

LESSON 50

Saul Is Knocked to the Ground

ACTS 9:1-19



BIBLE TRUTH

NO ONE CAN RESIST THE CALLING OF GOD

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

SUPPLIES: *The Gospel Story Bible* (story 128)

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: *The Gospel Story Bible* (story 1)

3. BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

Where Is the Gospel?

SUPPLIES: Bible (ESV preferred); Review “Where Is the Gospel?” to prepare

4. SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: snack food and beverage

5. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5–10 MIN

6. ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS (CHOOSE ONE OR MORE) 20–30 MIN

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES: coloring page for NT Lesson 50—one for each child; markers or crayons

Blinded by the Light

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ a small flashlight
- ✓ two or three flash cameras
- ✓ brown paper or black plastic
- ✓ masking tape

Saul Is Changed

SUPPLIES: Bible

7. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

TOTAL 60–75 MIN

THE LESSON

OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

In today's lesson the children will learn about the conversion of Saul.

Choose one person from the class and tell them that you want them to pick one other person in the class. If they ask why just encourage them to select someone. Once they do, bring that person to the front of the class so that you now have two children up front. Next, ask each of them to pick someone else. Have those selected children join the others up front and hold hands with each other. Continue doing this until the entire class has been selected and makes a line across (or circles) the room.

Tell the class that this is how people come to know Jesus—one person telling another. Eventually the entire earth will hear the gospel.

Saul was a man in the Bible who was chosen for the task of telling others about Jesus. We will hear his story today.

Take time to pray and thank God for those who share Jesus with others. Pray for the remainder of the class time before moving forward with the lesson.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read story 128, "Saul Is Knocked to the Ground," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion:

- **What was Saul like before meeting the Lord?**
(He was very committed to stopping the spread of Christianity. He wanted to protect Judaism from this influence.)
- **Why did Saul go to the high priest?**
(Saul went to the high priest to get letters of permission to arrest Christians and bring them to Jerusalem.)

- **In what other Bible story do we find Saul?**
(He watched the stoning of Stephen, giving his approval.)

SNACK QUESTIONS **10 MIN**

While the children are eating the snack, engage them by asking the following questions:

- **Why was Ananias nervous about going to meet Saul like the Lord directed?**
(Ananias knew about Saul and the great evil he did against the people of God. It is likely he was afraid.)
- **What gave Ananias the confidence to go to Saul and prophesy the word of the Lord to him?**
(Ananias heard the voice of the Lord and was filled with faith so he obeyed.)
- **What happened when Ananias laid hands on Saul?**
(Saul was filled with the Holy Spirit and he regained his sight. Saul then believed in Jesus and was baptized into the church.)

Where Is the Gospel? _____

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

Saul heard a voice asking, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" (Acts 9:4). He did not know who was speaking, so he asked, "Who are you, Lord?" To his amazement the response was, "I am Jesus." Saul knew that Jesus had been a teacher, and that he had died on the cross. But Saul did not yet know and believe that Jesus was Lord, the Son of God, raised in power!

We, like Saul, are sinners who do not know Jesus. Our experience in coming to know Jesus is similar to Paul's. While we are sinners God takes the initiative to move us toward himself. Saul was on his way to kill more Christians when Jesus revealed himself to him. Saul immediately realized that the stories of Jesus' resurrection were true. Jesus was, and is, alive!

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5-10 MIN

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult.

ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS. 20-30 MIN

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page for NT Lesson 50—one for each child; markers or crayons

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

- **Why was Saul a bad man before he met Jesus?**
(Saul was arresting Christians so they could be hurt and even killed.)
- **Who knocked Saul down, stopping him from killing more Christians?**
(Jesus knocked Saul down and blinded him.)
- **Who spoke to Saul and what did he tell him?**
(Jesus spoke to Saul and told him that he was going to use him to take the message of the gospel to tell others about Jesus.)
- **What happened to Saul next?**
(He was blind and had to be led by the hand until Ananias laid hands on him and prayed for him.)

Blinded by the Light

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ small flashlight
- ✓ two or three flash cameras
- ✓ brown paper or black plastic
- ✓ masking tape

Prior to class, darken your classroom by taping brown paper or black plastic over the windows with masking tape. (Even masking tape may damage finishes. Take care to test—and even ask permission—prior to taping classroom surfaces.) Use the flashlight to spotlight the characters while they are acting. If the flashlight is too bright it will dull the impact of the flash cameras. It is OK for the room to be dimly lit as it will add to the drama of the story. When the children arrive, position them safely on the floor in front of your stage area. Explain that you are going to turn out the lights for the skit and that they should not move. Have one of the teachers act out the role of Saul.

SCENE ONE: Saul meeting with the high priest asking for permission to capture the Christians in all the surrounding synagogues.

SCENE TWO: Saul marching along breathing out murderous threats toward the Christians he will find.

SCENE THREE: Have a cue to have the flash cameras go off all at once. Then have another teacher play the voice of the Lord. Turn on the classroom lights and have a helper rush up to Saul asking, “What happened?” Then have Saul realize he is blind and cannot see.

From that point tell the rest of the story. Help the children see that like Saul we are also sinners. We need God’s help to open our eyes to see who Jesus really is. We need his help to believe, just like Saul did.

Saul Is Changed

SUPPLIES:

✓ Bible

Read Acts 9:19–30. Tell the children you are going to pretend that they are Christians running away from Saul in Damascus. Have one of your adult helpers play Saul. Have Saul approach the center of the classroom from one of the corners and have the Christians recognize him, warn the others by saying, “It is Saul!” and look for anywhere to hide. (You can explain to the children this is like the game Hide and Seek and Saul is “it.” Have Saul say, “I’m gonna get you Christians.”

Then make an announcement to the class and say, “Now Jesus blinded Saul and changed his heart.”

Then have Saul call out to them, “Do not be afraid. I believe in Jesus now.” Then have the whole class act amazed that God changed Saul and helped him become a Christian. The man who once persecuted the church now is preaching that Jesus is real!

Take time to talk to the children about how different Paul is in these verses from the beginning of the chapter where he is breathing murderous threats. Ask them why he is different. How does God similarly want to work in our lives? Have a teacher or parent prepared to share their testimony of how God saved and changed them.

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

Take time at the end of class to thank God for what you learned today. Include parts of your Bible lesson in your prayer as a way for the children to remember today’s lesson.

LESSON 50 - SAUL IS KNOCKED TO THE GROUND

