



THE APOSTLE STUDY GUIDE

BASED ON THE GRAPHIC NOVEL
BY RANDY ALCORN



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eternal perspective ministries

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PART 1

SAUL, STEPHEN AND JESUS *The Apostle pages 1-22*



1. Give a brief description of Loukanos (Luke, the narrator of this story), and his credentials. (pages 1 and following)

2. As the story opens, a young man named Stephen is stoned to death. (pages 3-7) What was his crime?

3. Summarize the key points of Jesus' life, death and resurrection. (pages 10-13)

4. Describe Jesus' surprising response to this violence against Him. (pages 12) How is this similar to the response of Stephen? (pages 6-7)

5. Why was Luke confident that Jesus had actually risen from the dead? (page 13)

6. Luke describes how, after Jesus' death, the wind blew and the Holy Spirit descended upon His followers. How were the followers of Jesus different after the Holy Spirit indwelt them? (page 14-16)

7. Saul and the Jewish religious leaders had been among those waiting for hundreds of years for the coming Messiah. The debate rages among them as to whether Jesus is that promised Savior, or just a liar, claiming to be something He wasn't. (pages 17-22) Paul described the activities of Jesus' followers as "poisoning the minds of our people" (page 17-18). What did he mean? How did Nicodemus, who had earlier spent time with Jesus, see the same activities? (page 18)

PART 2

SAUL MEETS JESUS ON THE ROAD TO DAMASCUS *The Apostle* pages 23-43



1. The chief priest in this story was alive more than 2,000 years ago. He made the prediction: “Mark my words: in ten years no one will remember the name of Jesus—or the name of Stephen!” (page 28) How accurate was his prophecy?

2. Why did Saul and the Jewish leaders persecute Jesus’ followers? What was the unintended result of this persecution? (page 29)

3. Luke says he and Ananias learned that “You can argue with God, but you can’t win.” (page 34) Describe a time in your life when God was teaching you that lesson.

4. Give three words to describe Saul of Tarsus.

5. Give three words to describe this “new man” Paul, the former Saul, the converted Christian. (pages 35-38)

6. What benefits did Paul gain from spending time alone with God? (page 37) Can we expect the same benefits when we spend time in solitude with God and His Word?

7. Why did Paul have to work so hard to earn trust after his conversion? What did the Jewish religious leaders now think of him?

8. What was God’s purpose for Peter’s vision of the animals in the sheet? (pages 39-41)

9. What did Peter and Paul do and learn during their time together in Jerusalem? (pages 38-43)

PART 3

PAUL BEGINS HIS TRAVELS *The Apostle* pages 44-60



1. The Antioch believers in Christ, now called Christians for the first time, “generously sent help to Christian brothers and sisters they’d never met” in Jerusalem, a city 300 miles (480 km) away! (page 48) Is there a practical life principle we can discover from their example?

2. What crucial lesson can we learn from the death of Herod Agrippa? (pages 48-49)

3. List some of the various reactions to the message Paul was proclaiming about Jesus. (pages 53-55)

4. Paul continued to share his faith in Christ without fear, in spite of serious opposition. (pages 56-60) How was he able to do this? (Hint: see his words to the Philippian Christians in Philippians 4:13.) Has that verse ever been a help to you in difficult times? How?

5. The Jewish leaders and the Gentiles heard the same message from Paul. Why were their reactions so different? What did the Jewish leaders stand to lose? What did the Gentiles stand to gain?

PART 4

PAUL FACES CONTINUING OPPOSITION

The Apostle pages 61-79



1. What was the new controversy that arose in Jerusalem? (page 61) How was it solved? How did Peter's previous vision of the animals play a part in this debate?

2. Paul and Barnabas had a disagreement over Mark. How did God use this for His purposes? (pages 62-63)

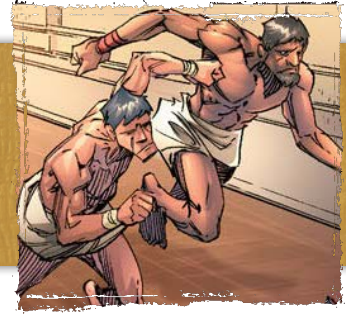
3. Do you think God caused the disagreement? Why or why not?

4. If you were thrown into a dark dreadful prison for believing in Jesus and had little hope of being released, do you think you'd feel like singing? (page 71) What do you think the jailer thought when he heard Paul and Silas?

5. In Berea, Paul and Timothy “found people eager to match their words against Scripture and see whether they were speaking the truth.” (page 75) What principle can we learn from the Bereans?

PART 5

FIGHTING THE GOOD FIGHT OF FAITH *The Apostle* pages 80-99



1. Paul used several illustrations from the athletic games. He says, “We all compete in a race. We must train hard.” (page 82) How would you apply that to the Christian life?

2. Next he says, “We must always keep our eyes on the finish line.” (page 82) What is the Christian’s finish line? How do we stay focused on it?

3. Paul taught and mentored Timothy. Priscilla and Aquila mentored Apollos. (pages 84-85) In our Christian lives there is always someone who knows more than we do, and usually someone who knows less. Is there someone in your life who could mentor you and help you to know more about Jesus? Is there someone in your life you could help and encourage in the same way?

4. Back in Antioch, a conflict came up between Paul and Peter. (page 85) Some people get angry when conflicts arise. Others try to avoid confrontation in their relationships. Paul faced them head-on. What can we understand from Paul about handling conflict?

5. What can we learn from Peter and Barnabas in how to respond when confronted with something we've done wrong? (page 86)

6. The seven sons of Sceva, the Jewish high priest, performed an exorcism to try and cast out demons. What was their motivation? How did God use the miracles He gave Paul the power to perform? (pages 88-90)

7. The people of Ephesus burned extremely valuable books that were pulling them away from following Christ. (page 92) Is there anything in your life you need to discard or surrender to help you follow Jesus wholeheartedly?

8. Paul struggled with deteriorating eyesight. (pages 96-97) List three things we can learn from Paul about suffering.

PART 6

PAUL PENS A LETTER TO THE ROMANS *The Apostle* pages 100-118



1. Speaking about Paul dictating the letter to the Romans, narrator Luke says, “I had no doubt that his words came into this world from another.” (page 102) What do you think Luke meant? (Hint: 2 Timothy 3:16 and 2 Peter 1:21)

2. Luke also says the letter to the Romans may have been Paul’s most important letter. Pick two or three of the quotes (pages 100-102) and tell why you think they’re significant.

3. Page 116 says, “Paul believed the weather was in God’s hands.” Do you agree? Can you think of anything that’s not in God’s hands? How does that make you feel?

PART 7

MORE LETTERS AND MORE OPPOSITION *The Apostle* pages 119-140



1. Paul wrote many letters to encourage others in their faith. Can you think of someone in your life who could use a text or a tweet, an email or phone call of encouragement from you?

2. Paul proclaims, “Every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.” (page 128—Philippians 2:10-11) Can you even imagine that? Some will bow their knees out of love and adoration as they’ve done in the past; others for the first time with sheer terror, having missed the mark their entire lives. How can we use this image as motivation to tell others about Jesus and His work on the cross for them?

3. Narrator Luke explains how Nero outlawed Christianity and systematically persecuted Christians. (page 130) Paul wrote to Timothy, “Everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.” (page 138—2 Timothy 3:12) This is already happening in many countries in the world today. How should we respond if we’re persecuted for the sake of Christ? How should we be preparing ourselves for persecution?

4. Paul also told Timothy, “The crown awaits which the Lord will award to me on that day, and not only to me, but to all who long for His appearing.” (page 139—2 Timothy 4:8) What is the crown he refers to? Do you long for Christ’s appearing? How can we long for it even more?

PART 8

PAUL'S LAST DAYS *The Apostle pages 141-151*



1. Explain in your own words what narrator Luke says on page 148: “The Caesar left his treasures behind; the Apostle sent all his treasures ahead.”

2. Throughout this entire story, Paul used every possible opportunity to share his faith and proclaim the truth about Jesus who had revealed Himself to Paul on the road to Damascus. What is your testimony of coming to faith in Christ? Have you prepared it in such a way that you could share it with others?

3. Not many people are as bold as Paul was in sharing his testimony. What holds you back or distracts you from talking to others about Jesus? How could you eliminate those things?

4. Throughout this entire story, the message about Jesus brings strong reactions, either one way or the other. Is it possible to “sit on the fence” regarding Jesus?

What’s been your response to Him?

Is there a different way you’d like to respond to Him now, after reading *The Apostle*?



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with author Randy Alcorn

Eternal Perspective Ministries (EPM) is a Bible-believing, Christ-centered nonprofit organization with two goals:

- to teach the principles of God’s Word, emphasizing an eternal viewpoint;
- to reach the needy in Christ’s name, calling attention to the needs of the unreached, unfed, unsupported, unborn, unreconciled, and untrained.

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Several times a year, EPM produces *Eternal Perspectives*, a full-color magazine filled with thought-provoking and informative articles. EPM also sends a periodic email newsletter with the latest news about Randy’s books, projects, and speaking events, as well as special promotions from EPM. You can subscribe at www.epm.org/subscribe.



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*So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen.
For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.*

— 2 Corinthians 4:18