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Saul Becomes Paul , A Life Transformed

Scripture: Acts 9:1-31

Theme: No one is too far from God's grace

PreK-K (Ages 3-5)

Free curriculum for small and rural churches

Lesson Overview

This Sunday school lesson explores how God can change a person's life completely, even someone like Saul, who was once very angry and mean. In Acts 9, Saul (who later became Paul) was riding in a chariot to destroy Christians when Jesus stopped him with a bright light! The Bible tells us that God appeared to Saul, asked him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" (Acts 9:4), and gave him a new mission: to help people learn about Jesus. Saul fell to the ground, couldn't see, and was taken to Jerusalem, where he was healed and taught by the apostles. This lesson teaches little ones that no matter what someone does or how far away they might feel from God, He loves them and wants to help them. The key verse, "This man is My chosen instrument to proclaim My name to the Gentiles and their ki Optional reflection: children can draw a picture of Jesus helping their friends, then share one way they can help someone else this week. This extra activity supports the lesson's theme and gives teachers a simple, lowprep option for extending the discussion.

Bible Story

One day, Jesus' followers in Jerusalem heard loud voices. A man named Saul was coming, angry and very sad. Saul was a very important Jewish man. He was wearing fine clothes and rode a white horse. He had a group of soldiers with him to guard him. Saul was so upset that he wanted to find Jesus and punish His followers.

As Saul was riding, he saw Jesus standing there, shining like the sun. Jesus said to Saul, 'Saul! Saul, why are you hurting others so much?' Saul was scared and fell to the ground. Jesus asked, 'Why do you persecute me?' Saul replied, 'Who are you, Lord?' Jesus said, 'I am Jesus, the One you are trying to kill. It is time for you to be my friend!

Saul was very confused. He didn't understand what Jesus meant. Jesus told Saul to go to the city of Damascus and find a man named Ananias. Saul followed Jesus' instructions, even though he didn't know why. When Saul got to Damascus, Ananias was praying and saw a bright light. The Lord spoke to Ananias in a dream and said, 'Saul is on

his way here. He will tell you what you must do.' Ananias was scared but did what God told him.

Key Verse

Acts 9:15 , 'This man is My chosen instrument to proclaim My name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel.'

The key verse (Acts 9:15 , 'This man is My chosen instrument to proclaim My name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel.') calls us to respond to God's truth.

Activities

Activity 1: Colorful Saul Story Cards

Create simple story cards with illustrations of Saul on the road to Damascus, Jesus appearing, and the moment of conversion. Kids can act out the story with the cards.

Supplies needed:

- Cardstock or construction paper
- Markers/crayons
- Scissors
- Glue sticks
- Saul's road map (draw a simple path from Jerusalem to Damascus)
- Paper plates (for Jesus' glowing appearance)
- Fabric scraps (optional: for Saul's robe after conversion)

1. Fold cardstock into 3 equal parts (for Saul's journey, Jesus' appearance, and transformation). Draw Saul running, Jesus standing on a plate, and Saul falling down in amazement.
2. Cut out each section. Let kids decorate Saul's robe with fabric scraps (if using) and add details to Jesus' appearance (e.g., halo, light rays).

Activity 2: Grace Graffiti Wall

Write the word 'GRACE' on a large paper or chalkboard. Kids trace over it with crayons, markers, or chalk to emphasize God's unconditional love. Discuss how even Saul, who was doing bad things, found grace.

Supplies needed:

- Large poster paper or chalkboard
- Crayons, markers, or chalk
- Tape (to secure paper/chalkboard)

1. Write 'GRACE' at the top of the paper/chalkboard. Explain: 'God's grace is like a big hug for everyone!'
2. Let kids trace over each letter with their hands or crayons. Talk about how Saul was far from God but still found grace.

Activity 3: Saul's Road to Damascus Walk

Use a tape measure or string to create a 'road' from one corner of the room to another. Kids take turns walking the path while listening to a simple recording of Saul's story (or retelling). At the end, they 'fall down' in wonder.

Supplies needed:

- Tape or string (to create a path)
- Recording of Acts 9 (or a simplified story read aloud)
- Blanket or mat (for kids to 'fall down')

1. Lay out the tape/string as the road. Play the Saul story while kids walk.
2. When Jesus appears, pause and ask: 'Who was Saul before he met Jesus?' Let kids fall down dramatically (on a blanket).

Discussion Questions

- Who was Saul before he met Jesus? (Hint: He was doing bad things.)
- How did Jesus stop Saul on the road? (Hint: He showed him His light.)
- What does it mean that God's grace is for everyone, no matter what?
- If God can save Saul, can He save YOU? Why or why not?
- How can we show others that God's grace is for everyone?

Prayer Focus

Ask God to help us trust Him when we feel far from Him, like Saul did. Pray for children who are new believers, help them know they're never too far from God's love!

>> Missions Spotlight

Pray for secret believers in Saudi Arabia who are facing danger for following Jesus. Like Saul, they're discovering God's grace in unexpected ways through dreams, technology, and courage.

-> To the Cross

God's grace isn't just for kind or good people, it's for anyone who needs it! Saul was the worst sinner, but Jesus stopped him. If God can save Saul, He can save YOU, no matter what you've done.