

*Get Ready!***Celebrating the Good News**

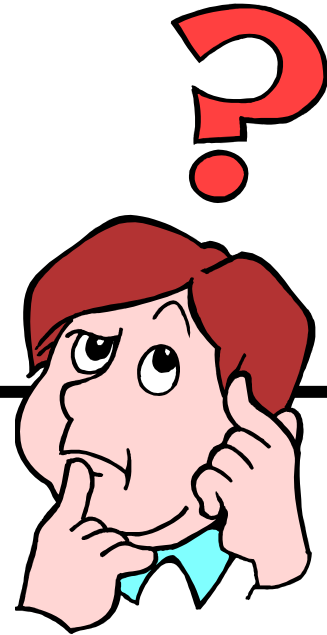
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Text

Acts 8:57, Acts 9:1-25

Key Quest Verse

“Lord, what will you have me to do?” Acts 9:6

**Bible Background**

Many Christians fled from Jerusalem after Stephen was stoned in fear of persecution. Saul wanted all Christians hunted down and destroyed. He was educated under Gamaliel and knew the Bible. He truly thought that the Christian movement was dangerous to Judaism. Because of this belief he brought Christians to Jerusalem in chains for trial. He would travel several hundred miles to persecute and destroy Christians. He was on his way to Damascus when Jesus confronted him and was blinded. Ananias was fearful but followed God’s commission and followed God’s leading to talk with Saul. God transformed Saul from a persecutor of Christians to a preacher of Christ. Saul was better known as Paul, an apostle of Christ. With God’s help, Paul preached the gospel despite such obstacles as prison, riots, plots to kill him, being beaten and being shipwrecked.

Get Ready!



Lesson Quest

What I want my students to:

Know: We can make a difference.

Feel: Eager to spread God's word.

Do: Show someone God loves her or him.

Leader's Devotion

Can you imagine living in the days of Jesus? Think of the people that He came in daily contact with. He loved them, He fed them, He touched them, and He healed them. These people were just like you and me! Jesus loved them just as He loves you! What did He do to reach people? What can you do to reach people and testify of God's love and hope of salvation? Write a list of at least three people that you would like to invite to church and INVITE them this week.

Get Set!



Option A

Materials: A map of your city (www.mapquest.com) on one side of the paper and a picture of Jesus on the other side.

Cut each piece of paper into about 30 pieces and place on the table (map side up) in front of each students seat. **I don't know about you but I love putting puzzles together. This may be a little hard because we don't have a picture to look at, but it should be easy for you because this is our city. This is where God wants us to tell others about Him. Take your time and lets' see if we can fit the pieces together! Can you find your street?** (The children may get frustrated or even turn the pieces over to discover the picture of Jesus on the back.) **Look, there seems to be a picture on the back of this map. Even though this map was of (your home town), I think it will be a lot easier to put *this picture* together. When we get Jesus in the right place, then the world and our lives come out all right.**

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

Option B

Materials: Transformer and a brown lunch bag

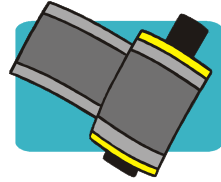
I have a special item in this lunch bag. Each of you will get a turn to shake it, smell it, and even feel it and try to guess what is in the bag. Give each child a chance to feel the transformer in the closed lunch bag. **Does anybody want to try to guess what is in the bag? Let's open it and see. This is called a transformer. When it is like this, it looks like a monster. Then is transforms or changes and looks like a car. In our story today, we're going to learn of a man who was transformed. What does that mean? Just like this transformer, he was able to change. After another man talked with him about God and His Son, he was filled with God's power and became a man who told others all about Jesus.**

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

Get Set!**Bible Story**

Materials: 1 inch by 6 inch black strips of paper for chains, play dough, basket, doll, rope, wall of shoe boxes or a cardboard box for the city wall.

After Jesus died and went to heaven to sit at the right hand of God, many people were searching and learning more of God's plan for a Kingdom on earth. There was a man named Saul who did not believe in Jesus and thought all those people talking about a Savior were bad. (frown) Saul wanted to stop the people who were talking about Jesus so badly that he would search for Christians, chain them up and bring them to Jerusalem to be punished. Chain the children's hands together as if in handcuffs and then chain them together. Would you talk about Jesus if someone was going to chain you up and put you in jail? That's exactly what was happening in Bible times and it even happens today in other countries. Now Saul was happy when he had prisoners and he was on his way to find more Christians in the city of Damascus. He was walking along a dusty road and all of the sudden a bright light from heaven flashed around him and he fell to the ground. Then a voice from heaven said, "Saul why are you hurting me?" And Saul asked, "Who are you?" The voice replied, "I am Jesus, now get up and go into the city and someone there will tell you what you must do." The men that were with Saul were afraid, they had heard a voice but didn't see anyone. When Saul went to get up off the ground, he couldn't see, so the men had to lead him to Damascus. For three days Saul could not see and he didn't eat or drink anything. God had plans for Saul and He chose a special man to talk to him. Jesus called Ananias in a vision and told him that He had great plans for Saul and to go to the house where Saul was at and ask for him. Ananias went and was very loving and kind to Saul. He placed his hands on Saul and said, "Jesus has sent me here so that you can see again and you can be filled with God's power." Immediately something like scales fell from Saul's eyes and he could see again. Saul got up and was baptized. He was sorry for the bad things he had done and he wanted to tell others about Jesus. Saul, also called Paul, talked about Jesus and His coming Kingdom everywhere he went. Ananias was the man that talked to Saul. Who can you tell about Jesus and the way He can transform their life?

Go!**“I Can Serve God”****ART/CRAFT**

Materials: A Polaroid camera and film, paper, bulletin board

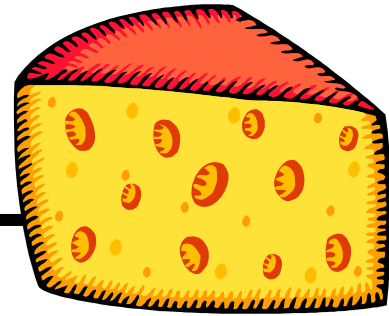
Procedure: Take pictures of each child and place it on your bulletin board. Place under each student’s picture the responses to the following details: name, school, favorite color, pets, brother/sisters, what I’d like to be in church when I grow up, and what I can do in church now.

Quest Connection

We are each growing up learning how to love and serve God. We can dream now of what we want in the future. What do we need to do to make our dream happen? We definitely need to keep learning more about God and how to tell others about Him.

Close

Let’s all name one thing we already know is true about God or His Son, Jesus, that we could tell a friend about.

Go!**Ant-icipation****SCIENCE**

Materials: Cheese, peanut butter, chocolate bar, sugar, crackers

Procedure: Place a small sample of each item on a paper plate. At the beginning of class place the plate outside in a place you think ants would appear. After the Bible Story, go check on the ant-icipation project.

Quest Connection

Isn't it interesting to see what size the ants are and what size items they carry? An ant can carry an item that weighs a lot more than it does. This is a little army of soldiers working together to help the entire group out. We should also be soldiers for the Lord trying to feed others the Good News.

Close

Share larger samples of one of the above snacks that was not part of the ant experiment with the children.

Go!**Purposefully Created****OBJECT LESSON**

Materials: None

Quest Connection

What can you do with your feet? (wait for response) **We are going to pretend that we don't have any feet because our feet want to be knees. Let's all kneel on the floor and pull our feet back with our hands. Can you get around on your knees? Everyone sit down on the floor. What do we do with our ears?** (wait for a response) **What if our ears decided they wanted to be our mouth?** (Hold the top of your ear with your index finger and the bottom of your ear with your thumb and squeeze them together as if speaking.) **Can your ear talk? What if it decided, "Unless I can be a mouth and talk, I'm leaving"?** **Did you know that God made each of our body parts to do a special job? God also gave each of us a special job to do. He wants us to tell others the Good News and He wants us to be kind and help other people too. In our story we learned of a man who at one time used his body to hurt people who were Christians but who, with God's power, was able to change and even became a Christian who helped other Christians. Anyone remember his name? That's right his name was Saul and he was also known as Paul. Now the God that created our bodies and designed them for specific jobs like hearing, seeing and tasting, is the same God that created Saul to live for Him and be a leader and teacher in the early church. Imagine you were Saul, who thought he was supposed to punish people who were Christians, that's how he was living his life, but then found out that his real job was to serve Christ and other Christians. Do you think he was surprised to hear that he needed to change? God wants us all to follow His Son and be students and teachers of the Bible. Did you realize that God created Saul AND you to love Him?**

Close

If you could ask Saul one question, what would it be? Other people who don't know anything about Jesus or about going to church might ask you questions because they want to learn and they are curious. Be sure to let them know that the God that created them wants them to know and love Him, and invite them to church!

Go!**It's Hard to Share****CREATIVE WRITING**

Materials: Pencils, crayons, scissors, stapler, glue and “Missionary Helping Book” worksheet

Quest Connection

We all know that when we have something others don't have it is nice to share. But sometimes that can be hard. Has anyone ever had something they didn't want to share? Anyone every have another person not share with them? Those were all good examples, but today we are going to talk about another type of sharing, sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ. Sometimes that can be hard too because we get shy or embarrassed or we just are not sure how to do it. The man we learned about in our story today wrote letters to share instructions for churches and he visited them in person sometimes to share. Today we are going to make a missionary helping book to make sharing a little less scary. I'm very excited to be doing this together.

Procedure: Follow the instructions on the worksheet

Close

Try to think of someone to give this book to or put it somewhere safe so that if you meet someone who you are unsure how to tell about God's love you can give this book to them.

Go!**Life Savior****GAME**

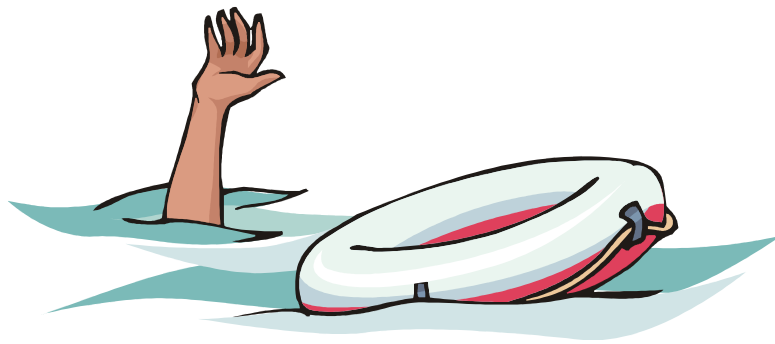
Materials: Package of individually wrapped Lifesavers, glue, a tag with the word “gift” on it

Quest Connection

Before class, hide a bag of Lifesavers. Glue the word, “gift” on the bag. Have all the students join arms at the elbow. Have them move together as a group taking only baby steps forward, backward, left or right. Let them practice moving together a few times. **I’ve hidden something in this room and if you are getting close to it I will say hot but if you are moving away from it I will say cold. We’ll keep playing until you find the gift I’ve hidden.** Congratulate them on finding the candy and share with the class. **The name of these candies is Lifesavers. That may be a great name, but they really don’t save lives. We must tell others about the one and only Life Savior, Jesus Christ who died on a cross, rose from the dead, and lives today so that we might be able to one day live forever with Him. Now that is some really Good News!**

Close

Before we leave our class today, I want to remind you that it’s nice to share Lifesavers with each other, but the most wonderful gift we could ever share with anyone is the Good News about the Real Life Savior!



Go!**Praise, Praise, God****GAME****Materials:** None

Procedure: Sit in a circle and play “Duck, Duck, Goose,” only replacing the words with “Praise, Praise, God. Every time there is a new person outside of the circle have them name one reason we have to praise God. Allow every child a chance.

Quest Connection

It was so fun to play this game with you today. I wonder if Paul every played any games with his friends, what do you think? You know, without even realizing it we were practicing telling others about God. Every time a person was it, what did they have to do? That’s right, name a reason for praising God. All of the reasons were wonderful and we took turns telling them to each other. We don’t have to be playing the game though to give God praise. Just as easily as we said our reasons today, we can tell others those same reasons any day at any time and we’ll be sharing the Christian message to others just like Paul did!

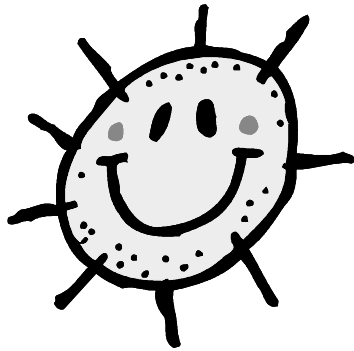
Close

I’m proud of you for naming reasons to praise God. I know He loves to hear us thanking Him for all His goodness. This week if you think of any more reasons to praise Him, write them down and be sure to bring it back to class next week to share with us!

Missionary Helping Book

Procedure: Cut the book pages out and fold at solid middle line. Place Page 7 and Front face down and glue Page 1 and Page 6 to it. Next lay Page 3 and 4 face down and glue Pages 5 and 2 to it. Put the book together and fold at the center seam. Staple in place.

Be happy knowing God loves you!



5

Celebrate! God loves you!



2

Serving God is our Goal!



7

I made this book to share with you,
So you would know that
God loves you too!

Believe in yourself!



3

I think you can,
and God knows you can!



4

God has loved you
since you were a baby!



1

God is always watching over you!

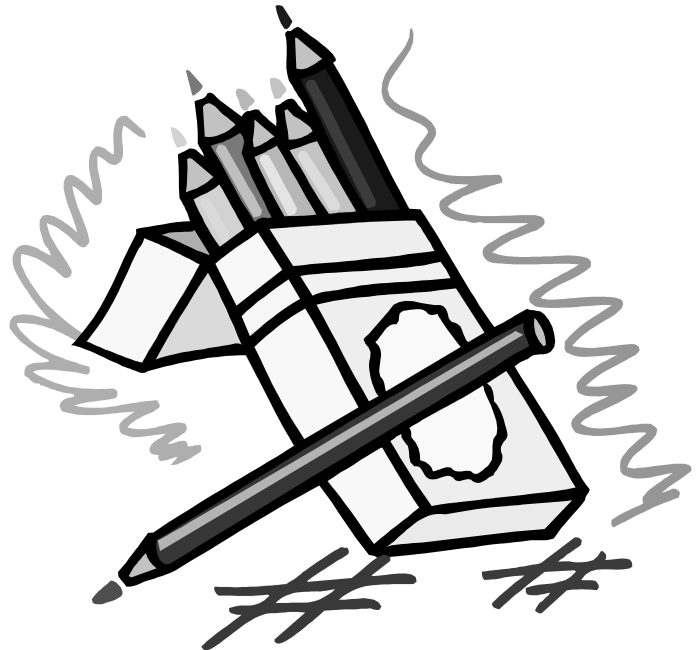


6

God wants you to tell other people about Him and His Son and His plans for us to follow His word.

Draw a picture of you talking to a friend about our Bible Story today and inviting them to come with you to church.

First picture it and then do it!



Draw a picture showing a portion of the Bible story today.
Once everyone is done we'll try to put all our pictures in the order that they happened.

Here are some ideas for your picture:

- 1.Saul traveling to Damascus
- 2.A bright light blinding Saul
- 3.Annanias treating Saul kindly
- 4.Saul being baptized
- 5.Saul telling others of what Jesus did for him

