

March 22



Acts 9:1-22

Note to Parents

This week we begin learning about the life of Paul. Paul experienced a lot of difficulties in life but trusted Jesus through it all. Your kids may think they are going through a lot having to stay home this week. Use the life of Paul as an opportunity to talk about trusting Jesus and telling others about Him even in difficult times.

Retell

Reread the story (Acts 9:1-22) and act out the different parts of the story (story is divided into 5 scenes).

Media

- Video of The Story of Paul (overview of Paul's life)

Activities

- Choose from the different **activity pages** to print and complete.
- Watch the **music** video about bravery and see if you can learn the words to it.

Opening

Describe what it means to be brave.

Background

The church was growing! So many people put their trust in Jesus. Many people were being healed and members of the church cared for one another. This made the religious leaders jealous. One young leader, Saul, held the coats of the men who killed Stephen. Now he is going all over the country putting believers in jail, beating them up and even putting some people to death. The happy days turned into scary days for many followers of Jesus. Our story today is about when Saul, a man who hated God and His people, encountered God on a road called Damascus.

Words to Know (2 min)

1. Persecute: to intentionally hurt someone or a group of people repeatedly, to threaten with harm
2. A Vision: like a dream but clearer, a supernatural encounter. Remember there are two worlds: the seen and the unseen. Visions are a glimpse into the unseen world. In the Bible they are messages from God.
3. Gentiles: people who were not Jewish

Talk to God:

Thank God for His Word and ask for wisdom to learn from it.

Story Telling

1. Watch the video that gives an overview of Paul's life.
2. Read the story from Acts 9:1-22 that is about Paul becoming a believer in Jesus. We will cover other stories in the weeks to come.
3. Act out different parts of the story from Acts 9:1-22.



Story: Acts 9:1-22 (Easy to Read)

1. In Jerusalem Saul was still trying to scare the followers of the Lord, even saying he would kill them. He went to the high priest and asked him to write letters to the synagogues in the city of Damascus. Saul wanted the high priest to give him the authority to find people in Damascus who were followers of the Way. If he found any believers there, men or women, he would arrest them and bring them back to Jerusalem.
2. So Saul went to Damascus. When he came near the city, a very bright light from heaven suddenly shined around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul! Why are you persecuting me?"
Saul said, "Who are you, Lord?"
The voice answered, "I am Jesus, the one you are persecuting. Get up now and go into the city. Someone there will tell you what you must do."
The men traveling with Saul just stood there, unable to speak. They heard the voice, but they saw no one. Saul got up from the ground and opened his eyes, but he could not see. So the men with him held his hand and led him into Damascus. For three days, Saul could not see; he did not eat or drink.
3. There was a follower of Jesus in Damascus named Ananias. In a vision the Lord said to him, "Ananias!"
Ananias answered, "Here I am, Lord."
The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight Street. Find the house of Judas and ask for a man named Saul from the city of Tarsus. He is there now, praying. He has seen a vision in which a man named Ananias came and laid his hands on him so that he could see again."
But Ananias answered, "Lord, many people have told me about this man. They told me about the many bad things he did to your holy people in Jerusalem. Now he has come here to Damascus. The leading priests have given him the power to arrest all people who trust in you."
But the Lord Jesus said to Ananias, "Go! I have chosen Saul for an important work. I want him to tell other nations, their rulers, and the people of Israel about me. I will show him all that he must suffer for me."
4. So Ananias left and went to the house of Judas. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Saul, my brother, the Lord Jesus sent me. He is the one you saw on the road when you came here. He sent me so that you can see again and also be filled with the Holy Spirit." Immediately, something that looked like fish scales fell off Saul's eyes. He was able to see! Then he got up and was baptized. After he ate, he began to feel strong again.
5. Saul stayed with the followers of Jesus in Damascus for a few days. Soon he began to go to the synagogues and tell people about Jesus. He told the people, "Jesus is the Son of God!"
All the people who heard Saul were amazed. They said, "This is the same man who was in Jerusalem trying to destroy the people who trust in Jesus! And that's why he has come here—to arrest the followers of Jesus and take them back to the leading priests."
But Saul became more and more powerful in proving that Jesus is the Messiah. His proofs were so strong that the Jews who lived in Damascus could not argue with him.

Discovery Questions

Head

- Who are the people in the story?
- What happened to Paul in the scripture you read?
- Who helped Paul?
- Why was Ananias hesitant to help Paul?
- What did Paul do as soon as he regained his sight and strength?
- What did God do in the story?

Heart

- What can we learn about people from Ananias?
- What character quality did Ananias need to obey God?
- What can we learn about people from the actions of Paul?
- What can we learn about God from this story?
- If you could make this story into a movie, what title would you give it?

Hands

- What do you think God is telling you to do from what you learned about God and people in today's story?
- Who can you tell share this story with this week?

Talk to God

Spend some time with God talking to Him about the story. Tell Him something you liked about the story. Ask Him to help you trust Him this week.