



JAN 25 The Conversion of St. Paul

St. Paul sees the light!

CONNIE CLARK

Wrong, wrong, wrong! Have you ever thought somebody was just plain wrong about something? Saul thought Jesus' followers were wrong — about everything.

Even though Saul lived at the same time as Jesus, he hadn't met him. Saul refused to believe that Jesus had risen from the dead to save everyone from sin and death. Saul was sure that stopping Jesus' followers from spreading the Good News was the right thing to do. He hauled them from their homes and had them thrown in jail. Saul even stood nearby as Stephen, the first Christian martyr, died for his faith in Jesus. Saul wasn't a bad guy, but he was doing some bad things.

All that changed one day as Saul walked along the road to round up more Christians. Suddenly, a brilliant light flashed from the sky. A voice said, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" Saul couldn't see anything and he called out, "Who are you, sir?" The voice answered, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting." Jesus told him to get up and go into the city. But the light had blinded Saul, and other people had to lead him by the hand.

After three days, God sent a man named Ananias to heal Paul's blindness and baptize him. Saul, who also went by his Roman name, Paul, changed

completely. He said his job now was to "present everyone perfect in Christ" (Colossians 1:28). He

THE CONVERSION OF SAINT PAUL

circa 1391–92, Spinello Aretino



traveled all over the known world sharing the Good News. He wrote letters, called epistles, which became part of the New Testament. He's one of our greatest saints!

What a change of heart St. Paul had! We call this kind of change **conversion**. Jesus tells us that "there will be rejoicing among the angels ... over one sinner who repents" (Luke 15:10). We can rejoice too, because St. Paul's conversion shows how much Jesus loves us — he saves even the biggest sinners. What a great reason to celebrate!



CONNIE CLARK is editor of *Living Faith Kids*, a magazine of daily Catholic devotions for children. To learn more, visit LivingFaithKids.com.

WHICH SACRAMENT IS IT? St. Paul's conversion reminds us of one sacrament in particular. The clues in the puzzle can help you know what it is. When you've figured it out, write the name of the sacrament in the spaces below.

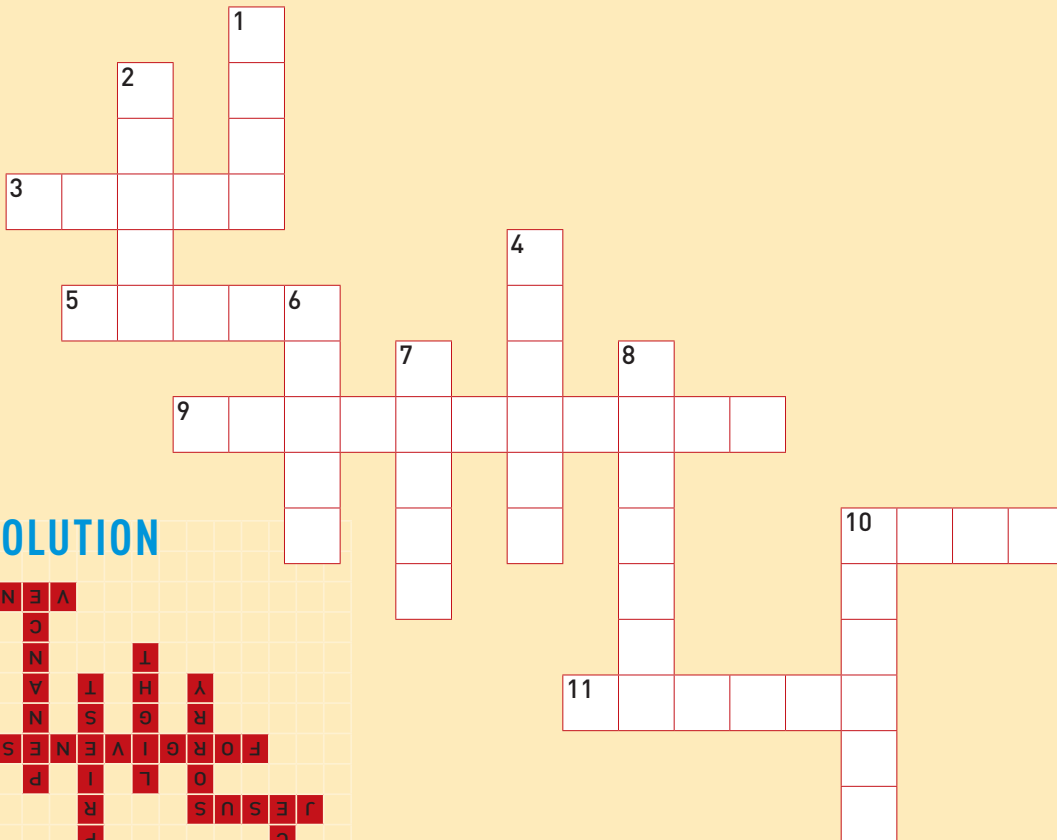
ACROSS

1. A mortal sin is a serious sin that can cut us off from God's ____ for us.
2. The name of this sacrament means "coming together in ____." (Hint: it's another word for calm.)
4. In this sacrament, we speak to a ____, but we are also speaking to Jesus.
6. An act of contrition is a way to say "I'm ____."
7. Saul had been blinded by a brilliant ____.
8. We are given this to do after the sacrament; it helps us make up for our sins.
10. St. Paul was ____ of his blindness. In this sacrament, Jesus does this for us too!

DOWN

3. We receive this in all the sacraments. (It also finishes this sentence: Hail Mary, full of ____.)
5. God sent his Son ____ to save us from our sins.
9. We ask God's ____ for our sins.
10. When we sin, we ____ our friendship with God. (But this sacrament makes things better.)
11. A type of sin that is less serious than a mortal sin; although it can still weaken us.

Jesus loves us! He forgives our sins in the sacrament of Penance and



SOLUTION

