



Lesson	Paul Met Jesus
Bible Passage	Acts 9
Story Point	God is Patient
Key Passage	Psalm 23
Big Picture Q & A	How can we know what God is like? We can learn more about what God is like through the Bible



KEY NOTES: RAINFOREST FALLS SUMMER

Discovering God's character is a great adventure! Every story in the Bible shines a light on who God is—His love, power, faithfulness, and grace. Every story we explore this summer will show us amazing truths about God that are revealed to us in the Bible. The more we learn about our Creator, the more we understand who we are and how deeply we are loved. It gives us confidence to trust Him in every moment.

Let's explore the nature of God!

Grace Airways Rainforest Falls Curriculum in Children's Ministry will focus on discovering God's character through Bible stories. Each story chosen highlights a specific attribute of God.

SUMMER PSALM—let's all learn Psalm 23 to give the students consistent excitement and practice each week! We will practice all summer to create a video to share with the rest of Grace Community Church at the Fall-Kick off (Sept 13th) on the big screen.

Key Dates:

July 11th GCC BBQ (baptisms)

Aug 23rd All Sunday Teams Fall Training

Aug 30th Film all classes doing the Summer Psalm

Sept 13th FALL KICKOFF

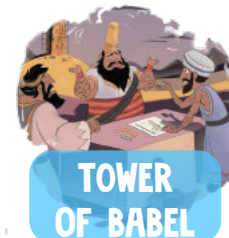
Gospel—Centered Preparation:

The heart of preparation is rooted in your understanding of the gospel and your personal application of the story.

After your study ask yourself:

- How do the verse and Big Picture Question connect to this story?
- What am I excited to teach from this passage?
- The main point this week is: _____
- Where is the gospel in this story?

THE BIBLE TEACHES US ABOUT GOD'S CHARACTER



Co-Pilot—Included Preparation:

On a Sunday morning, the Pilot is leading everyone in our ongoing journey to Jesus— that includes both flyers and Co -Pilots! The more consistency and continuity we have between Pilots, the better we can prepare our helpers to succeed and grow! With that consistency comes the mentorship aspect for our youth volunteers in particular, and utilizing our adult co -pilots as well: sharing activities, engaging them in the morning, and encouraging their involvement.

As you prepare for the lesson, ask yourself:

- **Does my planning allow for Co-Pilot participation throughout the morning?**
- **How did I prepare my Co-Pilot to help with classroom management?**
- **What specific activities will my Co-Pilot assist with today?**
- **In what ways can I encourage my Co-Pilot?**

Engagement

- Sit with child during the story
- Playing alongside flyers
- Reengage chatty/distracted kids
- Ask to volunteer an example during discussion
- Help play to Co-Pilot's strengths

Encouragement

- Thank you for stepping in there!
- You did a great job with _____.
- You really helped me while I was _____.
- Thank you for being _____'s buddy today.
- Your help really made this morning go smoothly.
- _____ was the right thing to do. You handled it well!
- I'm so glad you are here today!

Activities

- Attendance stickers
- Timeline
- Joining in the verse and BPQ&A
- Assigned to a specific flyer
- Helping find books in the Bible
- Leading crafts & songs

Saul was no stranger to religion. He grew up in a religious household. He was a devout Jew who was born in Tarsus (Phil. 3:5) and inherited his Roman citizenship from his father. So when people began talking about this man named Jesus and claiming that He was the promised Messiah, Saul was defensive.

Saul believed strongly in the Jewish faith of his ancestors. He violently persecuted God's church and tried to destroy it. (Gal. 1:13-14) He dragged believers from their houses and put them in prison. He approved of the stoning of Stephen, the first Christian martyr. Saul thought he was doing the right thing by defending Judaism, but God's purposes could not be stopped. As Saul was on his way to arrest believers in Damascus, the Lord stopped him in his tracks.

God was always in pursuit of Saul and even though his heart was hard, God was **patient**. Jesus revealed Himself to Saul, and Saul was never the same. He was struck blind and led into Damascus, where a believer named Ananias placed his hands on Saul. Suddenly, Saul could see again. Saul was convinced that Jesus is Lord. Saul later described the experience as being like dying and receiving a new life. (Gal. 2:20; 2 Cor. 5:17)

God is patient and works according to His perfect timing in the life of Saul. He had set Saul apart even before he was born (Gal. 1:15). The Lord said, "This man is my chosen instrument to take my name to Gentiles, kings, and Israelites" (Acts 9:15).

Jesus changed Saul's life. As you teach preschoolers, clarify that conversion happens when a person recognizes his sin, repents, believes in Jesus, and confesses Jesus as Savior and Lord. Jesus changes a person's heart, and as a result, his life is changed too.

Jesus appeared to Saul and changed him inside and out. Jesus called Saul, who was once an enemy of Christians, to spend the rest of his life telling people the gospel and leading them to trust Jesus as Lord and Savior.

Vision for Grace Airways
We navigate the scriptures,
training up bold disciples,
on our ongoing journey to Jesus!

Sunday Morning Flight Plan



10 min **Take Off**

Celebrate being here! Introduce the morning.

Open in Prayer

Hook

Prompt kids to talk about a time they went on a road trip or vacation with their family and something unexpected occurred. Did they have car trouble? Did someone get stopped at airport security, or lose a suitcase? When traveling, there are a lot of things that can go wrong. Today we will learn about a time a man named Saul, also called Paul, had an unexpected delay to his trip. But it turned out to be something going very right!

Take Off

- Open in Prayer
- Hook
- BPO and A & Summer Psalm
- Timeline & Introduce Story

10 Min

Journey

- Attendance & Bible Sticker
- Bible Story
- God's Attributes

15 Min

Flight Lab

- Experience of the Bible Story
(Make connections through an activity & motion)

15 Min

Pilot's Log

- Pray
- Calm activity during pick-up
- Give activity sheets to parents as they pick up students

5 Min

Summer Truth

We can explore the nature of God

Big Picture Question

How can we know what God is like?

We can learn more about what God is like through the Bible

Summer Psalm

Psalm 23 ESV

Timeline/Introduce Bible Story:

Transition to Bible Story:

Today's story takes place in the book of Acts in the New Testament. Acts tells us what happened to Jesus' followers after Jesus ascended to heaven. Today we'll meet a man who was a big part of God's plan to grow the church. It didn't seem like it at first though - he hated Christians. But God was patient, and His plans can't be stopped. Let's learn more about how God changed Paul's life.

(OPTIONAL) Show the Bible Story Video.

PICK UP:

**First Service:
Around 9:45**

**Second Service:
Around 11:45**



15 Min Journey

Where we travel into God's word

Bible Story

Open your Bible to **Acts 9**. The book of Acts comes right after the gospels in the New Testament and tells us what happened to Jesus' followers after Jesus ascended to heaven.

Saul, also known as Paul, didn't just dislike Christians. He hated them. In fact, he watched while the religious leaders killed Stephen—and Paul thought it was good for them to do that. When we understand how cruel Paul was before he met Jesus, we can see how merciful, gracious, and powerful God really is.

No one but God could cause such a big shift in a man's life. **Jesus saved Paul and chose him to spread the gospel.** As you can imagine, the first believers who met with Paul were concerned. Ananias was afraid to even go see him at first! But after Paul regained his physical sight, it became clear that the Holy Spirit had come into his heart to give him spiritual sight as well. Paul was a new person, completely changed by the power of the gospel.

That's true for everyone who repents and believes the gospel. It always changes us from the inside out. The Bible teaches that we become new creations! In fact, the man who wrote that was Paul! This man, who hated Christians and wanted to see all of them arrested or killed, became one of the primary writers of the New Testament! There's an entire division named for the writings the Holy Spirit inspired him to produce: Paul's Letters. No one is too sinful or too evil to be saved by God's perfect goodness, grace, and mercy.

Age Appropriate Story

STORY POINT: JESUS SAVED PAUL AND CHOSE HIM TO SPREAD THE GOSPEL

After Jesus died, rose from the dead, and ascended to heaven, people who believed in Jesus were treated cruelly because of their faith. A man named Saul wanted to put an end to the church. He headed to Damascus to arrest believers there, but on the way, a bright light from heaven suddenly flashed around him. Saul fell to the ground. He heard a voice saying, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?"

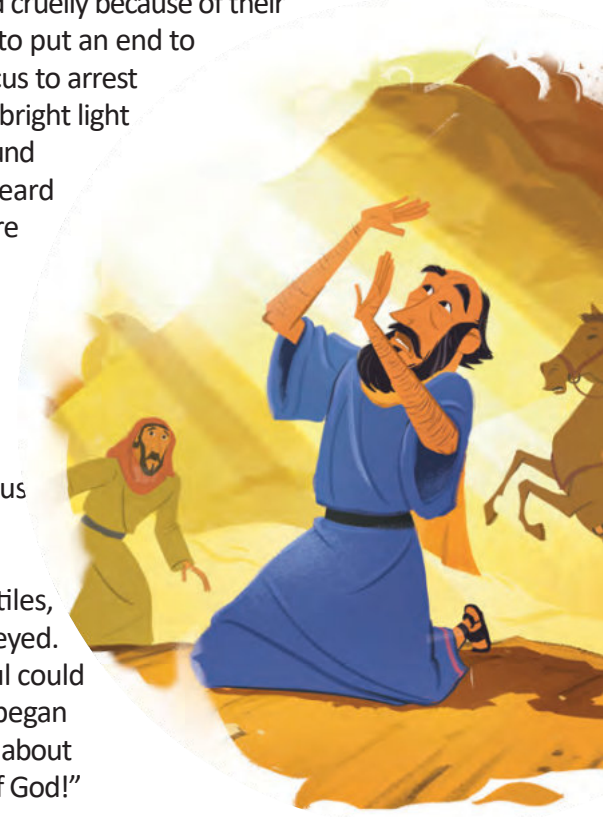
"Who are You, Lord?" Saul asked. "I am Jesus," He replied.

Saul got up and opened his eyes, but he couldn't see! So the men who were traveling with Saul led him by the hand into Damascus

The Lord told Ananias to go to Saul. "I have chosen this man to take my name to Gentiles, kings, and Israelites." Ananias obeyed. He put his hands on Saul, and Saul could see again. Saul was baptized. He began to go to the synagogues to preach about Jesus. Saul said, "Jesus is the Son of God!" The Jews did not like Saul's message.

They planned to kill him, so Saul left the city. Saul was also known as Paul.

Christ Connection: *Jesus appeared to Saul and changed him inside and out. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. (1 Timothy 1:15) Jesus called Paul, who was once an enemy to Christians, to spend the rest of his life telling people the gospel and leading them to trust in Jesus.*



Discussion & Bible Skills

Distribute a Bible to each kid. Help them find **Acts 9**. Lead the group to discuss:

1. **As we explore God's nature in this story, what attribute of God do you see?** God is **patient**.
2. **Why was Paul traveling to Damascus?** to arrest and persecute Christians (Acts 9:1-2)
3. **What did Jesus ask Paul?** "Why are you persecuting me?" (Acts 9:4)
4. **What did Paul do when his sight was restored?** preached about Jesus in the synagogue (Acts 9:20)
5. **How did God's patience with Paul allow Paul to be used by God?**
Guide the kids to discuss how much Paul changed from before and after he encountered Jesus. Jesus appeared at the right time that a big change would be noticeable, and that change demonstrated God's power.
6. **What role did Paul play in spreading the gospel?** Traveled around to tell many about Jesus, started churches in many towns, wrote letters to those churches, some of which were kept and included in the New Testament!



God's attributes- In today's story we see that God is:

PATIENT

15 min Flight Lab

Instill Wonder as you experience the Bible
CHOOSE ONE ACTIVITY

Blindfold Tag

Select three kids to sit in the middle of the room wearing blindfolds. The other kids must attempt to sneak across the room without alerting the three blindfolded kids. The blindfolded kids must attempt to reach out and tag kids as they cross. Any kids who are tagged will wear blindfolds and join the kids in the middle.

- It was hard to tag anyone when you were blindfolded. Today we will learn about a time Paul, also known as Saul, was blinded while traveling to a city called Damascus. How do you think that happened?

Chain Tag

Select a kid to be *It*. He will tag other kids to link arms with them, making them part of the chain. Those kids may then tag other kids to grow the chain. The game ends when all the kids are part of the chain.

- That was fun! At first it may have seemed tough to grow the human chain, but the more kids who joined, the easier it was to reach more kids. That reminds me of our story.

Jesus saved Paul and chose him to share the gospel. Though Paul was only one man, God used him in His plans to share the gospel all over the world! Paul quickly began to tell others and select more leaders who would also spread the gospel. As we continue learning about God's plan, you will see how God used one person to grow the church bigger and bigger as more and more people began to share the gospel.

5 min Pilot's Log

Where we prepare to depart.

Red light, green light

Select a kid to be It. She will stand facing the rest of the group at the far side of the room and announce when the “light” is red or green. The other kids may only move when the light is green. Any kids caught moving when the light is red must return to the starting side of the room. You may add in other light colors with different rules, such as: yellow light–move in slow motion; blue light–hop; purple light–dance; black light–walk backwards.

- It might have felt frustrating to be on your way across the room when a red light stopped you. Today we learned about a time Paul, also known as Saul, was stopped in the middle of his journey. Who stopped him, and why?

Story in Pictures

Form small groups of kids. Assign each group a scene from the story. Challenge them to illustrate their scene as best they can. When groups finish, invite them to present their scenes in chronological order to retell the story. Scene suggestions:

Saul traveling on the road (Acts 9:3)

Saul's encounter with Jesus (Acts 9:4-6)

Ananias hearing from God (Acts 9:10-16)

Ananias going to Saul (Acts 9:17-19)

Saul preaching in the synagogues (Acts 9:20-22)

Saul escaping Damascus in a basket (Acts 9:23-25)

- What scene or part of today's story stands out to you the most? [Allow kids to explain why they like that particular part of the story.] Jesus changed Saul's life. **Jesus saved Paul and chose him to spread the gospel.** When people recognize their sin, repent, and believe in Jesus, Jesus changes their hearts. As a result, their lives are changed too! This is the most important decision you can ever make.

Pray:

If time, share prayer requests and allow kids to record in the **prayer journal section of their *Travel Guide*.**

ALWAYS CLOSE THE MORNING WITH PRAYER.

This is how we model incorporating prayer into their lives.

Waiting for parents/Activity Page:

Tie back into the lesson, remind them of the Big Picture Question/verse, etc...

Be sure to **re-set expectations on what their choices are while waiting for mom and dad:**

- Activity page
- Key Passage Activity (See next page for list of options)
- Coloring page
- Gospel Kit Activities
- Anything quiet at the tables you are ok with (*origami, free draw on blank paper, hangman game at white board, putting Book of the Bible cards in order, etc....*)

Be sure that the Co-Pilots hand out the Activity sheet to each child or to parents so they can go home with families.

Prayer Extra Ideas:

Prayer Chain—In small groups, ask children/co-pilot to write prayer requests on a few paper strips. Connect paper strips into a chain and display our growing conversation to the Lord. Feel free to revisit older requests as well.

Painted Rocks—Have each child choose a painted rock to write on. Write a word of encouragement, a word about Jesus, a name, etc. The goal is to take it with them and place it somewhere near their typical living space— a neighbor's house, a store, a playground, etc. Then pray over the place or the people who are there.

Pointing to a Map—Choose one or two kiddos to spin/close their eyes/find a certain color (you can be creative and have fun) and point to a country on the map. Place a pin in the place(s) and pray over it as a group. Even if you don't know anything about the country, we can lift up the people, pray for Jesus' light to shine there, the Gospel to be active there, and churches to grow, etc.

Looking out the Window—Grab a dry erase marker, have the kids gather at the windows, and look outside. Ask the children to look for 3 things they can see out of the window to pray over. Using the dry erase marker, write those things on the window (Pre-K & K may draw things) and then pray over those things. Feel free to leave them on the window, so whenever we look through, those things are brought to our mind to pray for again.

Head Shoulders Knees and Toes—Pray through the song.

- Head (mind, imagination, thoughts, creativity)
- Shoulders (physical strength, things we might be dealing with)
- Knees (dancing, playing, jumping, etc.)
- Toes (walking and following after Jesus, standing strong in our faith)
- Eyes, ears, mouth & nose (seeing goodness, listening to Him, speaking truthful words, our senses, etc.)

Preschool Carpet Bag Prayers— Choose an item(s) out of the carpet bag. Discuss the item and different people/things the item could represent (car—driving safely, mechanics, trips, first responders, etc) Encourage kids to “think outside the bag” and help them make connections. Pray over the people, places, and things that were discussed.

You're ready for Sunday!

