

Acts-Revelation

Saul is changed!

Acts 9:1-22

Younger Verse

Christ died for you. 1 Peter 3:18

Older Verse

Christ Himself died for you. And that one death paid for your wrongs. He was not guilty, but He died for those who were guilty. He did this to bring you all to God. 1 Peter 3:18

Welcome Time

Ask the group if they have ever received a gift. Of course you will see everyone's hand raise to share a special memory with you. Explain that in today's lesson we will learn about a gift that God gave us—Jesus.

Bible Story

Please read the story in the Bible and the paraphrase listed below. Please do NOT read from this page. The lesson would be most effective if a outline of the story was placed in the Bible on the page corresponding to the story. Be familiar enough with the story that you could tell it easily and simply.

Saul was a man who did not believe in Jesus. In fact he was so mad at the people who did believe in Jesus that he wanted to arrest them. He got special permission from the officials to go to a town called Damascus to look for Christians. His plan was to arrest them and bring them back to have them punished.

As he was traveling to Damascus, an unusual thing happened. A bright light from Heaven suddenly flashed around him. Saul fell to the ground. He heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul! Why are you doing things against me?"

Saul said, "Who are you, Lord?"

The voice answered, "I am Jesus. I am the One you are trying to hurt. Get up now and go into the city. Someone there will tell you what you must do."

Saul got up from the ground. He opened his eyes—BUT HE COULD NOT SEE! So the men who came with him had to lead him to the town. For 3 days Saul did not eat or drink anything.

In the town of Damascus, there was a person named Ananias. He loved Jesus very much. The Lord spoke to him and said, "Get up and go to the street called Straight Street. Find the house of Judas. Ask for a man named Saul from the city of Tarsus. He is praying in the house."

Lesson Goals

Share with the kids how they can trust Jesus
Learn how Saul became a Christian
See how God loves us and sent Jesus
Think about how they can share what they believe

But Ananias answered, “Lord, many people have told me about this man. He has done terrible things to people who believe in You.”

The Lord said to Ananias, “Go! I have chosen Saul for an important work. He believes in Me now and he will tell many people about Me.”

So Ananias obeyed God and went to the house and found Saul. He put his hands on Saul’s eyes and something like fish scales fell off. Immediately Saul could see! But there was a difference in what he now saw. He not only could see physically again, but now he saw everything with new eyes—spiritually. Before, he wanted to hurt Jesus’ friends and even kill them; now, he loved Jesus and wanted to serve Him and His friends.

Next, Saul got up and was baptized because he wanted everyone to know that he believed in Jesus. Saul decided to change his name to show the change in his heart. His name became Paul.

Paul stayed in Damascus and told people about Jesus’ love. He shared with them how Jesus had changed his life. He explained to them that Jesus was the only way for them to go to Heaven. He told them that they could follow Jesus too if they prayed and asked Him to come into their lives.

All the people were amazed. They knew that Jesus had definitely changed his life.

Jesus can change your life too. He wants to come into your life and be your best friend. The choice is yours—will you ask Jesus to come into your life? Right now is the best time.

Ananias did something important too. He told Paul about Jesus. He was not afraid to stand up for what he believed. You can do the same!

Learning Activities

There is a variety of activities in the packet. Try new things and see how the children respond. Be creative—maybe you can act out the story!

Memory Verse Activities

Talk about what it means that we are “guilty.” Share how Jesus made a way to clean out our dirty sins.

Prayer Time

This time may be an excellent opportunity to share a prayer for Jesus to come into a life. Be careful—some kids will not understand and may just go along to please you, friends, or to avoid peer pressure. If you have enough help, break down into groups of 2-3 kids and share.

Clean Up/Snack time

It might be fun to bring special candy for today. Check the Mission for goodies!

Preschool Lesson
For
Saul is changed

Saul was a man who did not believe in Jesus. In fact he was so mad at the people who did believe in Jesus, that he wanted to arrest them.

As he was traveling to a town, something strange happened. A bright light from Heaven suddenly flashed around him. Saul fell to the ground. He heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul! Why are you doing things against me?" (bring a flashlight to shine down as you tell this part of the story)

Saul said, "Who are you, Lord?"

The voice answered, "I am Jesus. I am the One you are trying to hurt. Get up now and go into the city. Someone there will tell you what you must do."

Saul got up from the ground. He opened his eyes—**BUT HE COULD NOT SEE!** So the men who came with him had to lead him to the town. For 3 days Saul did not eat or drink anything.

In town, there was a person named Ananias. He loved Jesus very much. The Lord spoke to him and said, "Get up and go to the street called Straight Street. Find the house of Judas. Ask for a man named Saul from the city of Tarsus. He is praying in the house.

But Ananias answered, "Lord, many people have told me about this man. He has done terrible things to people who believe in You."

The Lord said to Ananias, "Go! I have chosen Saul for an important work. He believes in Me now and he will tell many people about Me.

So Ananias obeyed God and went to the house and found Saul. He put his hands on Saul's eyes and something like fish scales fell off. Immediately Saul could see! But there was a difference in what he now saw. He not only could see physically again, but now he saw everything with new eyes—spiritually. Before, he wanted to hurt Jesus' friends and even kill them; now, he loved Jesus and wanted to serve Him and His friends.

Next, Saul got up and was baptized because he wanted everyone to know that he believed in Jesus. Saul decided to change his name to show the change in his heart. His name became Paul.

Paul stayed in town and told people about Jesus' love. He shared with them how Jesus had changed his life. He told them how much God loved them.

All the people were amazed. They knew that Jesus had definitely changed his life.

God loves us too. We can tell other people about His love.

Sing this tune of "This Old Man."

Saul was mean and he did wrong
He hurt people who loved God.
He tried to get them and throw them in the jail
The news of Saul spread just like the mail.

Then one day, to the town
God blinded Saul and gave him a frown.
Saul knew that he had made a big mistake
He asked God to give him a break.

From now on, Saul was changed
And his name was rearranged
His name was Paul and he told the world of love
God's special love from up above.

Hands-On Activities For Saul is changed

Bring a flashlight and act out the lesson using the flashlight as the bright light.

Bring water, clear cups and food coloring. Put a drop of food coloring in the cups and pour water into it. Let the kids see how the water changes colors. Share how Jesus changes us on the inside when we believe in Him.

Saul/Paul was blinded by a bright light. Bring blindfolds and have a trust walk with the kids. Ask them to share how it felt to be blind.

God told Ananias exactly where to go to meet Paul. He cares about everyone, even people who at first do not like Him! Think about who you can visit this week and share Christ.

Make some fun “fish scales.” Put a very thin amount of glue to coat the palm of your hand. Let it dry. Now, peel it off. This may be something similar to what Paul had on his eyes.