



UNIT 33 | SESSION 1

PAUL BECAME A CHRISTIAN

ACTS 9

CHRIST CONNECTION

Jesus appeared to Saul and changed him inside and out.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION

Who can be saved? Anyone who trusts in Jesus is saved.

MEMORY VERSE

John 3:17

PREPARE



Take time to reflect
on today's lesson

LEADER BIBLE STUDY

The Acts 9 story of how Saul of Tarsus came to be a follower of Jesus is a widely known passage that reveals an essential truth for us as believers: God has the power to transform the hearts and lives of anyone who places their faith in Him. The power of the Holy Spirit changes us from the inside out, and the same Lord who transformed Saul causes us to walk in new life when we turn to Christ.

What do we learn about the role of God's saving grace in this story? How can our testimonies reflect the same Spirit-empowered life change as Saul's?

God sought out Saul for the work of His kingdom, despite the hostility and malice this former Pharisee had toward the Christian church. Nothing in Saul's story — not even the wrongful executions and imprisonment of Christ's disciples — was too big for God to forgive by grace through faith in His Son, Jesus.

Through his experience on the road to Damascus, Saul realized the weight of his own sin, the power of this mighty God, and the only chance he had in being made right before Him: surrendering his life to Jesus. Nothing Saul did could separate him from God's love for him in Jesus. The same is true for us!

Later, in a letter to his protégé Timothy, Saul — also known by his Greek name, Paul — wrote, "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners"—and I am the worst of them" (1 Tim. 1:15). He knew he needed God's grace to be made right before the Father and that trusting in Jesus was his only means of being saved.

Teach the kids in your group that all of us, no matter how young or old we are, needed Jesus to come into the world to save us. The gospel transforms our hearts and propels us to share the life we've found in Jesus with all who will listen. How can you equip your class with the excitement and knowledge of Jesus Christ that will lead them to share of His love, just as Paul did?

TERMS TO KNOW

Christian: From the Greek noun *Christos* ("Christ" or "Messiah") comes the word *Christianos*, meaning "belonging to Christ." The disciples were first called "Christians" in Antioch. (Acts 11:26)



PAUL BECAME A CHRISTIAN

After Jesus died, rose from the dead, and ascended to heaven, people in Jerusalem who believed in Jesus were persecuted, or treated cruelly because of their faith. One of Jesus' followers, Stephen, was even killed. A man named Saul had watched in approval when Stephen was killed. Saul wanted to put an end to the church. He went into the believers' homes, dragged them out, and put them in jail. Many believers fled the city.

Saul headed to Damascus to arrest believers there, but on the way, a bright light from heaven suddenly flashed around him. Saul fell to the ground. He heard a voice saying, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?"

"Who are You, Lord?" Saul asked.

"I am Jesus," He replied. "Get up and go into the city. Then you will be told what you must do."

The men who were traveling with Saul were speechless. They heard the sound but saw no one. Saul got up and opened his eyes, but he couldn't see! So the men who were traveling with Saul led him by the hand into Damascus.

Ananias (an uh NIGH uhs), a disciple of Jesus, lived in Damascus. The Lord spoke to Ananias in a vision. He told Ananias to go to the house where Saul was staying. Ananias knew that Saul had hurt many believers and that he arrested anyone who believed in Jesus. But the Lord said, "Go! I have chosen this man to take my name to Gentiles, kings, and Israelites."

Ananias obeyed. He found Saul and told Saul that Jesus had sent him to help. Ananias put his hands on Saul, and Saul could see again. Saul got up and was baptized. For the next few days, Saul stayed with the believers in Damascus. He began to go to the synagogues to preach about Jesus. Saul told the people, "Jesus is the Son of God!"

The people were amazed. They recognized Saul and knew he had wanted to put an end to the church. Now he was one of them! The Jews did not like Saul's message. They planned to kill him, so one night Saul left the city. The disciples helped Saul escape by lowering him down the city wall in a basket.

Later in the Bible, Saul is referred to by his Roman name, Paul.

CHRIST CONNECTION

Jesus appeared to Saul and changed him inside and out. Jesus called Saul, who was once an enemy to Christians, to spend the rest of his life telling people the gospel and leading them to trust in Jesus.

WELCOME



Connect with kids as they arrive

OPENING ACTIVITIES

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to build relationships and help new kids connect to your group.

Before heading to Large Group, kids can work on the provided coloring or activity pages. You can also do the Memory Verse Activity below as a class!

MEMORY VERSE

For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

- John 3:17, ESV

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

We're in a new unit, so we have a new memory verse! Our verse, written above, is John 3:17.

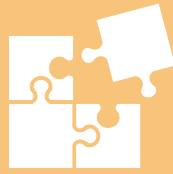
Today, introduce the verse to kids and remind them they can earn Bible Bucks at the end of the month by memorizing it.

Have kids stand in a circle and give one of them a ball. Instruct them to say the first word of the memory verse and pass the ball to another kid. The one that catches the ball says the next word in the verse and then passes the ball to someone else.

Continue until the entire verse has been said! Make it a challenge by seeing how fast the class can complete the verse.

Optional: if the weather is nice, go outside!

K12 ACTIVITIES



Do crafts and games with younger kids after Large Group

ACTIVITY

Go out into the hallway where the “roads” are located. (There’s one for each classroom.)

Have kids partner up and explain they’ll take turns helping their teammates walk down the road blindfolded.

Explain that as kids are blindfolded, their teams need to help guide the blindfolded kids down the “road” without them stepping outside the lines.

Optional: Make it more challenging by adding “obstacles”. Use painters tape to create obstacles the kids have to step over, make odd turns, etc.

CONNECT THE DOTS



You all needed help to stay on the right path. Today we learned how Saul could not see after meeting Jesus on the road. When he was traveling, he had to rely on his friends to help him walk down the road.

A NOTE ABOUT MOTHER’S DAY

Today is a day we set aside every year to celebrate moms. As joyful as today is for many, it can also be hard for those who have lost or don’t have a good relationship with their mom.

Make an effort to remain conscious of this today and be sensitive to kids’ needs, actions, and reactions throughout the morning.

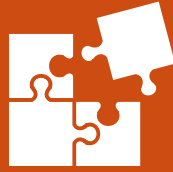
CRAFT

Give a Mother’s Day box template to each kid who wants to do the craft.

Have kids color their templates and write on them as they desire. After decorating, have them cut it out and fold it along the lines to create a box.

Be sure to assist kids as needed.

345 ACTIVITIES



Do crafts and games
with older kids after
Large Group

ACTIVITY

Fill a paper bag with the various objects provided (pencils, tape, ball, etc.) and invite kids to pick one object from the bag.

Once they pick their object, ask them to share how this object serves a certain purpose. For example, if they picked a watch, they can share how a watch helps us tell time so we can schedule our days and get to places on time.

CONNECT THE DOTS



The objects were chosen by you and each object serves a certain purpose. We're learning today that Saul was chosen by God for a purpose. In fact, God's Word teaches us that every Christian is chosen by God and is given the purpose of proclaiming His praises. *(Read 1 Peter 2:9.)* God has a purpose for you!

A NOTE ABOUT MOTHER'S DAY

Today is a day we set aside every year to celebrate moms. As joyful as today is for many, it can also be hard for those who have lost or don't have a good relationship with their mom.

Make an effort to remain conscious of this today and be sensitive to kids' needs, actions, and reactions throughout the morning.

CRAFT

Give a Mother's Day box template to each kid who wants to do the craft.

Have kids color their templates and write on them as they desire. After decorating, have them cut it out and fold it along the lines to create a box.

Be sure to assist kids as needed.

CLOSING ACTIVITIES



Continue to engage kids while they wait to be picked up

BIBLE STORY REVIEW

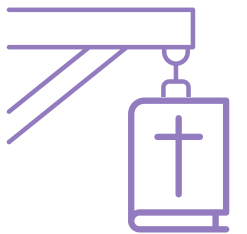
After Large Group, ask the following questions and lead your class to discuss.

1. What caused Saul to change? Has God changed you before? What are some ways you can ask God to change you for the better?
2. It took courage for Ananias to obey God and go to Saul. How can we have courage to obey God even when it might be hard or scary?
3. Read Acts 9:23. What did Saul face shortly after preaching the gospel?
4. After Saul encountered Jesus, he wanted to tell everyone. When have you told someone the good news about Jesus?

HAVE EXTRA TIME?

Play Bible Hangman on the whiteboard!

Play one big game as a class and let kids take turns picking the word, person, place, or event in the Bible for the rest of the class to guess.



BEFORE YOU GO...

Please clean up by doing the following:

1. Put all extra supplies and binders back in the curriculum bins (**Kinder leaders: Curriculum bins go back inside the bottom cabinet**)
2. Clean all trash off the tables
3. Put all crayons, markers, etc. back in the appropriate containers and cubbies
4. Erase the whiteboards and put markers/erasers back in holder
5. Turn off TVs as you leave

THANK YOU FOR SERVING WITH US!