



UNIT 33 | SESSION 1

PAUL BECAME A CHRISTIAN

ACTS 9

CHRIST CONNECTION

God changes us to be like Jesus.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION

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

MEMORY VERSE

God sent Jesus to save people. 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!

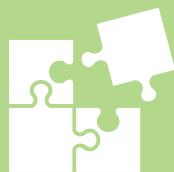
Later, in a letter to his protégé Timothy, Saul — also known by his Greek name, Paul — wrote, "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners' — and I am the worst of them" (1 Tim. 1:15). He knew he needed God's grace to be made right before the Father and that trusting in Jesus was his only means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

Teach the children 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)

OPENING & ACTIVITIES



Connect with children through games and activities

WELCOME

Play music as you greet children coming into the classroom. Help them feel welcome as they play games and interact with other children.

ACTIVITY #1: GUESS THE ITEMS

Take the provided shoe box and have children line up in front of it.

One by one, invite children to place their hands through the holes and feel the object(s) inside the box without looking.

Encourage them to guess what they think is inside. After everyone has guessed, open the lid to reveal the object(s) inside!

CONNECT THE DOTS



You guessed what was in the box without seeing it. There was a time when Paul could not see. He was an enemy of Jesus and worked to stop people from talking about Jesus. When he was traveling, a bright light came from heaven. The voice of Jesus asked, 'Why are you against Me?' When Paul opened his eyes, he could not see. God sent Ananias to help Paul. Ananias put his hands on Paul, and he could see again.

CONNECT THE DOTS



I like the different sound shakers! If we listen closely, we can tell if each shaker contains beans, rice, sand, or all three without using our eyes. Paul could not see after a bright light came down from heaven. God sent Ananias to help Paul. Ananias put his hands on Paul, and Paul could see again. Paul was an enemy of Jesus, but then God changed him.

ACTIVITY #2: SOUND SHAKER

Place the provided sensory bottles on the table and demonstrate how to use the bottles to make different sounds.

Encourage children to experiment with the different sounds they hear as they play with the bottles made with different ingredients. Before children play with the bottles, make sure the lids are tightly secured.

CRAFT & EXAMPLE



Help children with a craft connected to the Bible story

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 children's needs, actions, and reactions throughout the morning.

CRAFT: WIND CHIMES

Supplies: wind chime sets, decorating utensils

Give a Mother's Day wind chime set to every child who wants to participate and let them decorate as they want. They can even write a note to whoever they're giving it to if there's room.

Using the example in your bin, help children put together their craft. Make sure every child's craft has their name on it so they know which one to take home with them!





PREPARE

Open your Bible to **Acts 9** and tell the following story.

PAUL BECAME A CHRISTIAN

In the early days of the church, Paul worked hard to stop people from telling about Jesus. Paul decided to go to the city of Damascus to arrest believers there. Paul was traveling along when a very bright light came down from heaven.

Paul fell to the ground. Then he heard a voice saying, “Why are you against Me?”

“Who are You, Lord?” Paul asked.

“I am Jesus,” He said. Jesus told Paul to go into the city of Damascus and wait for more instructions.

Paul got up and opened his eyes, but he couldn’t see anything! So the men who were traveling with Paul led him into the city.

A man named Ananias (an uh NIGH uhs) lived in the city. God told him to go visit Paul. God said, “I have chosen Paul to tell many people about Me.”

Ananias went to Paul and said, “Jesus sent me here to help you.” Then Ananias put his hands on Paul, and Paul could see again. Paul got up and was baptized.

Paul went to the synagogues. “Jesus is the Son of God!” Paul said. The people were amazed. They knew Paul had been an enemy of Jesus, but now he loved Jesus!

CHRIST CONNECTION

Paul was an enemy of Jesus and His followers, but then God changed him. Jesus came to earth to save sinners like Paul. (1 Timothy 1:15) When we trust in Jesus, He changes us from the inside out.

SNACK & CLOSING



Continue to engage children near the end of the morning

SNACK TIME

Wash hands or use hand sanitizer. Serve a snack. Show children the Bible story picture as you ask the following questions and retell parts of the Bible story as needed.

1. What was your favorite part of today's Bible story?
2. What did you learn about God in today's Bible story?
3. Who spoke to Paul when a bright light flashed around him?
4. Who can be saved? **Anyone who trusts in Jesus is saved.**

CLOSING ACTIVITIES

Pick up toys and games from around the room and put them away. After the room is cleaned up, set out markers or crayons and let children work on today's Bible story coloring page or activity page until their parents arrive.

You can also choose a book to read to children as they work or for those who don't want to work. Please make the effort to have children quietly engaged in the last few minutes of the service. When parents arrive to pick up their child, share about something their child enjoyed doing or did well today.

BEFORE YOU GO...

Please clean up by doing the following:

1. Spray down toys with disinfectant
2. Spot sweep if needed
3. Return toys to closet, close door
4. Throw away any trash left on counters and in room
5. Return storage cubes to **Room 108**

THANK YOU FOR SERVING WITH US!