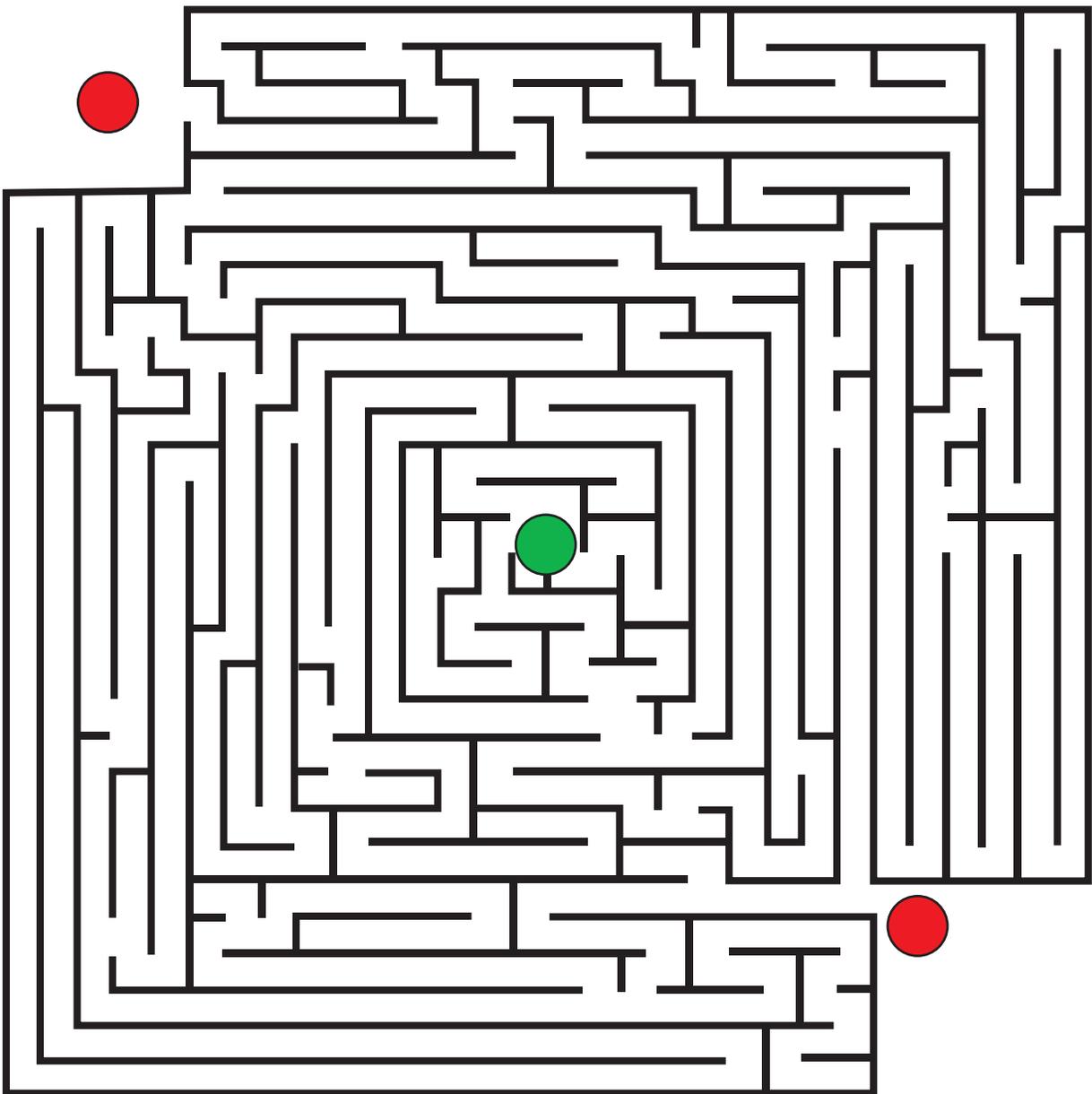
3. Jesus asked Paul "Why do you _____ me?"
6. City where Paul was going
8. After he heard Jesus, Paul lost his _____.
9. Paul heard Jesus' _____.
10. Paul's original name

DOWN

1. Owned the house where Paul stayed
2. Paul was from here.
4. Path or highway
5. Paul saw this.
7. God sent him to help Paul.

THE ROAD TO DAMASCUS MAZE

Travel to the center of Damascus. Choose one of two routes.
You may find alternate undiscovered shortcuts along the way.



Connect the Dots



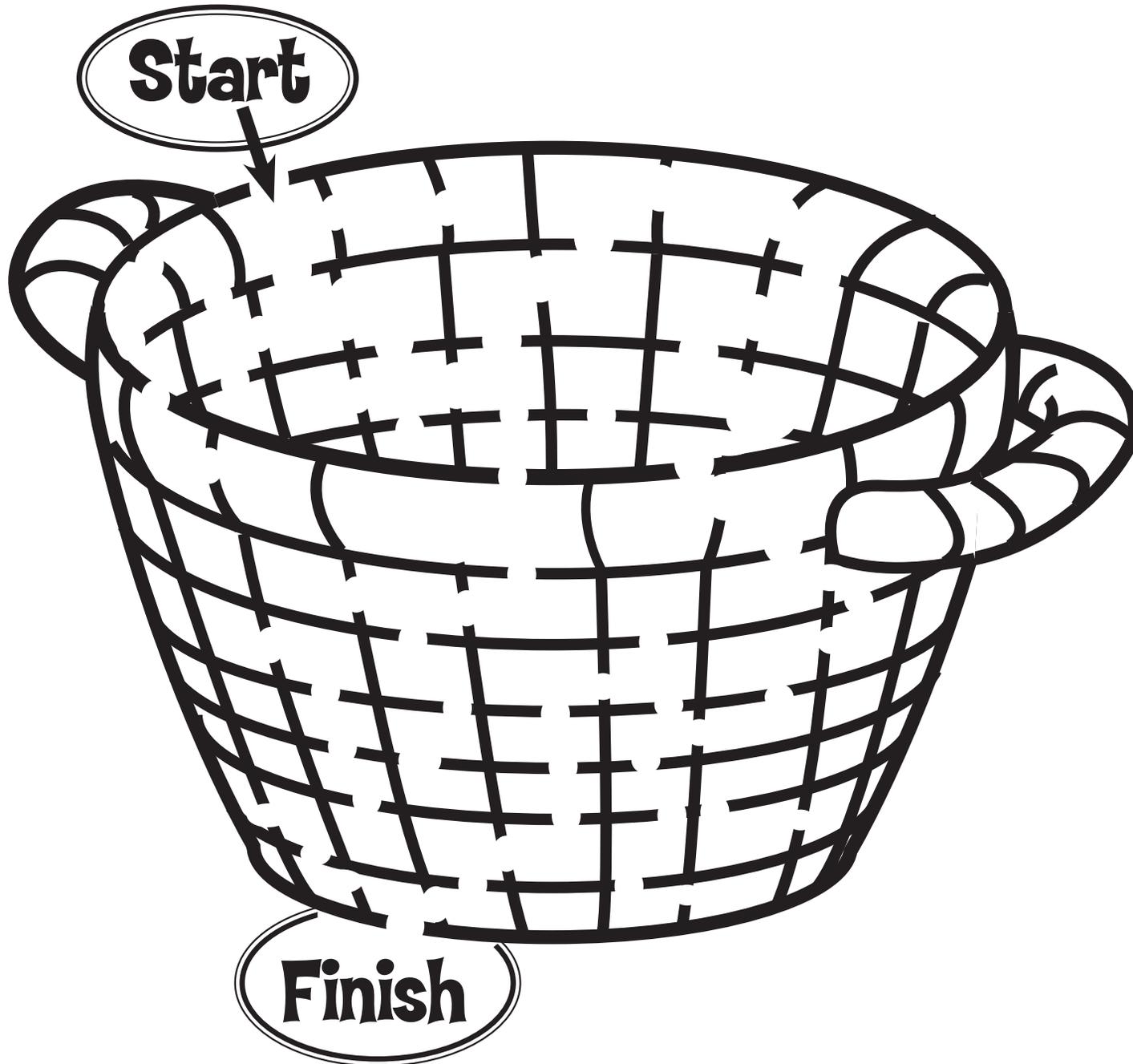
Spot the Differences in Paul's Escape From Jail

Compare the picture on the left with the picture on right. Circle the 14 things that are different.



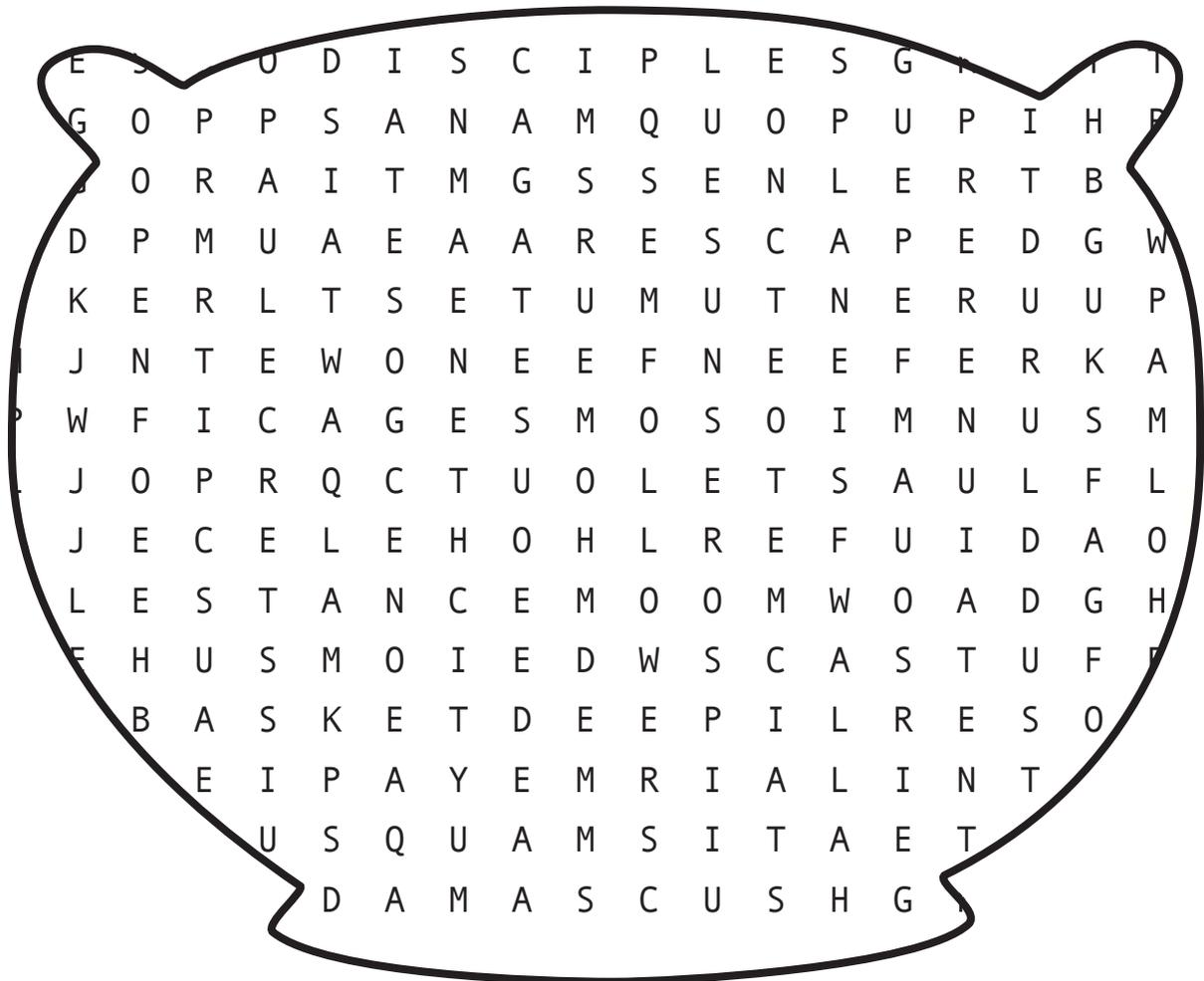
Basket Maze

Paul escaped in a basket. Can you escape from the basket? Find your way from the start to the finish.



Basket Word Search

Find the words on the list that are hidden in the puzzle.
The words can be right to left, up and down, or diagonally.



BASKET
ESCAPED
PLAN

CITY
FOLLOWERS
PREACHED

DAMASCUS
GATES
SAUL

DISCIPLES
PAUL
WALL



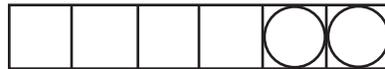
Paul's Escape Word Scramble

Unscramble each of the clue words. Take the letters that appear in the circle boxes and unscramble them to find the answer to the last phrase.

UALP



ETKBSA



SORPE



NPAL



CWATGINH



LUSA



THGIN



**What did Paul's followers
lower the basket through?**