

Saul Meets Jesus

Sunday School Lesson for Preschool (Ages 3–5), 20–30 minutes

Main point: Jesus changes people. Jesus made Saul new.

Bible passage: Acts 9:1–20. Read it yourself before class.

Memory verse: "if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature" *2 Corinthians 5:17 (KJV)*. **In Christ** means belonging to Jesus. A **new creature** means a brand-new person.

You need: a Bible, a flashlight, crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.

Before class: put a bookmark in your Bible at Acts 9. Check that the flashlight works.

1. Opening game: Eyes Closed, Eyes Open (5 minutes)

Everyone sits on the floor. Say: "Close your eyes. Can you see? No!" Then: "Open your eyes. What can you see?" Kids name things they see: a friend, a window, a chair. Play two or three times. Then say: "Eyes are a gift from God. Today we will hear a true story about a man who could not see for three days."

2. Bible story (5 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to Acts 9. Say: "This story is true. It is in God's Word." Read each line slowly and do the motion. When you see **Say it with me**, the kids say the line back to you.

Saul was mean to people who loved Jesus (Acts 9:1). *(Make a grumpy face.)*

Saul walked on the road to a city called Damascus (9:3). *(Walk in place.)*

A light from heaven shined all around him (9:3)! *(Shine the flashlight up.)*

Saul fell down to the ground (9:4). *(Sit down fast.)*

A voice said, "Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?" (9:4). *(Cup your hand by your ear.)*

Saul said, "Who art thou, Lord?" The Lord said, "I am Jesus" (9:5).

Say it with me: "It was Jesus!"

Saul got up, but he could not see (9:8). *(Cover your eyes.)*

The men with him led him by the hand (9:8). *(Hold a friend's hand.)*

For three days Saul could not see (9:9). *(Hold up three fingers.)*

Saul prayed (9:11). *(Fold your hands.)*

God sent Ananias. He put his hands on Saul (9:17). *(Hand on your shoulder.)*

Something like scales fell from his eyes (9:18). *(Uncover your eyes.)*

Saul could see again (9:18)! *(Smile big.)*

Saul got up and was baptized (9:18). *(Bend down low, then stand up tall.)*

Say it with me: "Jesus makes me new!"



3. Questions to ask (3 minutes)

1. What shined all around Saul? (*A light from heaven, Acts 9:3*)
2. Who talked to Saul? (*Jesus, 9:5*)
3. How many days could Saul not see? (*Three, 9:9*)

4. Memory verse (3 minutes)

Say: "God's Word says, 'if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature.' In Christ means belonging to Jesus. A new creature means a brand-new person." Teach the motion: crouch down small, then pop up and spread your arms wide on "new creature." Say the verse with the motion three times: in a normal voice, in a whisper, and in a happy loud voice. Then say "2 Corinthians 5:17" and clap three times.

5. What this means for us (3 minutes)

Say: "Jesus made Saul new. Saul got up and was baptized (Acts 9:18). Jesus can make us new too! God loves you! Everyone has done wrong things. That is called sin (Romans 3:23). Jesus is God. He came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins. He was buried. Then He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us what to do (Acts 2:38). We repent: we tell God we are sorry, and we stop doing wrong. We are baptized in Jesus' name, down under the water, and our sins are washed away. And God gives us the Holy Ghost. That is God's own Spirit in us. When people are filled with the Holy Ghost, they speak in other tongues, words God gives them (Acts 2:4)."

Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.

6. Activity: Draw the Light (5–10 minutes)

Give each child a take-home sheet. In the drawing box, help them draw a road, Saul on the road, and big yellow lines of light shining down from heaven. While they color, ask: "What shined from heaven? Who talked to Saul?" Early finishers can play Eyes Closed, Eyes Open again.

7. Prayer

Say each line, and the kids say it after you:

"Thank You, God, for my eyes.

Thank You that Jesus makes people new. In Jesus' name, amen."

Tips for little ones: let each child shine the flashlight on the ceiling, never in anyone's eyes. If they get wiggly, do the "fall down, get up" motions again. Send the take-home sheet home.

Telling the hard part gently: for this age, "Saul was mean to people who loved Jesus" is enough. Leave out the details of Acts 9:1.

