

# Saint Paul

## GRADE 3, UNIT 5, SESSION 23

Catechist Guide page 137

**Faith Focus:** Paul was happy when he saw how his Church family grew in their faith.

### OUTCOMES

- Describe how Paul spread joy and love to his Church family.
- Explain that Paul wrote letters to his friends, telling them that he loved them.



**About the Artist** Wacław Taranczewski was born in 1903 in Poland. He was a famous artist and his paintings are displayed in many Polish museums. His windows are used in various locations throughout Poland. This St. Paul window is from St. Martin's Church in Poznań, Poland. Taranczewski died in 1987.

**Art-i-facts** Stained glass has been used to decorate churches for more than 1,000 years. Church builders believed that their beauty could raise people's souls closer to God. Glass can be tinted with metallic salts during production or color can be later painted onto clear glass and hardened in a kiln. Bright colors were used for this stained glass of Saint Paul, possibly to represent his happiness that people were growing in their faith.

For your convenience, the Children's Book page is reproduced below.

EXPLORE  
ART PRINT  
23

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

*Art Print 23 shows Saint Paul in bright, happy colors. Paul was happy that people were growing in their faith. How do you feel when you think of God's love?*

### Saint Paul's Joy

We are joyful when our family is happy and peaceful. Saint Paul was excited when he heard how some of his friends were growing in their faith. He knew that the more they grew in the love of Jesus Christ, the more they would serve others. He wrote his friends a letter telling them how much he loved them.

I give thanks to God every time I think of you.  
I pray for you with joy as you help spread the Gospel. I hold you in my heart. I long to see all of you, and pray that your love and understanding will keep growing. May you continue to make good choices so that you will be pure and blameless when Jesus Christ returns.

*adapted from Philippians 1:3–11*

Would you like to receive a letter like this? Which words would make you happy? \_\_\_\_\_

### Link to Liturgy

We hear many of Paul's writings in the Second Reading at Sunday Mass.

## CATECHIST DIRECTIONS

### 1 Begin

After completing page 137 in the Children's Book, display the Art Print.

Briefly introduce and discuss the artwork, using information from About the Artist and Artifacts.


Say: **You probably have seen stained glass in your church, depicting Bible stories and characters.** Ask: **What colors are used in this stained glass?** (bright ones, yellows, oranges, reds, greens, and bright blues) **What is around Saint Paul's head?** (halo) Say: **Artists have used the halo to show holiness for thousands of years. A halo symbolizes God's grace. Its circular shape is a symbol of eternity, which has no beginning and no end.**

Invite children to reflect on the artwork and to pray a silent prayer thanking God for being part of his family.

### 2 Connect

Have children turn to page 249 in their books. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.

Invite a volunteer to read aloud Saint Paul's Joy. Ask: **What did Paul know would happen as his friends grew in their faith?** (They would serve others.) **How did Paul's friends know he loved them?** (He wrote them letters.)

 Say: **Paul started churches in many places. He considered his friends in the churches to be part of his family. He wanted them to be happy and to grow in their faith. He stayed close to his Church family, just as we are close to those we love.** Tell children that you are going to read aloud a letter that Paul wrote to his friends in Philippi, which is in Greece. Show them the letter in the Bible. Then read aloud Paul's Letter to the Philippians.

Read aloud the questions below the letter and give children time to respond.

### Link to Liturgy

Read aloud this feature. Check the Sunday Connection on the Loyola Press Web site to find a Second Reading from Paul for an upcoming Sunday. Identify the reading from Paul and then summarize what he writes in that reading. Encourage children to listen to it on the Sunday that it will be read.

### IF TIME ALLOWS

If time allows, complete one or more of the activities below.

#### Expression: Movement

**Family** Remind children that members of our church are our Church family. Tell children we can be closer to one another by expressing interest in one another. Ask children to write on a slip of paper three interesting facts about themselves. Collect the papers and redistribute to the group. Ask children to take turns standing, reading the paper, and trying to guess the person. After a few attempts, ask the person who wrote the information to stand and read the next set of facts.

**Time:** 20 minutes

**Materials:** paper, pencils

#### Expression: Art Studio

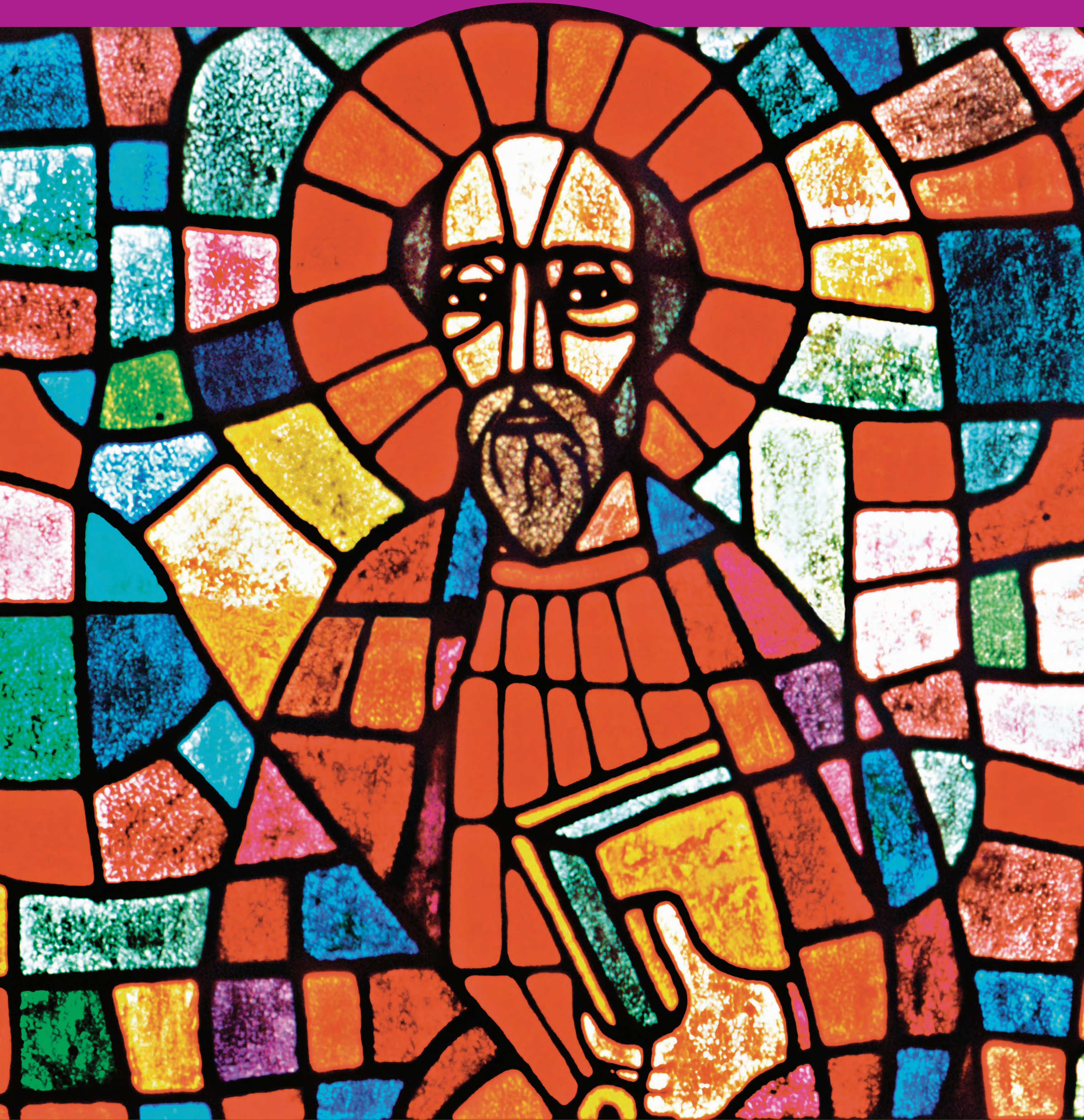
**Stained Glass** Provide children with a cross cut from construction paper. In advance cut out 2-inch pieces of its interior, allowing the paper to serve as "lead" for a stained glass window. Ask children to cut and tape colored cellophane behind the cross, making a faux stained glass picture to hang in their windows at home.

**Time:** 20 minutes

**Materials:** construction paper cross (prepared in advance of class), pencils, scissors, colored cellophane, tape



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Waclaw Taranczewski, 20th century.