Saul hated Jesus.

Saul hated people even talking about Jesus.

Every time he so much as heard the name Jesus he got cross.

Why did Saul hate Jesus so much?

Because Jesus had said Saul and his friends were wrong!

Saul and his friends tried so hard to be good:

But Jesus had said they weren’t good enough!

Saul and his friends tried not to do anything bad:

But Jesus said they were bad in their hearts.

Saul and his friends tried so hard to keep God’s rules:

But Jesus said they’d broken two of God’s biggest rules:

Love God as much as you can

And love others as much as you love yourself.

Saul really hated Jesus.

He hated him the most when Jesus had said he was God

So when Jesus died on the cross

Saul thought it was all over

After all God can’t die.

Then Jesus’ friends, and lots of other people, started saying he was alive again

That they’d seen him,

Spoken to him,

Touched him,

Eaten with him.

So Saul hated Jesus’ friends too.

He started by telling them they were not to talk about Jesus

But they were so excited they couldn’t talk about anything else!

Now Saul was going to put people in prison if they talked about Jesus.

As Saul walked along thinking about all the people he hated and how he would put them in prison…

“Argh!”

There was a bright light.

And a voice said: “Saul, Saul. Why are you hurting me?”

And Saul asked, “Who are you?”

“I’m Jesus!” said the voice.

Uh oh! Thought Saul.

Jesus really is alive again and he’s talking to me!

He must be really cross!

“What do you want me to do?” Saul asked Jesus

Jesus told him to go into the city and wait.

And when the light was gone Saul couldn’t see anything at all!

Saul waited…

And waited…

And waited.

Then God told him a man called Ananias was coming to help him see.

When Ananias got there he said:

“Saul, my brother, it was Jesus who sent me to help you.

The same Jesus who spoke to you on the road.

He really is alive again and everything you’ve heard about him is true.”

Saul didn’t hate Jesus anymore after that.

Jesus had **rescued** him from trying to be good

Now he had God’s Spirit to help him be good.

Jesus had **rescued** him from his bad heart

He’d given Saul his own perfect heart.

Jesus had **rescued** him from all his hatred.

Now he loved Jesus more that anything.