

Hey ClubE!

I MISS you! Even though we are not gathering together in our room, we are still a community. Let's accomplish our 3 goals together this morning. Let's get started!

1. Watch my [short video](#) & introduction to the lesson today.
2. Sharing time. Our question today: What's the scariest thing you've ever done?
3. Read the story together as a family (or listen to it [here](#)) & go through the discussion questions to talk about what you've learned.
4. Pray together as a family.
5. Optional: Do game/experiment!

If you have questions or just want to share your learning, you can email me cas66852@gmail.com or text/call at 612-310-2363

Storytime!

Hello, everyone! Today we're continuing to talk about Saul, who was also known as Paul. Last week we talked about how Saul had been traveling to Damascus. He had special permission from the high priest to arrest anyone who followed Jesus and take them back to Jerusalem. Saul was definitely a scary guy to the people who followed Jesus. He was determined to stop their movement and keep them quiet. But as Saul traveled to Damascus, something happened—something BIG. Jesus Himself appeared to Saul in a flash of light from heaven! And it blinded Saul. Jesus told Saul to go into Damascus, and wait there to be told what to do next. The men traveling with Saul led him into town, where he stayed at the home of a man named Judas on Straight Street. There was a man in Damascus who was a Jesus-follower. His name was Ananias. Ananias didn't know it yet, but he was about to become a real hero. God called out to Ananias in a vision and told him to go find Saul. God said, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street. Ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul. He is praying. In a vision Saul has seen a man come and place his hands on him. That man's name is Ananias. In the vision, Ananias placed his hands on Saul so he could see again. Needless to say, Ananias was shocked and a little scared about the idea of going to see this man Saul—because, again, Saul was scary. In fact, Ananias even told God how he had heard reports about Saul—and how Saul had come to Damascus to arrest believers. But God explained that He had a plan. God said: "Go! I have chosen this man to work for me. He will announce my name to the Gentiles and to their kings. He will also announce my name to the people of Israel. God told Ananias that He had a plan for SAUL to become a hero, too. Ananias still must have felt afraid. But he believed God, and did what God said. He went to the house and found Saul. Saul hadn't had anything to eat or drink for three days. And then . . . Ananias placed his hands on Saul. He told Saul that he knew he had met Jesus on the road to Damascus. Something like scales dropped from Saul's

eyes, and he could see again! He got up and was baptized. Now, here's something you should know about Saul. He was a relentless guy—the kind of person who never gives up. Before Saul met Jesus on the road to Damascus, he was relentless in his plans to wipe out the people who believed in Jesus. But now that he was a follower of Jesus himself, he was just as determined to share the good news with everyone. Nothing was going to stop Saul from his new mission. Within days, he began preaching in the Jewish synagogues. He taught that Jesus is the Son of God. Everyone who heard him teach was amazed! The Jewish leaders in Damascus were angry, because Saul was stirring up the people. This put Saul in danger. The leaders wanted to capture and kill him to stop his new mission. But a group of Saul's followers had a heroic plan of their own. When they heard that the religious leaders were out to get Saul, they helped him escape at night. They lowered him in a basket through an opening in the wall! Saul returned to Jerusalem, and he tried to join the believers there. But there was just one problem—they were still afraid of him. To them, he was still the scary Saul who was relentless in his plans to hurt people who followed Jesus. One man, Barnabas, had already heard Saul's story, and he stepped in to help Saul. Barnabas took Saul to visit Peter, James, and the other leaders of the early church; and he told them the whole story. He told them how Saul was a changed man, and now he believed in Jesus. Barnabas helped the Jesus followers see that Saul was one of them, and they welcomed Saul into the family. Saul stayed with the believers in Jerusalem, and he preached there just as boldly as in Damascus. Once again, a group of Jews became upset with him. But once again, the believers helped Saul escape. This time, Saul traveled back to his hometown of Tarsus to wait for God's next directions. Barnabas, Ananias, and the other believers helped Saul to share the message of Jesus with people. As a result, the group of believers across Judea and Samaria continued to grow, through the power of God's Spirit. It wasn't easy for any of them. It must have been really scary for the believers to trust Saul after all they had heard about him. It also wasn't easy for Saul, because he knew that sharing the message of Jesus might put him in danger. Still, Saul, Ananias, Barnabas, and the other believers had faith in Jesus. They trusted Him no matter what. They were courageous because they knew this: knowing Jesus can help you face your fears. It can be really hard to do the right thing when you're afraid. But like Saul and the other believers, we can stand strong, because knowing Jesus can help you face your fears.

Let's talk about it!

- What a wild story--can you imagine having someone like Saul show up at your house? How would you feel?
- What do you think would have happened if Ananias didn't help Saul?
- Another scary part of the story was that Saul was lowered outside the city wall to get him to safety! People were that angry with him! Why do you think Saul did this? Do you think he could have just given up? Why didn't he?
- God used Ananias in amazing ways, but he had to come face-to-face with an incredibly scary and mean person. How do you think God can call YOU to do something amazing even if it's scary?

Pray

God, it's so awesome to read the stories of Saul and the other early believers. They followed Jesus and spread the good news about Him, even though they probably had moments when they were really afraid. Help us remember that knowing Jesus can help us face our fears. Help us to share the good news about Jesus like the early believers did, and share Your love with the people around us. We love You, and we ask these things in Jesus' name, amen.

Game time!

FACING FEARS

In this experiment, you will see something that's hard to believe is working! It's a reminder that it can be hard to understand how Jesus can help you face your fears. You've never seen Him. You might not feel like you know Him. But He is powerful. He sees all things and understands when you're scared. You don't always understand how God works, and that's okay. Nobody does! Knowing Jesus can help you face your fears. The next time you're afraid to tell the truth, or give a speech, or take a test, remember that Jesus is with you and wants to help you face your fears.

WHAT YOU NEED: Gallon-size plastic, zipper-top bag; water; skewers or sharpened pencils; container.

WHAT YOU DO: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OudAZpi1NKo>

- Place skewers or sharpened pencils on the table.
- Fill the plastic bag with water and tightly seal it.
- Make a prediction: What do you think would happen if you pushed a skewer or pencil through the bag?
- As everyone braces themselves for water to go everywhere, hold the bag over a container and pierce through the bag (straight to the other side) with the skewer or sharp pencil.
- As you continue to hold the bag, share a fear that you might have or someone you know might have. (NOTE: Make sure to keep the bag over the container, just in case. If the bag isn't pierced swiftly enough, the plastic won't form a seal around the skewer and water will leak out.)
- As you come up with fears, think of an idea about how Jesus can help you face that fear. (For example, if the fear is playing in their piano recital, Jesus wants them to do a good job and will help them be brave as they play their music.)

FEARS IN A HAT

This activity was a great reminder that all of us struggle with fears. Some of you even have the same fears. Today's story, as well as this month's verse, are great reminders to put your hope in Jesus when you're scared. You may not understand it or see immediate results, but faith in Jesus produces strength and courage to face any situation. Knowing Jesus can help you face your fears.

WHAT YOU NEED: Hat, index card, pencils, music

WHAT YOU DO:

- Each person should get an index card and a pencil.
- Ask the kids to write down one fear that they have.
- Encourage them to fold the paper and place it in a hat.
- Instruct the kids to pass the hat around as you play music.
- When the music stops, the kid holding the hat pulls out a fear and reads it to the group.
- The group responds by saying the verse.
- Then the music and hat-passing start again.
- Continue until you've gotten through most of the fears.