

Saul Meets Jesus

Sunday School Lesson for Kindergarten to 2nd Grade, 45 minutes

Main point: Jesus changes lives. When Saul met Jesus, Jesus made him new.

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

Memory verse: "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." *2 Corinthians 5:17 (KJV)*

You need: a Bible, 6 index cards, a marker, crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.

Before class: write the memory verse on the 6 cards (see part 4). Put a bookmark in your Bible at Acts 9.

1. Opening game: Lead Me by the Hand (5 minutes)

Kids work in pairs. One child closes their eyes. The partner takes their hand and leads them slowly across the room and back, around a chair or two. Walk, never run. Then they switch. Ask: *What was it like when you couldn't see? How did it feel to have someone hold your hand?* Say: "Today we will meet a man who could not see for three days, and the men with him had to lead him by the hand."

2. Bible story: Saul Meets Jesus (10 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to Acts 9, so the kids can see the story comes from God's Word. Tell it in your own words:

There was a man named **Saul**. Saul did not believe in Jesus. He was angry at the people who followed Jesus, and he was hurting them (Acts 9:1). Saul went to the **high priest**, a leader in Jerusalem, and asked him for letters. The letters said that if Saul found any of Jesus' followers in the city of **Damascus**, he could tie them up and bring them back to Jerusalem (9:1–2).

So Saul set out on the road to Damascus, and some men traveled with him (9:3, 9:7). When he came near Damascus, all of a sudden a **light from heaven** shined all around him (9:3)! Saul fell to the ground. He heard a voice say, "Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?" (9:4). **Persecute** means to hurt people and treat them badly because of what they believe.

Saul said, "Who art thou, Lord?" That means "Who are You, Lord?" And the Lord said, "I am Jesus whom thou persecutest" (9:5). Say: "When Saul hurt the people who loved Jesus, he was hurting Jesus too!"

Saul was trembling and amazed. He asked, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" (9:6). That means "Lord, what do You want me to do?" Jesus told him to get up and go into the city, and there he would be told what to do (9:6). The men with Saul stood still and could not say a word. They heard a voice, but they saw no man (9:7).



The story continues: Saul got up off the ground. He opened his eyes, but he could not see anything (9:8)! So the men took him by the hand and led him into Damascus. For **three days** Saul could not see, and he did not eat or drink anything (9:9). And Saul prayed (9:11).

In Damascus lived a follower of Jesus named **Ananias**. The Lord spoke to Ananias in a **vision**, something God showed him. The Lord told him to go to the street called **Straight**, to the house of a man named Judas, and ask for Saul (9:10–11). Ananias told the Lord he had heard about all the evil Saul had done to God's people (9:13–14). But the Lord said, "Go thy way," which means "Go." God had chosen Saul to tell many people about Jesus (9:15).

So Ananias went to the house. He put his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost" (9:17). Say: "Ananias called him **brother**! Saul had come to hurt Jesus' people, and now he was part of God's family."

Right away, something like **scales** fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again (9:18)! Scales are like the thin, hard flakes on a fish. Then Saul got up, and he **was baptized** (9:18). He ate food and was strong again (9:19). And right away Saul began to preach in Damascus that Jesus is the Son of God (9:20)! Saul used to hurt Jesus' people. Now he told everyone about Jesus. Jesus changed his life!

3. Questions to ask (5 minutes)

1. What city was Saul going to? (*Damascus, Acts 9:2–3*)
2. What shined all around Saul on the road? (*A light from heaven, 9:3*)
3. Who spoke to Saul? (*Jesus: "I am Jesus whom thou persecutest," 9:5*)
4. How many days could Saul not see? (*Three days, 9:9*)
5. Who did the Lord send to Saul, and what happened? (*Ananias. Something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, he could see, and he got up and was baptized, 9:17–18*)

4. Memory verse: Old and New (5 minutes)

Write the verse on 6 cards: *Therefore if any man / be in Christ, / he is a new creature: / old things are passed away; / behold, / all things are become new. 2 Corinthians 5:17.* Explain the old words: **in Christ** means belonging to Jesus, **a new creature** means a brand-new person, **passed away** means gone, and **behold** means look! Read the verse together. Then take one card away and read it again. Keep taking cards away until the kids can say the whole verse by themselves. Each time you say "all things are become new," everyone throws their arms up high.



5. What this means for us (5 minutes)

Say: "Jesus changed Saul and made him new. Jesus sent Ananias so Saul could see and be filled with the Holy Ghost, and Saul got up and was baptized (Acts 9:17–18). Later Saul told about that day. Ananias had told him, 'arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord' (Acts 22:16, KJV). Jesus can make us new too! God loves you very much. But everyone has done wrong things. The Bible calls that sin: 'For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). That means none of us is as good as God. Jesus is God who came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins, He was buried, and He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us how to obey the gospel, the good news about Jesus: 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.' (Acts 2:38, KJV) To **repent** means we are sorry for our sin and we turn away from it. We are **baptized**, buried all the way under the water, in Jesus' name, so our sins are washed away (Romans 6:4; Acts 22:16). **Remission** means God takes our sins away. And God fills us with the **Holy Ghost**, His own Spirit, and we speak in other tongues, words God gives us, just like the believers did in the Bible (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.

This week: Ananias was kind to Saul and called him "brother." Be kind to someone who has not been kind to you, and pray for them.

6. Activity (10–15 minutes)

Choose one: the **Saul to Paul word search** (vbshq.com/puzzles/saul-to-paul-word-search), crossword (vbshq.com/puzzles/saul-to-paul-crossword), maze (vbshq.com/puzzles/saul-to-paul-maze) or worksheet (vbshq.com/worksheets/saul-to-paul-worksheet), the coloring page or craft (vbshq.com/bible-stories/saul-to-paul), or **Now I See**: everyone sits and covers their eyes with their hands, like Saul who could not see. Ask a question from part 3. Call on a child to answer. When the answer is right, everyone takes their hands away and says, "Now I see!" Then cover your eyes again for the next question.

7. Prayer

"Dear God, thank You that Jesus changes lives. Thank You that no one is too far away for You to reach. Help us be kind like Ananias, and help us follow Jesus like Saul did. In Jesus' name, amen."

Telling the hard part gently: the Bible says Saul was "breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples" (Acts 9:1). For this age, say he was hurting the people who loved Jesus and wanted to put them in prison (Acts 8:3; 9:2). There is no need to say more.

If a child asks if God can forgive someone who hurt people: yes. Saul later wrote that he had persecuted the church of God, "But by the grace of God I am what I am" (1 Corinthians 15:9–10). No one is too far away for Jesus to change.

