**Saul on the road Damascus**

Saul was a Pharisee, a Jew who strictly followed the Jewish religious law. His job was to make sure everyone followed the rules of the Jewish religion. Christians were no following the law and he believed it was his duty to use violence against them and to persecute them for not obeying the rules. He went to different houses, dragged Christians out and put them in prison.

Saul was heading to Damascus to find more Christians and put them in prison. Suddenly a bright light shone down from heaven. It was so powerful Saul fell to the ground. A voice spoke to him and said,

“Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?”

Saul was very puzzled. “Who are you, Lord?” he asked.

“I am Jesus,” the voice replied, “and you are persecuting ME. Now get up and go into the city and you will be told what to do.”

The men with Saul were standing around looking astonished. They heard the voice, but they couldn’t see anyone. Saul had to be led by the hand into the city of Damascus – he couldn’t see at all. The bright light on the road had taken away his sight.

Anaias, a Christian living in Damascus, had a vision. He was told to go to the house where Saul was staying. He felt very nervous as he had heard that Saul was capturing Christians and putting them in prison – or worse! But he trusted in God. He went up to Saul, “Brother Saul,” he said, “The Lord Jesus has sent me!”

As soon as Saul heard these words, he found he could see again. He was baptised immediately and was ready to talk about Jesus to other people. His name was changed to Paul.