

# Mission Together

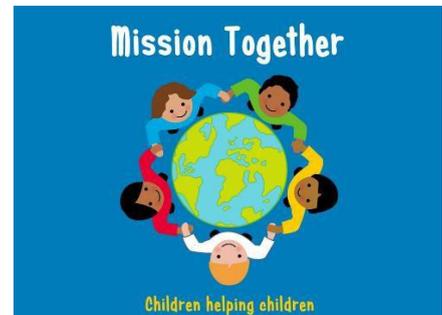
## Five Fact Assembly: St Paul the Apostle



### LEADER'S NOTES & HOLDING SLIDE

As Christians, we all have a mission: to share God's love with the whole world. No one is too young or too small to take part. Through *Mission Together*, children everywhere pray for, and share with one another, in a unique exchange of love and friendship. By praying for one another and sharing what we have, we belong to God's worldwide family.

On 25 January and 29 June, the Church celebrates the feasts of St Paul the Apostle, one of the most important saints of the Church. This assembly focuses on events in his life which show how he fulfilled his mission to love God and serve others. By following the example of St Paul, children can become missionaries of God's love too



*This assembly contains animations. It is advisable to run through the presentation, using the slides, before delivering the assembly.*

### SLIDE TWO

Today our assembly focuses on an important saint. There's an image of him on screen. Can anyone guess who this important saint might be?

It's quite hard guessing from a picture, so let's see if some clues help.

*Click to reveal clues: a pen and letter, the name 'Saul', a map.*



**The saint we are going to focus on today is St Paul. Does anyone know anything about him?**

**Possible answers:** *He used to be called Saul, but one day Jesus spoke to him from heaven and from that point Saul became a Christian and changed his name to Paul. He travelled thousands of miles to share the message of Jesus. He wrote many letters that are now in the Bible.*

St Paul is one of the most important saints in history. He was born just a few years after Jesus and they lived not too far from each other, but they never met! Paul – or Saul as he was known then – didn't want to know Jesus and he didn't want others to know Jesus either.

So how did Paul become a famous follower of Jesus? Let's hear five facts explaining what happened to Paul to make him into one of the most important saints in history.

### SLIDE THREE

#### **FACT ONE: Saint Paul learned from his mistakes and changed his ways.**

Before he became a follower of Jesus, Paul, who was called Saul at the time, bullied Christians horribly. He even travelled the country to track them down. If he found any, Saul had them arrested, beaten, put into prison and killed. He could not see that his actions were wrong or that God was deeply unhappy that Saul behaved this way.

One day God decided to stop Saul in his tracks. As he was travelling to a place called Damascus, to track down more Christians, a bright light shone from heaven. The light blinded Saul and he fell onto the ground. Then he heard a voice speaking to him, saying 'Saul, why are you persecuting me? This is Jesus and you are persecuting me.'

The people who were travelling with Saul helped him up. As he was still unable to see, they led Saul into Damascus where God healed him of his blindness. From that moment on, Saul changed his ways. He asked for people to call him Paul, which means 'humble', and he became a follower of Jesus.

**Click to reveal question:** Who can help us see our mistakes and change for the better?

**Possible answers:** Our family, teachers, friends who care for us, Jesus (we may hear him speak to us through the Bible, in our prayers, through our priests and religious sisters).



### SLIDE FOUR

#### **FACT TWO: Saint Paul stayed faithful to Jesus.**

Paul made a special effort to follow Jesus' example. He prayed to God every day and grew in love and understanding. He did what he could to help others and he was not afraid to share his faith. In doing so, many people became Christians too.

Not everybody approved of this and just as he had bullied others, now Paul was bullied himself. He was laughed at, picked on, beaten and arrested. He was put into jail three times!

Whatever difficulties he faced, Paul always remained faithful. Just like Jesus, Paul never became bitter or vengeful. He continued to pray, to forgive, to help others and to have hope.

**Click to reveal question:** How can we be faithful followers of Jesus?

**Possible answers:** We can help in school and church by reading at assemblies, serving at Mass, joining the chaplaincy team, watching over younger pupils during playtime, helping friends who are struggling.



## SLIDE FIVE

**FACT THREE: Saint Paul made long and dangerous journeys to share God's love with others.**

When we receive good news, like the birth of a new baby or our team winning a cup, we want to share that good news with others. Even more so did St Paul want to share the Good News of Jesus with the world!

He wanted others to know that if we love one another, forgive when mistakes are made, help those in need, and work together as one body, then the world will be as God intended.

St Paul was so determined to share God's love that he made long and dangerous journeys to reach as many people as he could. He walked over 10,000 miles, visiting many countries. Sometimes he travelled by boat, once he was shipwrecked. With God's help he survived and helped other passengers to survive too.

**Click to reveal question:** What can we do to share the love of God with the world?

**Possible answers:** We could pray the Mission Rosary and prayers for the continents, raise money for Mission Together, be respectful to all people, wherever they are from.



## SLIDE SIX

**FACT FOUR: Saint Paul knew he needed the help of others.**

St Paul knew that the job of sharing the Good News of Jesus was too big to do on his own. He understood that working together with others was the best way to share God's love.

And so, St Paul always asked for others to help him. Some, like Priscilla and Aquila seen here with St Paul in this painting, became his good friends. Together they helped others to know Jesus and to form churches.

In Paul's day a church wasn't a building to pray in, a church was a group of people who wanted to follow the example of Jesus. With the help of people like Priscilla and Aquila, St Paul travelled around different countries forming hundreds of churches.

**Click to reveal question:** What virtues do we need to work together with others?

**Possible answers:** Friendliness, fairness, respect, helpfulness, gratefulness, forgiveness.



## SLIDE SEVEN

**FACT FIVE: Saint Paul wrote many letters to encourage people, some have become part of the Bible.**

Forming so many churches around the world was great! But it caused a problem. How was Paul going to encourage and guide these churches when he wasn't there?

Paul wrote letters – hundreds of them! These letters proved to be very important as they helped to guide the new churches. They reminded the followers of Jesus that Paul cared for them and was praying for them, even though they may be miles apart.

St Paul's letters were so important that hundreds of years later many of them were included in the Bible.

Most Sundays, at churches around the world, St Paul's letters are read out so that Christians today can learn how to follow Jesus more closely. Let's listen to a few lines from one of these letters which reminds us how we all have an important part to play in building up our church today.



## SLIDE EIGHT

'Our bodies have many parts and the many parts make up one body. So it is with the 'body' of Christ.

The eye can never say to the hand, 'I don't need you.' The head can't say to the feet, 'I don't need you.'

God has put the body together in such a way that all the parts need each other. Now, all of you together form the body of Christ, and every one of you is a separate and important part of it.'

1 Corinthians 12:12-27 (Adapted for children)



## SLIDE NINE

Can you imagine writing a letter today that will be read 2,000 years later to guide and encourage others?

St Paul used words carefully. They became his most important tool. With words, by working with others, and with God's help, St Paul helped millions of people around the world to know and follow Jesus.



**Click to reveal question:** How can we use words to encourage others and share God's love?

**Possible answers:** By saying something encouraging to our family and friends. By writing a letter or sending a card to someone who is ill, sad or lonely. By writing a motivating story, poem or song to share with your class.

## SLIDE TEN

St Paul is one of the greatest missionaries in history. A missionary is someone who brings God's love to others.

We can all be missionaries by caring for people close to home and far away, through our prayers and by sharing what we can.

By sharing what we can with *Mission Together*, we can help children around the world who live in poverty and who sometimes feel forgotten.

Let's remember them now in our prayers, as we say together the *Mission Together* Prayer.

We end by saying together **Saint Paul, pray for us.**



Fundraising is a brilliant way to involve everyone in raising money for Mission Together. There are more ways to fundraise than we can possibly count, below are a few ideas but you can find other ways to get involved throughout the year by visiting our webpage <https://missiontogether.org.uk/fundraising-ideas/>

Please **share your** fundraising events with us @missioUK adding the hashtag #missiontogether

### Ideas for Autumn term

**Winter walks:** get sponsored to brave the elements and hold a torch-lit hike or winter walk to raise money. Make sure you have plenty of adults to supervise and assist when organising outdoor events with children. Better still, get the whole family involved!

**Family fun evenings:** in colder weather and darker evenings, indoor events rule! Why not host a beetle drive, bingo night or race night at your school? You can use old horse race videos for people to place bets on, or even use wind up toys or counters and dice to create races. You could also host a board game evening. Sell snacks and drinks to boost your fundraising.

### Ideas for Spring term

**Pancake races:** hold a Pancake Day event with races and flipping competitions. Everyone gets to enjoy their pancakes after the fun – as long as they didn't drop them!

**Spring flower sale:** everyone loves the first signs of spring after winter! Why not pot some spring bulbs – snowdrops, mini daffodils, crocuses and hyacinths to sell to parents or as Easter gifts?

### Ideas for Summer term

**Scavenger hunt:** this is a great team activity! Print off some sheets with things to spot on them. You can tailor the items to be outdoors, indoors or whatever suits your space and environment. Either get teams to tick the items off or take pictures to prove they've found them! Charge teams to enter and give prizes for the fastest finishers.

**Sports day fun:** host a football tournament, sports day or outdoor activity day. Charge people to attend and sell refreshments. Prize for the tournament winners!