

HOW THE CHURCH GROWS

Acts 7.58-8.4 // October 9, 2022

SAUL OF TARBUS

Saul of Tarsus Mini-Biography:

- Born in Tarsus, which is in modern day Turkey
- His father was a devout Pharisee
- Their family was from the tribe of Benjamin.
- They were also Roman citizens.
- He was well-educated and knew Aramaic, Greek, and some Latin
- Around age 13 he studied under the great Sanhedrin teacher, Gamaliel.
- Eventually became a member of the Sanhedrin.

Despite popular opinion, God did not change Saul's name from "Saul" to "Paul" upon conversion. "Saul" was his Hebrew name, whereas "Paul" was his given Greek name. Saul began referring to himself as "Paul" once he was commissioned and sent on his first missionary journey to the Gentiles outside of Jerusalem. It was a matter of preference for the sake of the Gospel (**Acts 13.9**).

PREPARING FOR BATTLE

Throughout the history of the church, it has always been through trial, hardship, and persecution that both individual believers as well as the church as a whole grow the most and advance the Gospel the most.

John 12.24-26

The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church.

-Tertullian

The Queen Mary During WWII:

- Painted grey and nicknamed "the Grey Ghost."
- Used to carry 2,000 passengers, converted to carry 16,000 troops.
- Furniture and décor replaced with triple-tier wooden bunks.
- Six miles of carpet, 220 cases of fine china, crystal, and silver utensils, tapestries, and paintings were put in a warehouse during the War.
- The fastest enemy vessels, which were the German U-Boats, could not catch up with her.
- She carried Winston Churchill from the UK to New York City.

PRAYER FOR OUR PERSECUTORS

Incredibly, we see Stephen pray a final prayer for his executioners. And what does God do? He says, "yes," and in a most shocking way. He forgives the one who "consented to his death," Saul of Tarsus. This was not Stephen's plan or goal; his goal was to lay his life down for Christ, trusting in His faithfulness.

Acts 20.24

NOTES:

This Week's Scripture to Memorize:

Psalms 77:11-12

I will remember the deeds of the Lord; yes, I will remember your wonders of old.
I will ponder all your work, and meditate on your mighty deeds.

ARE YOU NEW HERE?

WELCOME TO LIFE MISSION!

We'd love for you to **fill out a Connection Card** so we can welcome you and answer any questions you may have. You can drop it in the offering basket during the service or take it to one of our teammates at the **Connection Booth** outside. Feel free to grab some coffee and snacks in the courtyard and hang out. We hope you'll **join us next Sunday** and consider making us your church family.

WHAT ABOUT THE KIDS?

Our childrens' ministry, which we call **Kids on Mission**, has classes for **newborns - 5th grade**. We have a great team of volunteers who have all been screened with background checks for extra security. Each week your child will get to **worship** with their class, followed by an **age-appropriate lesson** that points them towards Jesus and helps root them in the Word of God.

Visit our website to read more about the vision of Kids on Mission and a walkthrough of our curriculum. If you have any questions, email **Amber Willis at amber@lifemission.tv**

JUNIOR HIGH & HIGH SCHOOL

Our **6th - 8th graders** begin each Sunday by **worshipping with the adults** and then head to their classroom with their teacher and classmates for the rest of service. Visit our website to read more about our junior high ministry and a walkthrough of our curriculum.

Our **9th-12th graders stay in the service** with the adults because we believe that it is crucial for them to not "graduate the faith" when they graduate high school.

For more information about our Junior High & High School ministries, email **Tyler Willis at tyler@lifemission.tv**.

Contact Us

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CONNECT WITH LMC



Point your smart
phone camera at
the QR Code to
access a virtual
Connection Card

MAILING ADDRESS:

Life Mission Church
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COMMUNITY GROUP HOMEWORK

Before group starts, who can share the **Memory Verse**?

Read **Acts 7.58-8.4**. What stands out in this passage and from the sermon on Sunday?

Preaching the Gospel to Yourself

We see that the power of salvation doesn't come from Stephen, but the God who hears Stephen's prayer. How does this Gospel truth encourage you both to be more prayerful in life, yet also surrendering trust and control?

Your Life Mission

How might you complete the personalized version of Tertullian's quote: "The _____ of Your Name is a seed of the church"? In what ways could you use prayer to be able to lay your life down for specific people or circumstances in your life?

End the evening in a time of prayer, praying through the theme of the night using the **P.R.A.Y.** model with your group. Pray for these people you have mentioned and for your heart and plan as you pursue them in love.

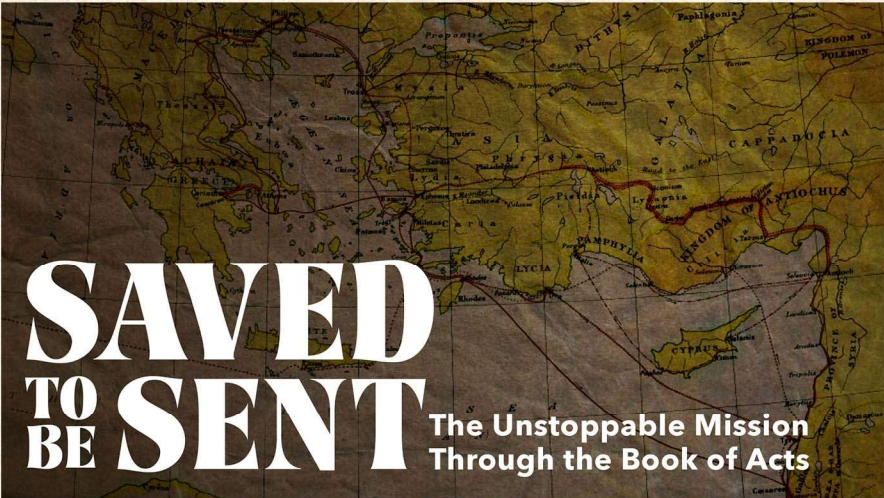
- **Preaching the Gospel to Yourself** (Matthew 6.9, 10)
 - Always begin your time of prayer focusing on God's goodness, who He is, and what He has done for us. Pray truths from this week's text.
- **Repent and Confess** (Matthew 6.12)
 - Real repentance begins where blame-shifting stops. Your circumstances don't need to change, your heart needs to change. Confess any particular sin that prevents you from walking out what God calls us to in the text, or any other particular sin you are wanting to fight. Ask Him to help you have strength to repent and run towards Him.
- **Ask for Provision** (Matthew 6.11-13)
 - Ask God for new perspective and for the things that you need. Once our hearts are fixed on Him, we can ask Him to help us with our needs. When your heart is begin filled with the Gospel first, your asking will be far more in line with God's desires and will. Ask Him to work in the relationships in your life that you are hoping to share God's love with.
- **Yield with Thanksgiving** (Matthew 6.10)
 - End your prayer by giving God thanks for His faithfulness and ask Him to help you trust and yield to His work and ways.



LIFE MISSION

C H U R C H

MAKING DISCIPLES WHO MAKE DISCIPLES LOCALLY AND GLOBALLY,
WHO ARE SAVED, EQUIPPED, AND SENT BY THE GOSPEL.



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SUNDAYS AT 10AM

Life Mission Church Meets at Classical Academy High School
207 E Pennsylvania Ave, Escondido 92025

GET TO KNOW MORE ABOUT US ONLINE

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