

ACTS CHAPTER 9:1-31

From Persecutor to Preacher of the Gospel



8

May 1, 2005
2.ACT08

Lesson Goal

To help the students understand how a sinner can be changed by the power of the Gospel.

Lesson Objectives

Students will be able to:

- See how Saul, one of the Christians' most ruthless persecutors was changed when Jesus appeared to him on the Road to Damascus.
- Explain the instructions given to Ananias by the Lord.
- Explain what Saul started doing after his life changed.
- Explain what happened to Saul when he went back to Jerusalem.

Memory Verse

Acts 9:15 ~ "But the Lord said to Ananias, 'Go! This man is My chosen instrument to carry My name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel.'"

Application

- God can save the most ruthless sinner. Ask for God's forgiveness.
- Rejecting the savior is a heinous crime. Follow Christ today.
- Are you growing in your relationship with the Lord?
- Believers are called to serve Christ.

TEACHER PLANNING SHEET

Prepare Your Heart

- Read and study through the passage meditatively.
- Prayerfully seek how God would have you personally apply this passage to your own life. Write these down.

Prepare the Lesson

- Choose from the various ideas in the lesson plan.
- Write down an approximate time frame for each.
- List the materials needed.

HOOK

Time

BOOK

Time

LOOK

Time

TOOK

Time

Materials
Needed:

ACTS CHAPTER 9:1-31

From Persecutor to Preacher of the Gospel



8

1st–3rd Grade
May 1, 2005
2.ACT08EL

SHOOK

MEMORY
VERSE
✪
“But the Lord
said to
Ananias, ‘Go!
This man is My
chosen
instrument to
carry My name
before the
Gentiles and
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people of
Israel.’”
Acts 9:15
✪

Billy the Bully (Role Play/Discussion). Before class choose a student that will be involved in a role play. The teacher will play the role of “Billy the Bully” and the teacher will pick on one of the students. Come up with three scenarios in what a bully might ask for; for example, lunch money, answers to homework, etc. You need to play the part of a bully very seriously to get the point across. You may want to work together with another teacher and come up with a more precise script. After the role play, ask the students if any of them have ever been threatened by a school bully. Ask the students if any have ever been the bully. Ask them what they think bullies are motivated by. Usually they are motivated by something they can get from a person. **Discussion:** Tell them that in today’s Bible lesson they will learn about a bully who was not out to get anything from people. He simply thought he was doing the right thing, but later realized that he was picking on the wrong person.

Blinded By The Light (Activity). On the road to Damascus, Saul met Jesus. Paul got up from the ground, and he could not see. He had to be led into the city by the others who were with him. Write the word DAMASCUS on the white board. Select one student. Blindfold him or her, and spin him or her around 10 times. Their goal is to find Damascus. The only guide they have is the students singing “Jesus Loves Me”, “You Can’t Be a Beacon”, or “This Little Light of Mine”. The students must sing louder when the blindfolded student is headed toward DAMASCUS. If the student goes the wrong way, the students must sing more quietly. You may want to add a few harmless obstacles to the path, but be sure to warn the blindfolded student ahead of time. **Variation:** *This variation is similar to the common “Marco–Polo” pool game.* Blindfold one player. The rest of the players are positioned around the playing area and stand still in one location. The blindfolded student calls out “PAUL.” All the other players call back “SAUL,” and then are allowed to move one step in any direction. The blindfolded player moves about and attempts to find another player who then takes his place. If any of the unblindfolded players move other than at the proper time, that player automatically changes places with the blindfolded player.

Sincerely Wrong 1 (Activity/Game). Play “hangman” using words that are synonyms for “sincere.” Divide the students into two teams and tell them they are going to play “hangman.” Explain the rules briefly for those who are unfamiliar with the game. Each team takes a turn guessing a letter to try and solve the word puzzle. If they choose a correct letter, they can try to solve the word puzzle or pick another letter to solve the puzzle. They continue this process until they guess a wrong letter, at which time their turn is terminated and turned over to the opposing team, and a body part (head, stick body, arms, legs, hands and feet) is drawn on the hangman. The guessing stops if the man is completely hung or the word is completely spelled out. The team who guesses the correct word scores a point. Let the students know that the words you are using are synonyms for the word “sincere.” (Synonyms for sincere = Genuine, Real, Honest, True, Actual, Heartfelt, Bona fide, Earnest.) **Debrief:** Tell the students that in today’s lesson they will learn about how Saul persecuted the Church, and how he was “sincere” in his convictions that Christians were wrong, but he was sincerely wrong.

Sincerely Wrong 2 (Discussion). Paul was sincere in his desire to stomp out the Christians. He thought that he was obeying God and protecting the Jewish nation. Write these questions on the board:

1. “Is being sincere all you need to be right?”
2. “What were the sincere, but misguided, beliefs of these men?”

The following are two examples of people who were sincere. The bad things that they did you will know right off the bat, but keep in mind; they believed sincerely that they were right. See if as a class or small group you can answer this question for most of the people on this list:

(Teachers, a brief summary and quote is provided for you to help discussion if students are uninformed.)

Adolph Hitler

He sincerely believed that God hated the Jewish people. He sincerely believed that white people were a superior race. Hitler was so serious about these convictions that he organized a mass extermination of Jews in Germany. Today we call it the Holocaust.

“Hence today I believe that I am acting in accordance with the will of the Almighty Creator: by defending myself against the Jew, I am fighting for the work of the Lord.” Adolph Hitler

1. Was Hitler sincere in his beliefs?
2. What was wrong with his beliefs and conduct?
3. What does Scripture say about Hitler’s lies?

Marshall Applewhite (Do) – Leader of the Heaven’s Gate Cult

Marshall Applewhite (“Do”) taught that Jesus was an advanced Being from a place called Kingdom of Heaven. Really more like an alien than a god, Jesus had come to help people, which “Do” refers to as students, to shed their physical selves and advance with Jesus to the next level of the evolutionary chain. “Do” taught that humanity has been duped by the “Luciferian Lie,” and needs to be taught the truth.

Now, 2,000 years later, “Do” and his partner Ti had come just like Jesus and the Heavenly father. “Do” was preparing those who were chosen to enter into the “Kingdom of Heaven” which is somehow tied to a spacecraft or transport lurking behind the Hale-Bopp comet.

"Our mission is exactly the same. I am in the same position to today's society as was the One that was in Jesus then. My being here now is actually a continuation of that last task as was promised to those who were students 2000 years ago." Marshall Applewhite (Do)

1. Was 'Do' sincere in his beliefs? Give proof.
2. What was wrong with Doe's beliefs?
3. What does Scripture say about the lies that Doe taught?

Debrief: Is being sincere all you need to be right? Why is it not enough? In today's Bible adventure we are going to learn about a man who, thought that those who believed in Jesus were heretics and blasphemers. He was very sincere about what he believed, but Christ changed his heart and drew this man to Himself.

Sincerely Wrong 3 (Discussion). Throughout history, men have believed things only to discover later that they were sincerely wrong. Following is a list of beliefs that men have held to that were wrong. List them on the board or an overhead, and have students explain how we know that those beliefs are not true.

1. The earth is flat. If you sail too far in any direction, you will fall off the earth.
2. The moon is made of cheese. It must be Swiss cheese because of the holes we see in it.
3. People will never fly. If God meant people to fly, He would have given them wings. It is impossible for the weight of a human body to leave the earth.
4. If people are sick, it is because they have bad blood. In order for sick people to get well, the bad blood must be drained out of them.
5. All gods live on top of Mount Olympus. No man can ever climb up to see them or else they will be struck dead.
6. The earth is the center of the universe. All of the planets and the sun orbit around the earth.



BOOK

Presentation Ideas

Saul Angry at the Christians (Illustration/Coloring Page). 2.ACT08EL.GF1.

Saul on the Road to Damascus (Illustration/Coloring Page). 2.ACT08EL.GF2.

Paul's Journeys, Then & Now (Laminated Wall Map/Coloring Page). Trace Saul's steps from his birthplace to Jerusalem, and finally, to Damascus.

Bible Adventure for 1st- 3^d grades

After the stoning of Stephen, Saul began to ravage the Church. Because of his threats and hate for Christians, many were torn from their homes and put in jail. Saul continued to threaten the disciples of Jesus. What a terrible crime. He must have realized that the Church was spreading beyond the city of Jerusalem and the district of Judea because he went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus. Saul wanted these letters so that if he found any there who were Christians, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. **As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"**

"Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked.

"I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," He replied. "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. **Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. For three days he was blind and did not eat or drink anything.**

In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!"

"Yes, Lord," he answered.

The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight."

"Lord," Ananias answered, "I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your saints in Jerusalem. And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on Your Name."

But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is My chosen instrument to carry My Name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel. I will show him how much he must suffer for My Name."

Ananias went to the house where Saul was. When he found Saul, he placed his hands on him and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here, has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

Saul thought he was right when he went to the city of Damascus to put Christians in jail. **He sincerely believed that Christians were bad people and that Jesus was a liar.** But Saul was wrong. Jesus did not kill Saul, but Jesus came to show Saul how blind he had been. When Saul stood up and discovered that he could not see, it may have helped him realize that he had been blind to who Jesus really was. Christians were not bad people. They were people who loved God and believed that He sent His Son Jesus to die for them.

Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus. At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God. All those who heard him were astonished and asked, "Isn't he the man who raised havoc in Jerusalem among those who call on this Name? And hasn't he come here to take them as prisoners to the chief priests?" Yet Saul grew more and more powerful and baffled the Jews living in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Christ.

After many days had gone by, **the Jews conspired to kill Saul.** Saul, who would soon change to his Roman name Paul, did not know it yet, but these kinds of threats would follow him for the rest of his life. When Saul learned of their plan, he and the disciples came up with a plan of their own. **Day and night close**

watch was kept on the city gates in order to kill Saul. But Saul's followers took him by night and lowered him in a basket through an opening in the wall.

When he came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he really was a disciple. Barnabas, the encourager, was the only one who trusted that Jesus really had come into Saul's life. He took him and brought him to the Apostles. He told them how Saul on his journey had seen the Lord, that the Lord had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had preached fearlessly in the Name of Jesus. So Saul stayed with them and moved about freely in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the Name of the Lord. He talked and debated with the Grecian Jews, but they tried to kill him. When the Church brothers learned of this, they took him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus. That was his hometown. **It would be a while before Saul was heard about again, but people would someday know that Saul, who was known as Paul, was truly an Apostle, chosen by Jesus to spread the Gospel to the outermost parts of the world.**

When you meet someone who does not believe in Jesus, **even if they are sincere in their belief, you must remember Saul.** Jesus is God's Son. The Bible tells the truth about Jesus. When Jesus did what no other man has ever done by rising from the dead, He proved that He was the only true Way for us to be reconciled with God. Saul finally realized how wrong he had been. Jesus used Saul to tell many others who did not want to believe in Jesus that He was indeed God's Son. No matter how sincere a person may be, they are as blind as Saul was until they trust Jesus to be their Leader and their Savior. Saul committed a terrible crime when he rejected the church, but an even greater crime would be to completely reject Jesus altogether (John 16:8, 9; 1 Corinthians 16:22).

Aim Questions:

- 1. Why was Saul going to Damascus? What happened on the way there?**
To bring the Christians back to Jerusalem for trial. Jesus met Him on the road and did a work in his heart.
 - 2. Who was Ananias, and what did he do for Saul? How did Saul respond?**
Disciple of Christ. Through the Holy Spirit he healed Saul. He arose and was baptized.
 - 3. How was Saul received in Jerusalem? Who helped him meet the Apostles?**
The believers were scared of him. Barnabas took him to meet the Apostles.
 - 4. What did the Jews try to do to Saul both in Damascus and in Jerusalem?**
They tried to kill him.
 - 5. What did Saul sincerely believe about Christians before he met Jesus on the way to Damascus? How did his belief change?**
That they were heretics and blasphemers. He believed that Christ was his savior the Son of God.
 - 6. Why isn't being sincere good enough to know the truth or to be correct in your belief?**
-

 **LOOK**

How Saul Met Jesus (*Sticker Story Book/Craft*). Bedtime stories can be helpful in teaching children about some of the great heroes of the Bible. Children can customize the sticker story booklet so that their parents may read it with them before bedtime some night this week. Each student will need a pre-assembled sticker book available upon request. (These books are larger sized and a pre-assembled example is included with the lesson plan book.) Help the students cut out the appropriate stickers on **2.ACT08EL.GF3** to create the correct scene on each page as they retell the story of Saul. If they choose to color the pages, encourage them to do their best so they can show the book to their parents and use it at home several times. Think about allowing one of your good readers to share his or her book with the class during **TOOK** time.

Saul's Journey, Acts 9:1-31 (*Maze*). Saul was angry, but God had other plans for his trip to Damascus. Help Saul find his way to Damascus, **2.ACT08EL.GF4**.

The Conversion Of Saul (*Maze*). Start at the arrow, and find your way through the maze to Damascus. Along the way you will pick up words that explain what happened to Saul on his journey to Damascus, **2.ACT08EL.GF5**.

Remember Acts 9:1-31 (*Worksheet*). Complete the sentences at the bottom of the page using the letters in the box. Finish the scene of Saul. Draw in the bright light as you think it may have shone on Saul while he was traveling to Damascus. Color the picture, if you like, when you are finished, **2.ACT08EL.GF6**.

Saul in a Basket (*Craft/Memory Verse Exercise*). Each student will need:

2.ACT08EL.GF7

scissors
glue
yarn
coloring crayons

A hole-punch will be needed to make holes in the handles of the basket for the yarn. Have them assemble their baskets with Saul inside and then play the following game, which takes three people, one to check the memory verse and two to let the basket down.

1. Start at the top of a desk or table. Each "stringer" holds onto one of the "ropes" to let Saul down.
2. Be careful, you cannot tip the basket upside down. Saul cannot hold on for very long like that.
3. One student holds the verse and helps the stringers to say the verse.
4. The first stringer might say, "But the Lord said to Ananias." He then lets out as much rope as possible without turning the basket upside down.
5. The next stringer might say, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument." She then lets out as much rope as possible without turning the basket upside down.
6. Continue this with the verse checker correcting any wrong words.
7. By the way, if either one of the stringers quotes the verse incorrectly, Saul and his basket have to start over at the top again.

Blindfold Relay (Activity/Game). Teacher note: please make memory verse strip ahead of time for this relay. Divide the class into two teams. Have them line-up and group into pairs in their line. Provide each team with a blindfold. The student in front blindfolds the student behind them, then they guide that student to the other side of the room, remove the blindfold, pick up a memory verse strip, return to the end of their line, say the memory verse, then hand the blindfold to the next pair in line. The first team that completes a full rotation wins!

Aim Questions (Worksheet). Have the students answer the Aim Questions about today's Bible Adventure, **2.ACT08EL.GF8.**



TOOK

This workbook is not available at this time.

A.C.T.S. Action Cards (Workbook). Encourage the students to continue using the Apostle action cards to memorize the significant statistics throughout the book of Acts. **A.** What man is becoming an Apostles in this story? *Saul/Paul*
C. In what city did it happen? *In the city of Damascus.* **T.** What were the trials for the believers and for Saul in this passage? *Persecution by Saul and conversion of Paul.* **S.** What was the role of the Holy Spirit in this passage? *Convicts and commissions Paul the Apostle.*

Talk Sheets (Worksheet/Discussion). Here is a way as a class or in small groups that you can urge students to apply the principles from today's passage. Saul was sincere in his persecution of Christians, but he was wrong. Often in our society, we are pushed to accept people's beliefs simply because they are sincere and have a "right" to believe. Unfortunately, most of those beliefs are in direct contradiction of Scripture. Truth cannot be two opposite or conflicting views. On the talk sheet are three statements that your students will encounter, if they haven't already. Each of them is false, but the people making them are sincere. Discuss and even role-play how the students would and should respond to each statement. Do they know Scriptures that explain the falsehood of each statement?, **2.ACT08EL.GF9.**

Acts Olympics (Review Game). Materials needed: Foam ball, garbage can, Aim Questions from Acts and stats from the A.C.T.S. cards.

POINTS: Shooting Questions – Easier questions that earn one point and a chance at a one point single shot at the garbage can.

Three Shot Questions – These questions should be a bit more difficult. They earn you one point and three attempts at shooting for points in the garbage can. Place the garbage can at least 12 feet from a single chair. Divide up into two or three teams, and let the games begin.

The Conversion of Saul Post Test (Review). Tell the students, that they are going to be tested on how well they listened or paid attention today. Pass out the test. Then read the questions and the multiple choice answers out loud and have the students circle which letter (a, b, or c) they think is the correct answer. You may want to give this test at the beginning of the hour and again at the end to see how much they already knew and how much they learned, **2.ACT08EL.GF10.**

Saul Angry at the Christians



Saul on the Road to Damascus

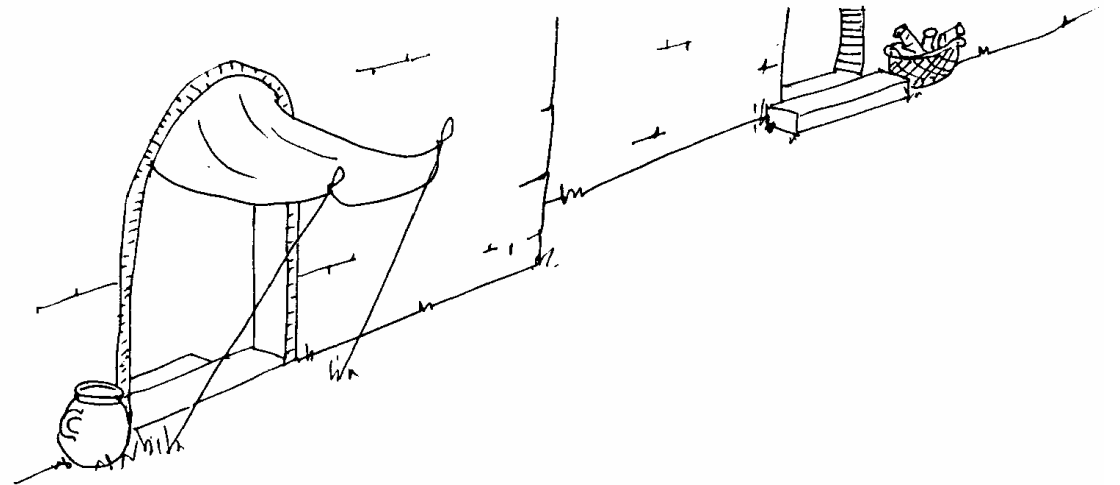


How Saul Met Jesus



◆ An FBC Original

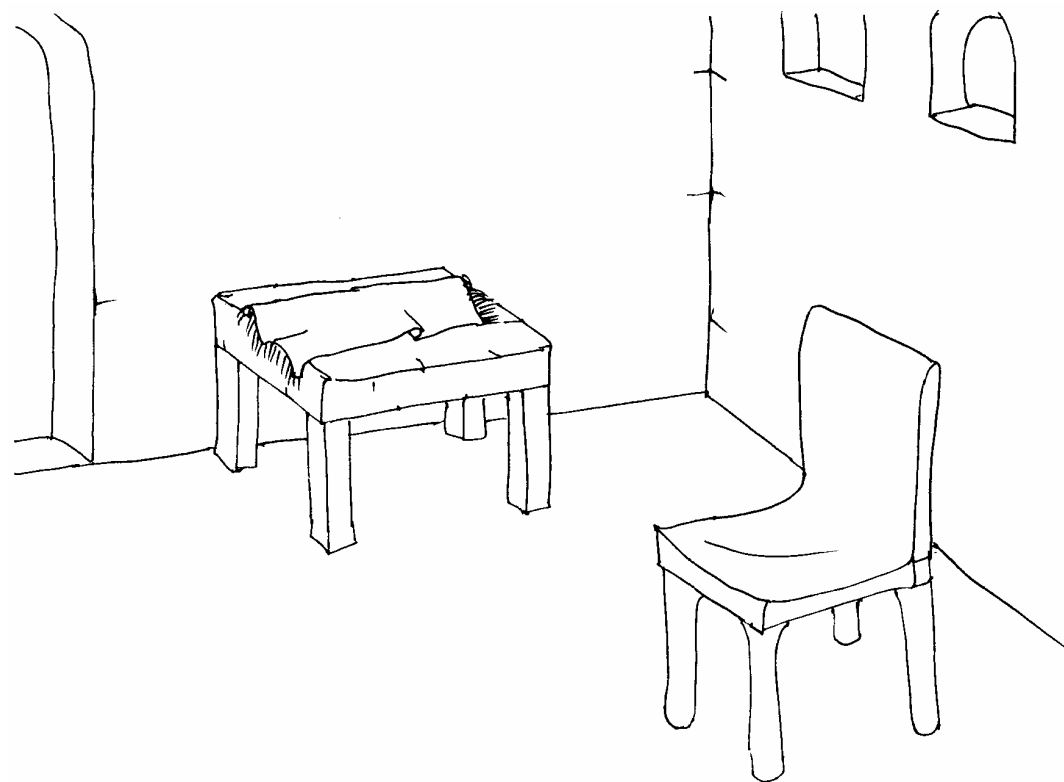
*Saul was angry at
the Christians.
He traveled to
Damascus to put
Christians in jail.*



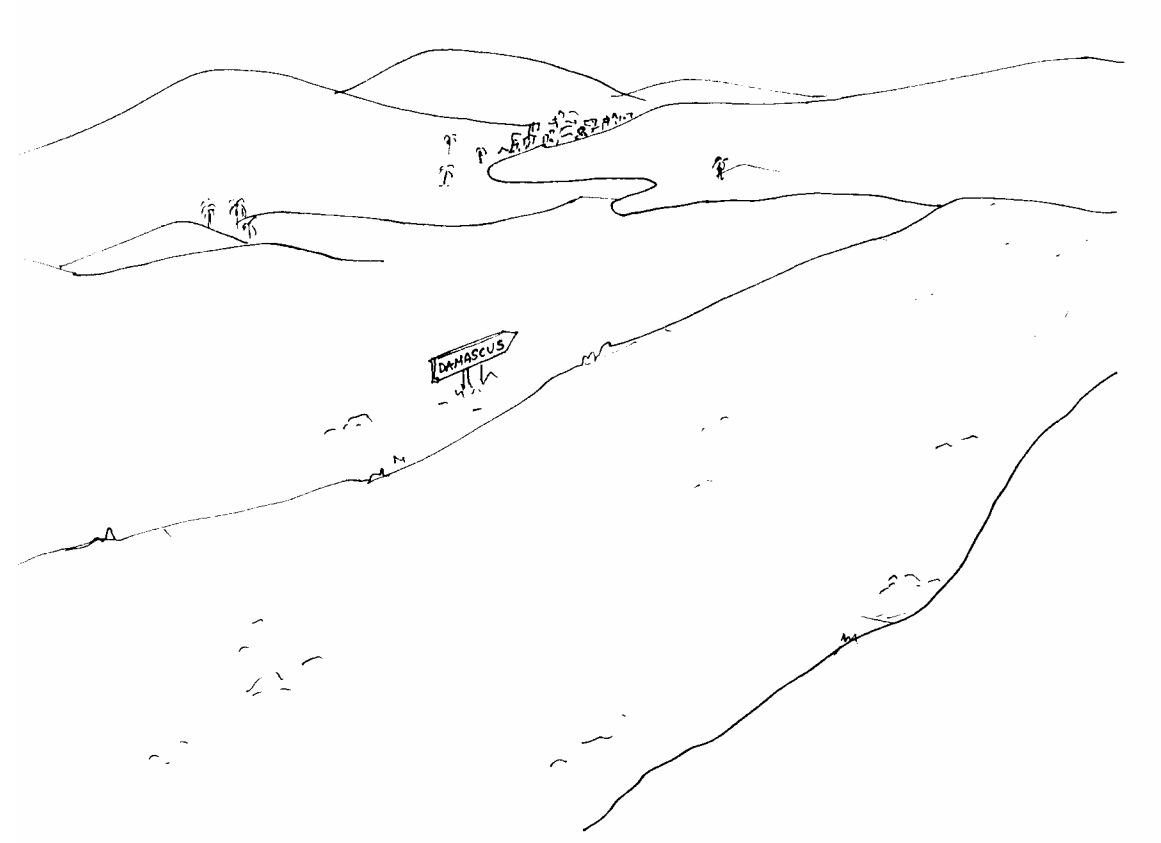
*Saul began to tell
others about Jesus
in Damascus.*



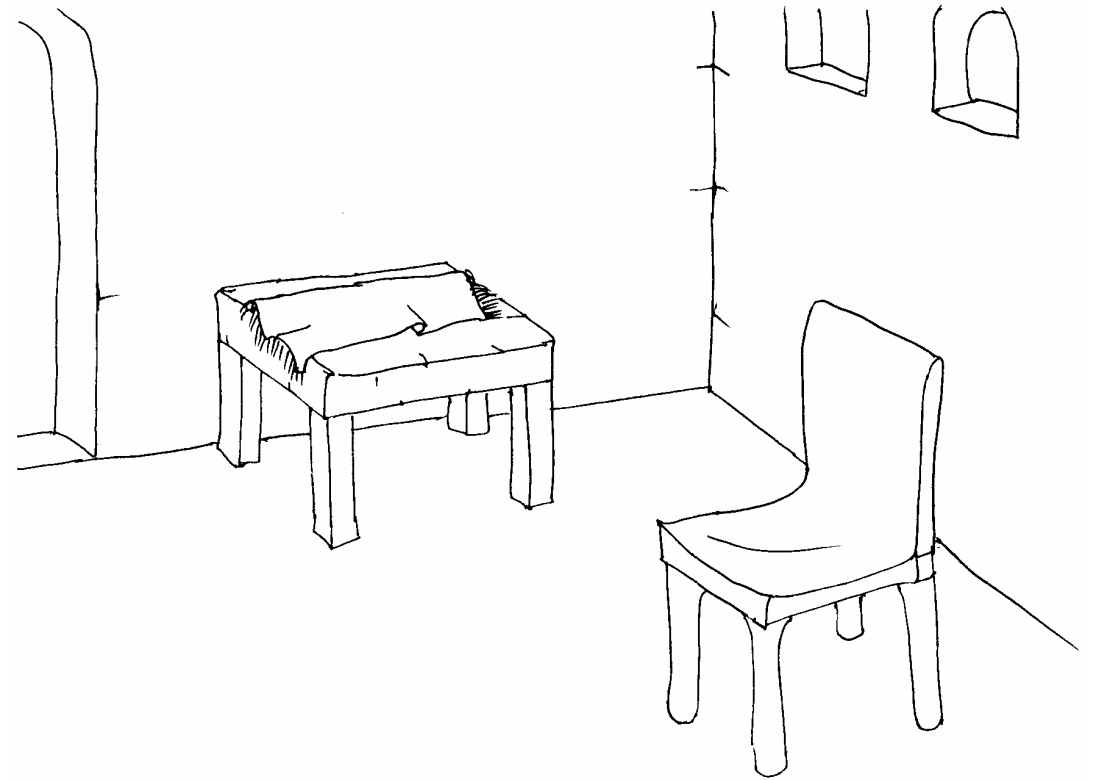
*Saul saw a light
from heaven. He
fell to the ground
and heard Jesus
speak to him.*



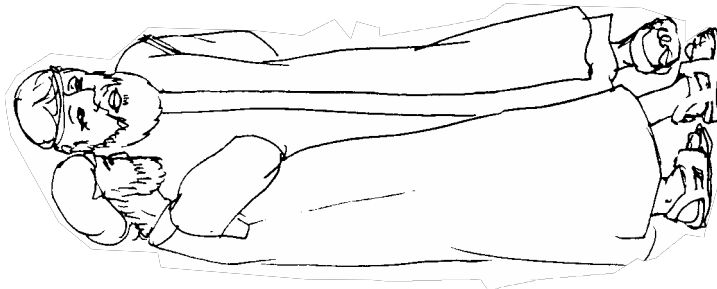
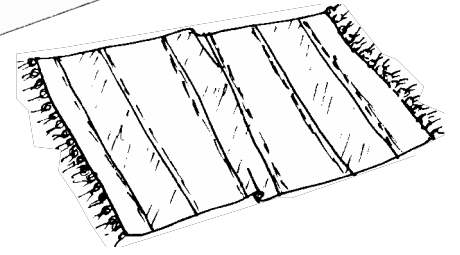
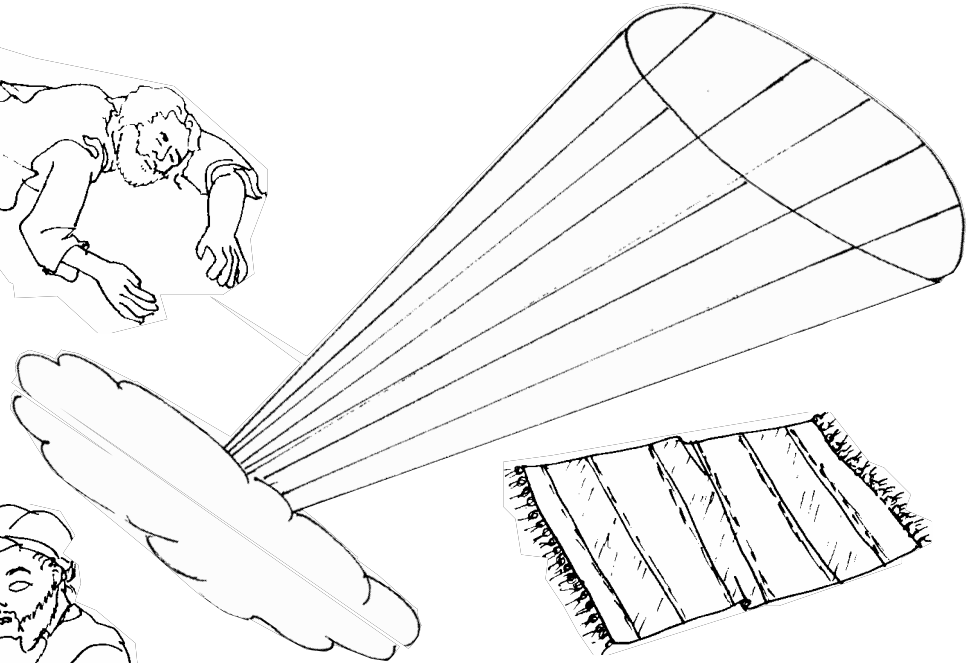
*Ananias laid hands
on Saul, and Saul
regained his sight.*



*Saul was blinded by
the light. He
waited in
Damascus for help.*



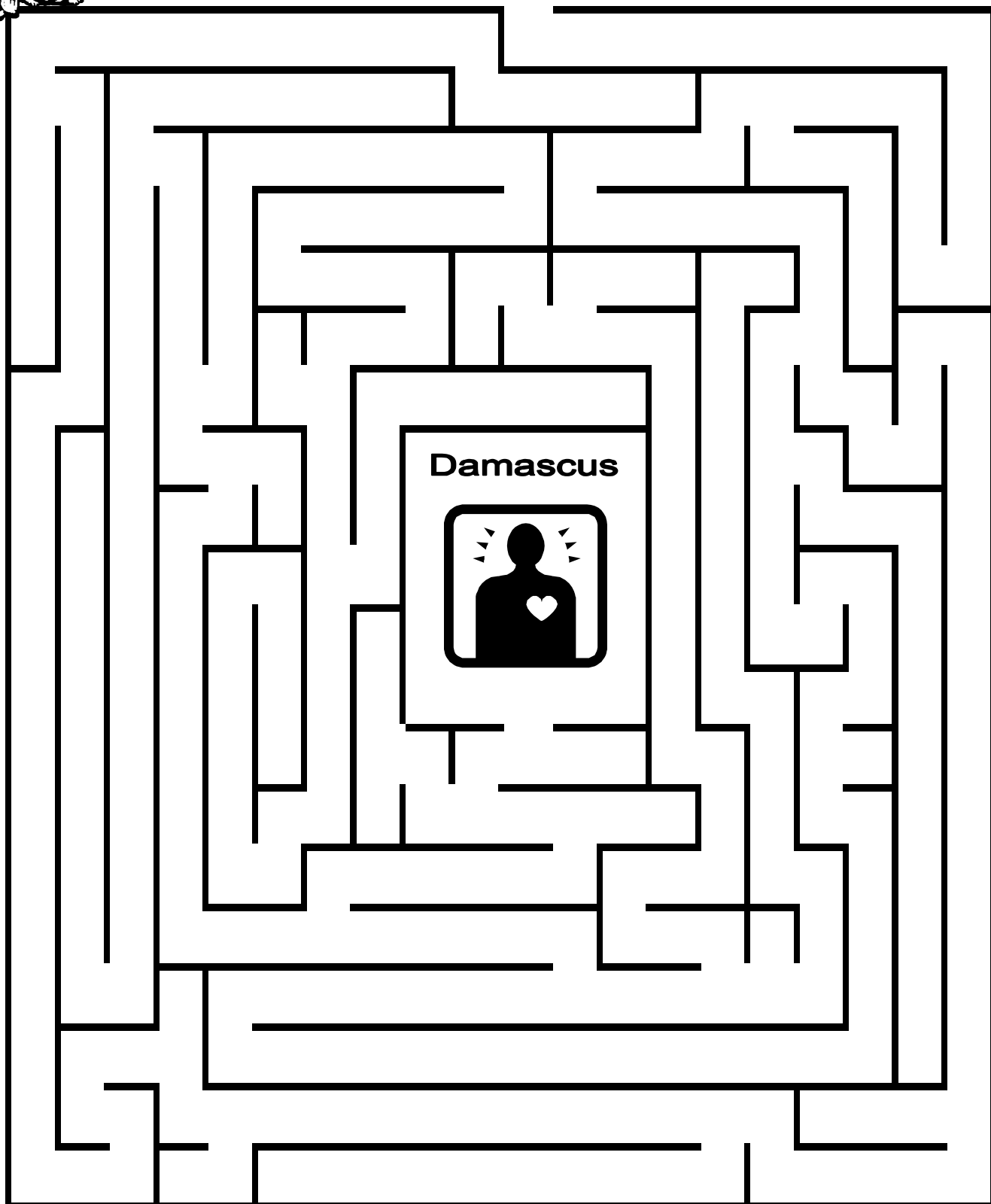
Stickers for sticker book





Saul's Journey Acts 9:1-31

Jerusalem



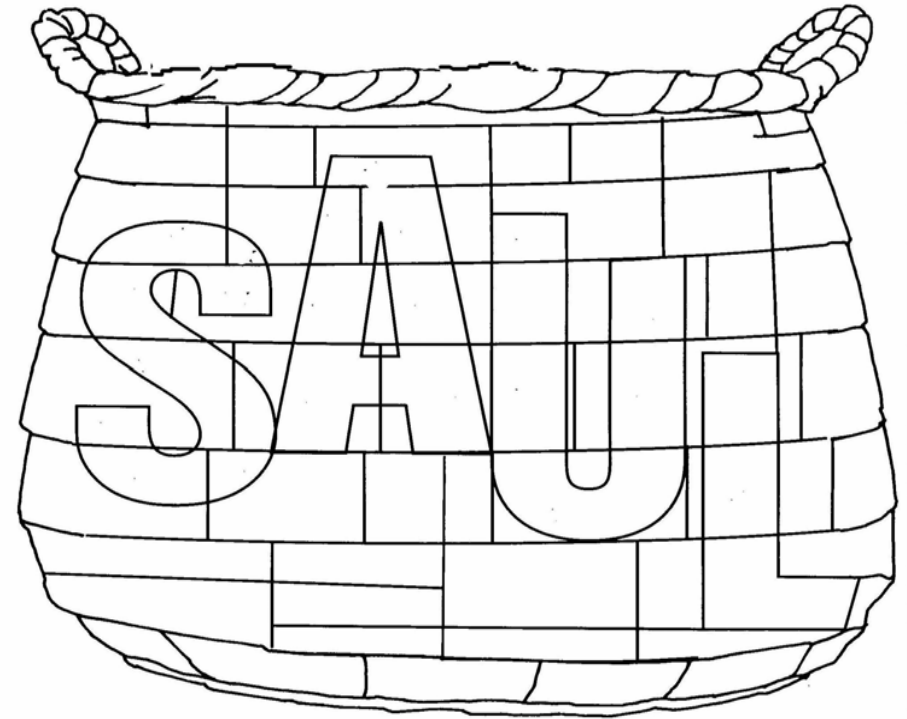
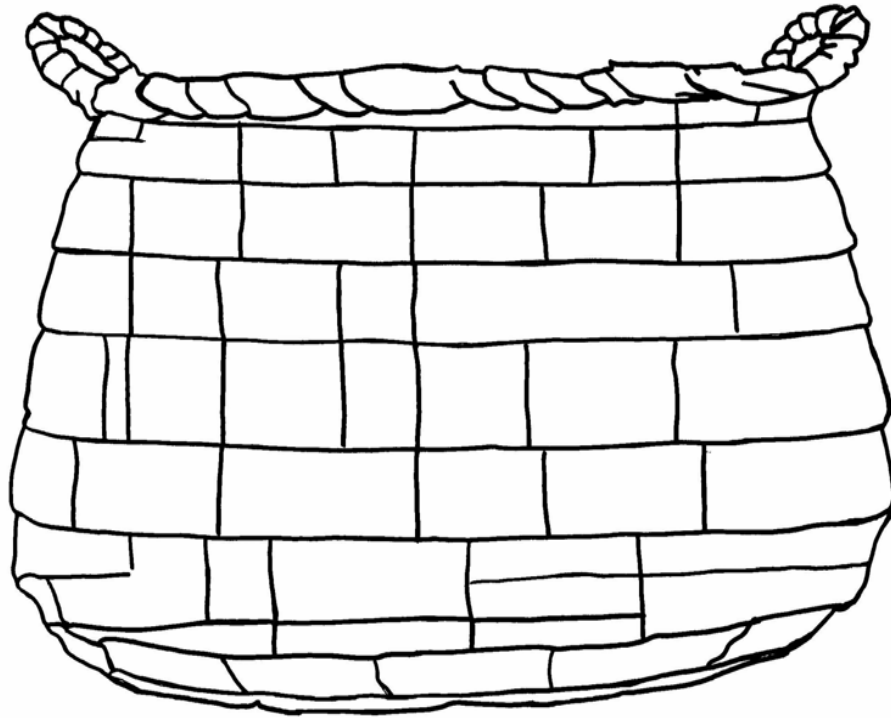
Remember Acts 9:1-31



Using letters from the box below, fill in the words to complete each sentence correctly.

1. **S** _____ was breathing threats against the disciples of the Lord.
(Acts 9:1)
2. Saul grew up in the city of _____ **S** _____ **S** . (Acts 9:11)
3. Later Saul changed his name to _____ . (Acts 13:9)
4. Saul saw a great bright _____ on his way to the city of
_____ **S** _____ **S** . (Acts 9:3)

A A A A A C D G H I M
L L L P R T T U U U U



1. Cut out both baskets.
2. Tape or glue around the sides and bottom edges, leaving the top of the basket open.
3. Use a paper punch to punch a hole on each handle.

4. Tie string or yarn through each handle.
5. Cut out and color Saul, then put him in the basket.
6. Play the Memory Verse Review Game following your teacher's instructions.



Saul in a Basket

Aim Questions

Answer the following questions about today's Bible Adventure.

1. Why was Saul going to Damascus? What happened on the way there?
2. Who was Ananias, and what did he do for Saul? How did Saul respond?
3. How was Saul received in Jerusalem? Who helped him meet the Apostles?
4. What did the Jews try to do to Saul both in Damascus and in Jerusalem?
5. What did Saul sincerely believe about Christians before he met Jesus on the way to Damascus? How did his belief change?
6. Why isn't being sincere good enough to know the truth or to be correct in your belief?

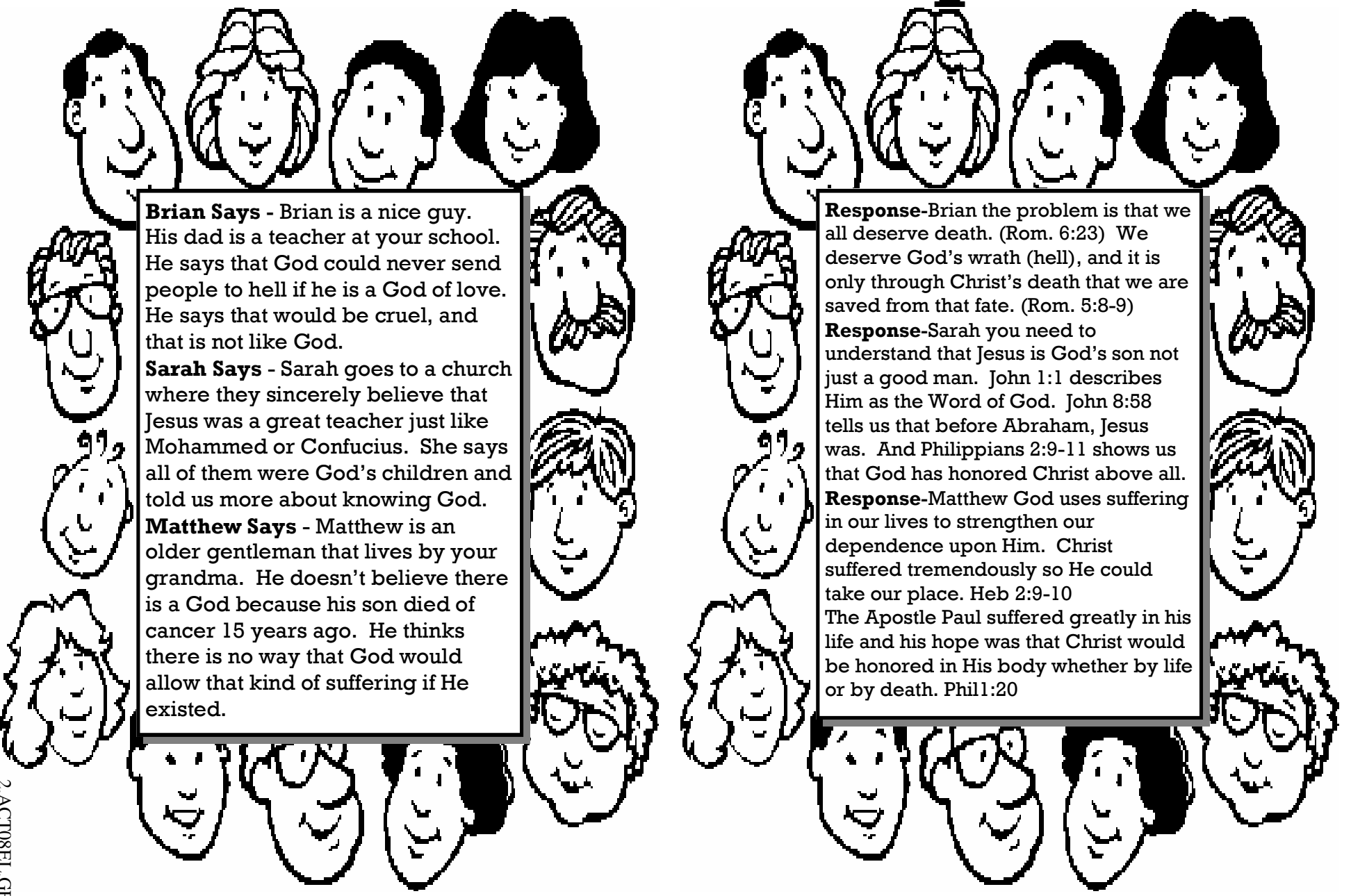
No heart is so hard that God can not change it!

Acts
Chapter
9:1-31

"But the Lord said to Ananias, 'Go! This man is My chosen instrument to carry My name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel.' "
Acts 9:15

Talk Sheets

Responses



Brian Says - Brian is a nice guy. His dad is a teacher at your school. He says that God could never send people to hell if he is a God of love. He says that would be cruel, and that is not like God.

Sarah Says - Sarah goes to a church where they sincerely believe that Jesus was a great teacher just like Mohammed or Confucius. She says all of them were God's children and told us more about knowing God.

Matthew Says - Matthew is an older gentleman that lives by your grandma. He doesn't believe there is a God because his son died of cancer 15 years ago. He thinks there is no way that God would allow that kind of suffering if He existed.

Response-Brian the problem is that we all deserve death. (Rom. 6:23) We deserve God's wrath (hell), and it is only through Christ's death that we are saved from that fate. (Rom. 5:8-9)

Response-Sarah you need to understand that Jesus is God's son not just a good man. John 1:1 describes Him as the Word of God. John 8:58 tells us that before Abraham, Jesus was. And Philippians 2:9-11 shows us that God has honored Christ above all.

Response-Matthew God uses suffering in our lives to strengthen our dependence upon Him. Christ suffered tremendously so He could take our place. Heb 2:9-10
The Apostle Paul suffered greatly in his life and his hope was that Christ would be honored in His body whether by life or by death. Phill:20

THE CONVERSION OF SAUL

Post Test

NAME _____ CLASS _____

Directions: Choose the correct answer. Write its letter in the space in front of the question.

1. ____ What part did Saul take in the stoning of Stephen?
A. He gave approval for his death.
B. He tried to prevent his death.
C. He asked the Roman governor to arrest Stephen.
2. ____ Why was Saul going to Damascus?
A. To find Peter.
B. The Lord had told him to go there.
C. To persecute Christians there.
3. ____ Who appeared to Saul on the road to Damascus?
A. Gabriel. B. Jesus. C. Agabus.
4. ____ What happened to Saul on the road to Damascus?
A. He was blinded and did not eat or drink for three days.
B. The Damascus Christians hid Saul from the Jews.
C. The Lord spoke to him in a vision.
5. ____ They sent a disciple from Damascus to tell Saul what to do. This disciple's name was
A. Silas. B. Peter. C. Ananias.
6. ____ After his conversion in Damascus, Saul
A. Met the twelve Apostles of Jesus.
B. Went home with Barnabas.
C. Preached in the synagogues in Damascus.
7. ____ How did the Jews feel about Saul's conversion?
A. They were impressed by God's power.
B. They tried to have Paul arrested.
C. They planned to kill him.
8. ____ How did Saul get out of Damascus?
A. He joined a group of Roman soldiers leaving the city.
B. He disguised himself as a Jewish rabbi.
C. He was let down over the wall in a basket.
9. ____ When Saul arrived in Jerusalem, how did the disciples there feel about him?
A. They welcomed him as a great man of faith.
B. They were afraid of him.
C. They asked him to prove he had become a Christian.
10. ____ A disciple in Jerusalem took Saul to the Apostles. He was
A. Cornelius. B. Barnabas. C. Silas