

LEARNING FOCUS 4: Transformed by the Holy Spirit.

CONTENT

Following his conversion on the road to Damascus Saul became known as Paul. Paul was a key figure in the beginning of the Church. Paul's letter to the Romans was written to prepare the way for a visit he planned to make to the Christians living in Rome. In his letter to the Romans Paul looks forward to going to Rome and meeting the Christians there. Paul discusses how Christians should live and how God's Spirit will help and strengthen them. Share the letter from Paul. Discuss with the children what it means 'to be free or to be a slave'.

Those who are led by God's Spirit are God's children. For the Spirit that God has given you does not make you slaves and cause you to be afraid; instead, the Spirit makes you God's children, and by the Spirit's power we cry out to God, Father! My Father!

God's Spirit joins himself to our spirits to declare that we are God's children. Since we are his children, we will possess the blessings he keeps for his people, and we will also possess with Christ what God has kept for him; for if we share Christ's suffering, we will also share his glory.

Romans 8: 14-17

SOME KEY QUESTIONS

- Q What does Paul call the Christians of Rome?
- Q How would you feel if he called you this?
- Q What message of courage does Paul give to the Christians living in Rome?
- Q How do you think the Christians in Rome felt when they heard this letter?
- Q How do you think they felt about themselves when they read it?

SOME SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES

- Imagine you belong to the Christian family in Rome. Write an account of what you thought and felt when you read this part of Paul's letter. How and why do you think this is going to affect your life. Give reasons for your actions.
- You have been asked to appear in an interview programme on TV to speak for two minutes about how belief in the transforming power of the Spirit and the message expressed in Paul's letter give meaning and purpose to life. Write your script and give examples showing you understand how this affects Christians today.