



THE ADVENTURES OF PAUL

Saul is Changed

Supplies Needed: 3 identical containers that are NOT see-through, like boxes or clay jars.



TEACHING INSTRUCTIONS

Read Acts 9:1-5 together. Read it to the children or have them take turns reading. (See student handout)

Say, “Saul was persecuting the Church every chance he got. He even broke into homes and dragged people to jail for following Jesus! He got permission from the high priest to go to Damascus and arrest followers of Jesus there, to bring them back to Jerusalem for punishment. On the way to Damascus, however, Jesus met him in a powerful way, and left him blinded. Three days later, the Lord told a believer named Ananias to go to Saul and pray for him to regain his sight. Ananias had heard about Saul persecuting the Church and was afraid, but the Lord told him that Saul was chosen to carry the Gospel to many nations. Just as Saul was completely changed, Jesus completely changes us and calls us to spread His Gospel. Let’s discuss some more interesting points about this story.”



Read the “Did You Know?” points together. Read it to the children or have them take turns. Help the children look up the Scriptures mentioned. For added fun, have them say “amen!” when they find it. (See student handout)

Say, “In Acts 26:12-18, Paul told King Agrippa his story of meeting Jesus on the road to Damascus. He shared that Jesus told him he was kicking “against the goads” (Acts 26:14). This is a saying from farming. A goad was a sharp, pointy stick. Farmers used oxen to plow their fields, and sometimes they would have to make a stubborn ox move forward by poking him with a goad. If an ox decided to kick back against the goad, he would only be hurting himself. Jesus had plans for Paul, and there was nothing Paul could do to stop those plans. The same is true for you. Going against God’s plans for your life will cause nothing but pain. “

OBJECT LESSON

The Valuable Vessel

Items: 3 identical containers that are NOT see-through, like boxes or clay jars.



Before the lesson, place money in one of the containers, but do not let the children know which one. Place all three on a table. **Say,** “Which one of these three boxes is the most valuable?” Allow for answers. Someone might point out that they all look the same. **Say,** “These all look the same, but I guarantee that one of them is more valuable than the other two. Who would like to guess which one?” Allow everyone to make a guess. Maybe you could count votes for each box to see which one is most popular. Then, open each box one at a time, saving the box with money for the end. **Say,** “See? This box was the most valuable the whole time, not because of anything on the outside, but because of what it carried inside. Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 4:7 that we are all like jars of clay holding the power of God. That’s like this simple box holding something worth all the money on earth. Always remember the value you have in Jesus Christ, and what He wants you to do with God’s treasure.”

GAMES



Catch the Treasure

Make about ten balls of paper or get ten small bean bags. A player will stand about 6 feet (2 meters) away from you and hold a box or other open container in front of him/herself. As you underhand toss the balls one at a time into the air, the player must move around to try and catch each one in the box. Players take turns, and whoever catches the most balls in their box wins.

**** Optional Memory Verse Game ****

Bop It!- 2 Corinthians 5:17

Have kids sit in a circle on chairs or the floor. Give each child a word of the memory verse in order around the circle. Then, go around the circle and 'bop' each child gently on the head. They have to say their word when you bop them. Once you have gotten through the whole verse, say, "change", and they all move one seat to the left. Then, they have to say the word that the previous person sitting in the chair was saying.

Once they get good at it, increase the pace and energy. Eventually, you can sprint around the circle and SCREAM "change!!" after each lap. The key to this game is being quick and intense



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1 How long was Saul blind before Ananias was sent to pray for him?
- 2 According to Acts 9:17, what two things would happen to Saul when Ananias prayed?
- 3 How does God change us and make us new people, like He did with Saul?