The Church Grows

GRADE 8

CHAPTER 11 Study Guide

*Keep these ideas in mind as you study **Chapter 11**.*

Saul of Tarsus sought to rid the Jewish faith of all followers of Jesus. In flash of light, he saw the truth. He became Paul the apostle.

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Conversion is turning away from yourself and toward Jesus. In Baptism, we undergo a conversion to become disciples of Jesus. To be brothers and sisters to one another, we are called to ongoing conversion. When we turn away from Jesus, we can return to him through the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation — the sacrament of conversion.

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A messenger of God told Cornelius to send for Peter to baptize him. Peter did, and that day the Church began to be catholic, or universal.

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Peter formed a church made up of Gentiles and Jews in the city of Antioch. It was here that disciples were first called "Christians." Paul, Barnabas, and John, who was called Mark, left Antioch for their first mission.

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After his conversion, Paul proclaimed Jesus Christ as Savior. He started churches along the Mediterranean, wrote many of the Epistles, and preached to Gentiles.

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The Council of Jerusalem is known as the first church council. Since then, the Church has held 21 worldwide, or ecumenical, councils. The Council of Jerusalem established that to be a Christian, a person needs faith in Jesus and Baptism and that following all Jewish laws is not necessary. The Council of Jerusalem united and strengthened the Church to face the trials ahead. The missionary work of the Apostles helped the Jewish Christians in Gentile lands.

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When Roman soldiers destroyed the Temple in Jerusalem, Christians fled. They were accepted by other Christian communities, but Rome became the center of Christianity. Peter was the first Bishop of Rome.

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