

Saul Becomes a Believer

Acts 9:1-18

Story:

★ Introduction & Story:

Saul was a Pharisee. Remember that Pharisees were Jewish leaders who believed the Messiah was coming, but they did not believe that Jesus was the Messiah. Saul was a very strict Pharisee. He believed the Law of Moses and did not think that Jesus honored this law. Saul hated those who did not honor every part of the Law and therefore, he hated Jesus and his followers.

Saul had mistreated many Christians and even put them in prison. He stood by when a follower of Jesus by the name of Stephen was stoned to death. He did not disapprove.

One day he went to the high priest and requested letters from him to the synagogues in Damascus, so that he could go to Damascus and if he found any men or women there who followed Jesus, he could bring them as prisoners to Jerusalem. As he traveled and was nearing Damascus, a light from heaven suddenly flashed around him. Falling to the ground, he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?"

"Who are you, Lord?" Saul said.

"I am Jesus, the one you are persecuting," he replied. "But get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, hearing the sound but seeing no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing. So, they took him by the hand and led him into Damascus. He was unable to see for three days and did not eat or drink.

Also in Damascus there was a believer named Ananias. God told Ananias to get up and go to a street named Straight. He was to go to the home of Judas and ask for a man named Saul of Tarsus. God told him that Saul was praying and had seen in a vision that a man named Ananias would come to him and his sight would be restored.

Ananias knew exactly who Saul of Tarsus was and was afraid to go to him. He told the Lord that he had heard of all the terrible things that Saul had done to believers.

The Lord explained to Ananias that he had chosen Saul to take the name of Jesus to the Gentiles.

Ananias went and entered the house. He placed his hands on Saul and said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road you were traveling, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.”

At once something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he got up and was baptized. And after taking some food, he regained his strength.

This story is very important. Saul - who was persecuting Jesus and believers - was saved by God. God saved him, so that He could use Saul in special ways. Even when we sin, God loves us and will welcome us if we turn to follow Him. This story also tells us that God didn't just come for the Israelites - the family He chose to show His love to in the Old Testament. He came for all humans. Saul was to go tell the Gentiles (non-Israelites) about Him. We need to do the same.

★ **Connection to God's Overall Story/Plan:**

Connection to the Overall Message of the Bible

- Shows that **no one is beyond God's grace**.
- Demonstrates God's mission to the Gentiles (non-Jews).
- Highlights transformation: enemy of God → leader of the Church.
- Connects to the Bible's theme of **redemption and new identity**.

Theology

- **Conversion:** Salvation is initiated by God, not earned.
- **Grace:** Saul didn't seek Jesus—Jesus pursued him.
- **Union with Christ:** “Why do you persecute *me*?” → Jesus identifies with His people.
- **Mission:** Saul (Paul) is chosen specifically to spread the gospel.

Historical Accuracy / Context

- Saul (Paul) is a historically verified figure: Paul the Apostle.

- His letters (like Romans and Galatians) confirm his dramatic conversion.
- Conversion is also referenced in multiple places in Acts (Acts 9, 22, 26), showing consistency.
- His shift from persecutor to missionary is **historically unlikely unless something real happened**.
- Damascus was a real, significant city in the Roman world (fits the travel narrative).

Follow Up:

- ★ **Retell:** Have kids share what they recall from the story. Fill in any major holes they missed.
- ★ **Examine:**
 - Comprehension Questions
 - Does it seem like Saul was someone that God would choose to be his messenger?
 - Why do you think God chose him?
 - How do you think other believers felt when they heard that Saul was now a believer and was preaching the good news about Jesus?
 - Ask, “What do we learn about God from this story? What does He do?”
 - God loves us and wants us to follow Him.
 - Ask, “What do we learn about humans from this story? What are humans doing?”
 - Humans can submit to God and be changed for Him. We can believe and thus become a different person through the Spirit.
- ★ **Application:** Ask, “What is Jesus asking us to do through this story? Why did God include this in the Bible?”
 - Jesus is asking us to believe and to tell others about Jesus.
- ★ **Prayer**

Memory Verse Practice:

- ★ **Verse:** Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved. -- Acts 16:31 (CSB)

Sticky Activities:

- ★ Worksheets & coloring pages
- ★ Crafts



★ Sensory:

- 👁️ Visual
 - **Bright Light Flash Demo** Quickly turn on a flashlight to represent Saul's encounter.
 - **Before/After Chart** Saul vs. Paul actions
 - **"Who Changed?" Game:** Have a child leave, change a detail of their outfit, and have others guess the change, illustrating transformation
 - Show the map included in the lesson
- 👃 Smell
 - **Travel Smells Bag** Leather, dust (dirt), etc.—road to Damascus.
 - **New Life Fresh Smell** Compare "old" (musty cloth) vs. "new" (clean scent).
- 🤲 Touch
 - **Scales Falling Craft Texture** Peel dried glue from paper (like scales).
 - **Rough to Smooth Objects** Transformation symbolism.
- 🚶 Movement
 - **Blindfold Obstacle Course:** Blindfold children to represent Saul's blindness, having them rely on a partner's voice to navigate, illustrating trust.
 - **Stop & Drop Game** Run until "LIGHT!" then stop and fall to knees.
 - **Follow the Voice** Blindfolded kids follow a voice (Jesus calling Saul).
- 🗣️ Sound

- **Name Change Moment** Kids say their name loudly, then whisper “new name” (Paul).
- **Voice from Heaven Moment** Dramatic reading: “Saul, Saul...”
- **Silence to Sound Contrast** Start silent (blind), then loud praise after healing.

Send Home Page: See attached



Saul to Paul was on the solid red line in the middle of the map. It was a long journey.

Memory Verse:

**Believe in the
Lord Jesus, and
you will be saved.
-- Acts 16:31 (CSB)**

Fill in the Blanks

_____ in the _____

Jesus, _____ you will be

_____.

-- Acts 16:31

Draw what God is saving you from!

Fill in the Blanks

_____ in the _____

Jesus, _____ you will be

_____.

-- Acts 16:31

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Saul Becomes a Believer
Acts 9:1-18**

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*Kids that recite the memory verse
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Acts 9:1-19

Jesus Talks to Saul

Jesus Talks to Saul

Acts 9:1-19

Saul was certain that Jesus' friends were telling lies when they said Jesus was God's Son. Saul didn't believe Jesus was God's Son. Saul wanted to make people stop talking about Jesus. Saul was so angry, he even wanted to kill people who believed in Jesus!

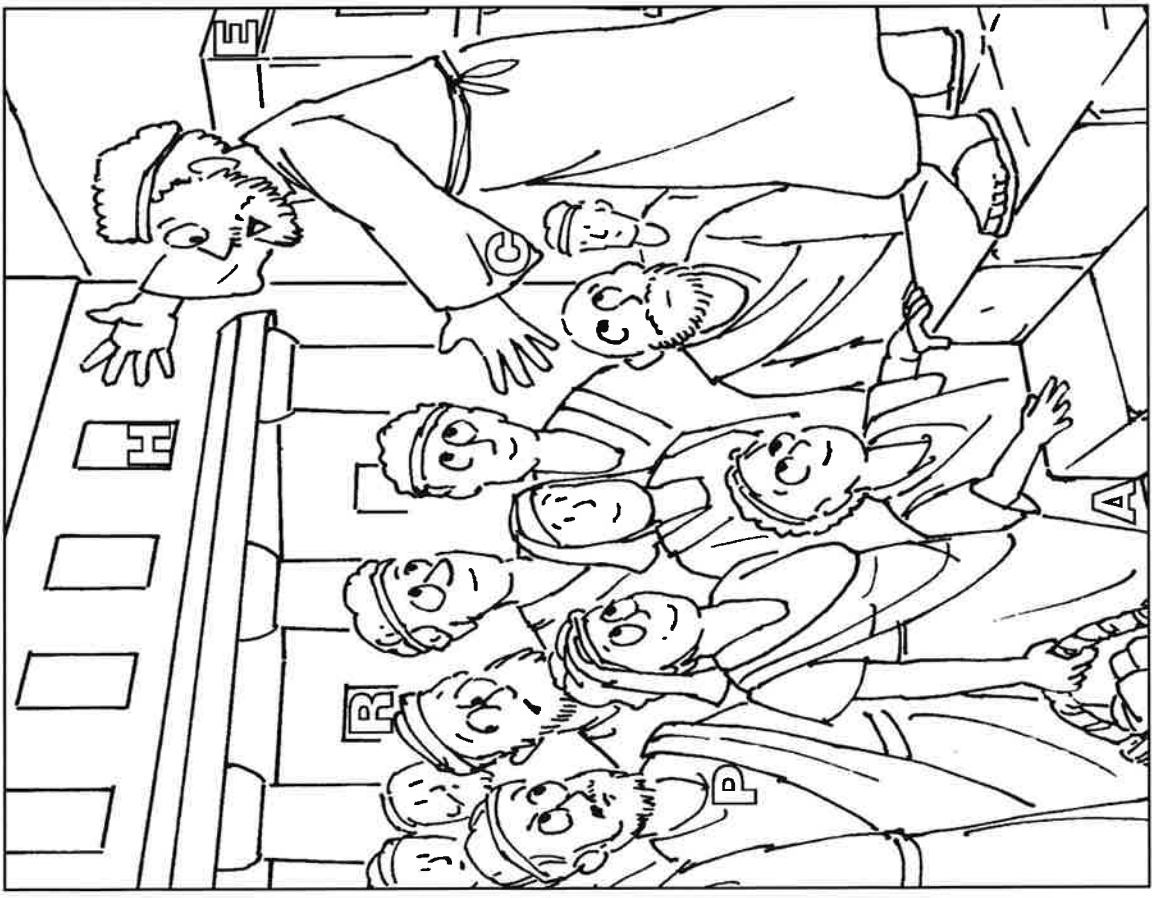
Saul was going to Damascus to find people who believed in Jesus and take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. As he walked along the road with some friends, a bright light suddenly flashed around Saul. Saul fell to the ground. Jesus talked to Saul. "Why are you hurting Me?" Jesus asked. "Go to Damascus and you will be told what you must do." Saul got up, but he could not see. Saul's friends helped Saul walk the rest of the way to Damascus.

For three days, Saul was blind and he didn't eat anything. He prayed to God. God sent a man who loved Jesus to help Saul. The man went to the house where Saul was staying and said, "The Lord Jesus sent me so you may see again." Right away, Saul could see. Now Saul believed in Jesus and wanted to obey Him.



Saul then began to preach that Jesus was the Son of God.

Circle the letters. P R E A C H



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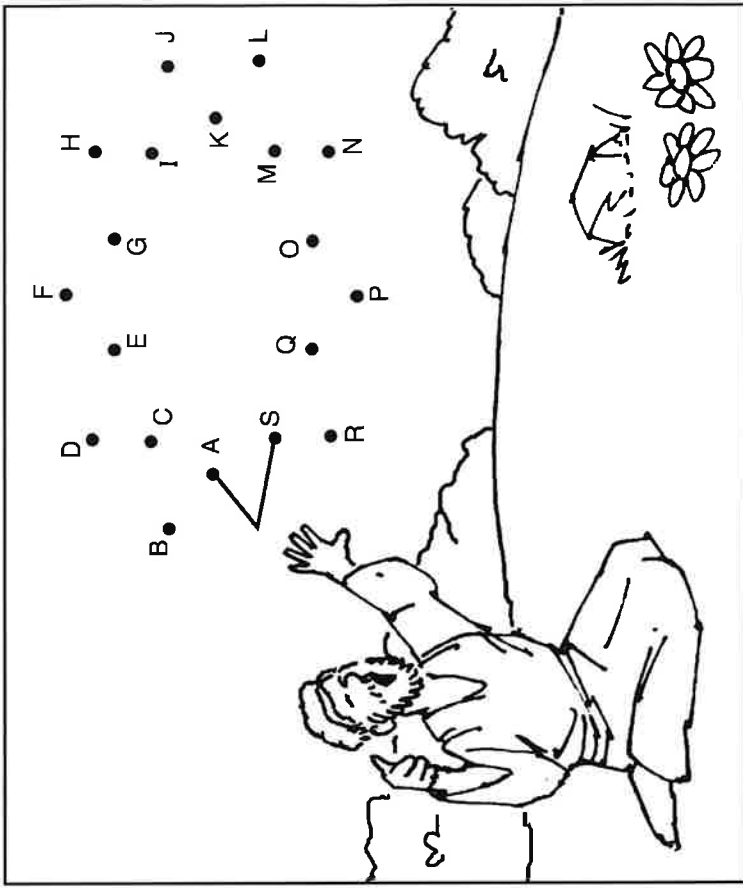
Ages 3+

April 12, 2026 • Acts 9:1-20

The Conversion of Saul

Saul was harming some of Jesus' disciples. A bright light blinded Saul.

Connect the dots. ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRS

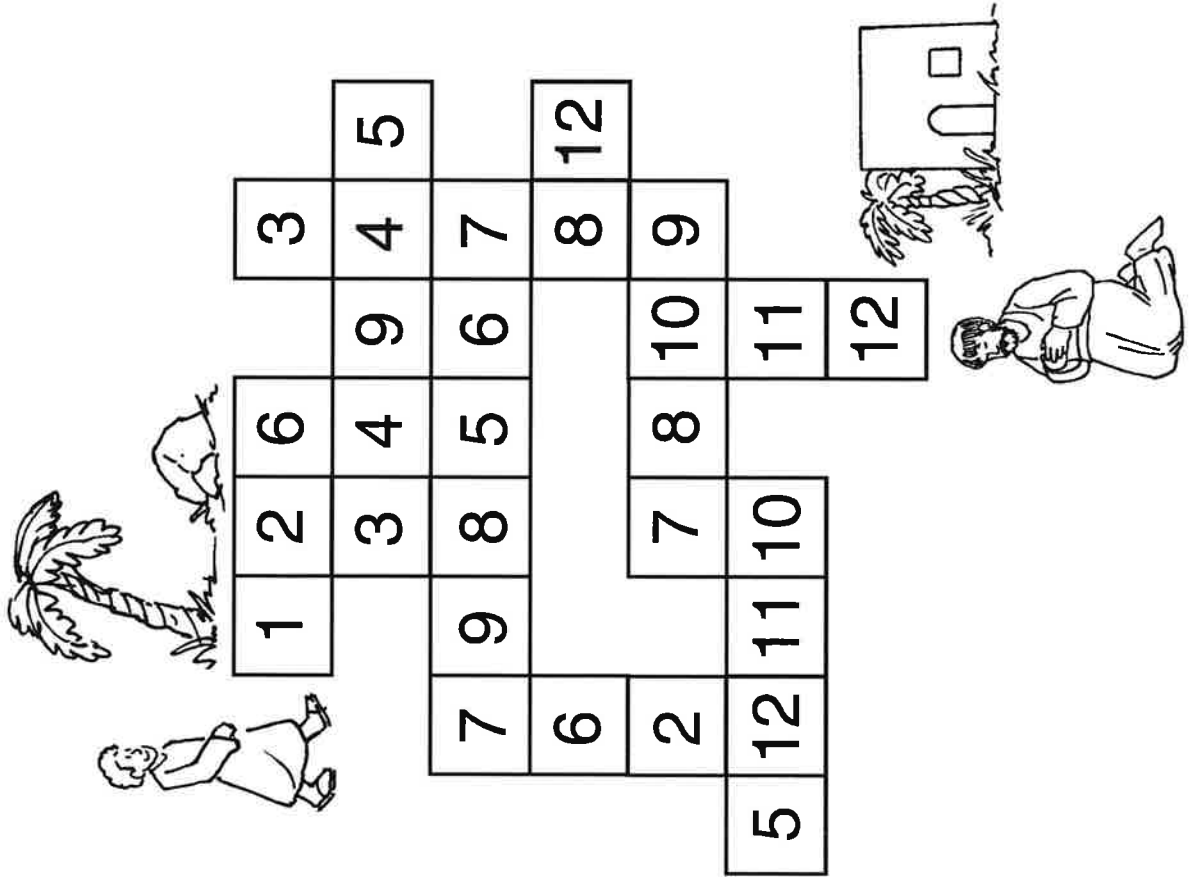


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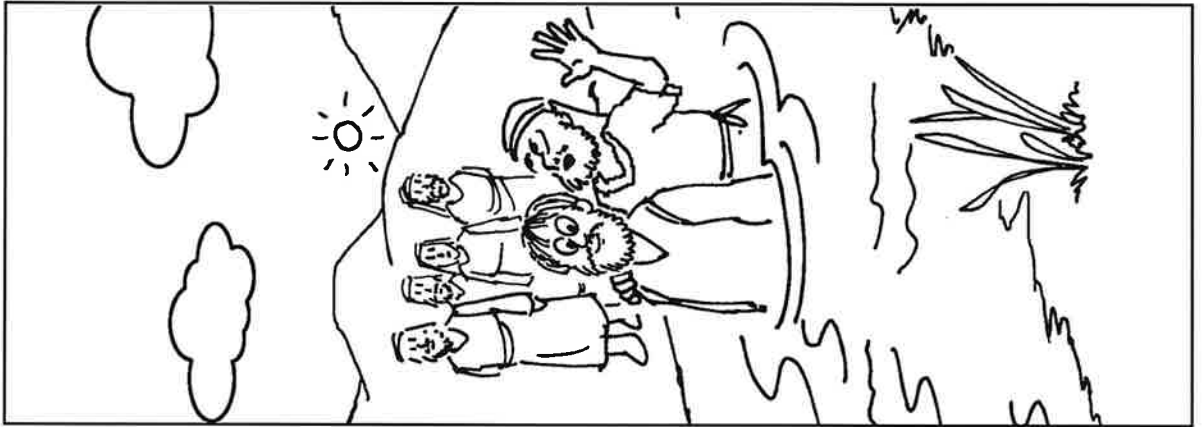
A disciple named Ananias was told to find Saul and heal him.

Follow the maze. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
Help Ananias find Saul.



When Saul was healed he got baptized.

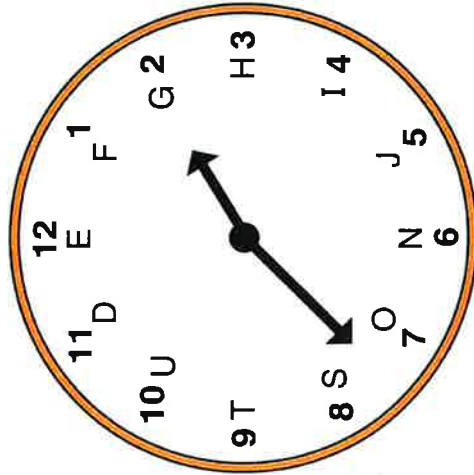
Find 5 differences in 2nd picture.





Saul started preaching the very same message he had been trying to eliminate!

Use the times on the clock to find Saul's new message.



“ 5:00 12:00 8:00 10:00 8:00 4:00 8:00
9:00 3:00 12:00 8:00 7:00 6:00
7:00 1:00 2:00 7:00 11:00
”

The Conversion of Saul


Jesus spoke to Saul along the road to Damascus.

Join the numbers 1 through 23.
Then write the letters in order on the lines.

1 s 23 e • 22 M

2 a 3 u 5 w 7 y 9 o 11 o 13 p 15 r 17 e 18 c • 20 t

4 i 6 h 8 d 10 y 12 u 14 e 16 s



“ _____

_____ ”

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God sent one of His disciples to help Saul.

Fill the boxes with words to complete the story.

- Word List**
- ANANIAS
 - ARREST
 - BLIND
 - CALL
 - HARM
 - PRAYING
 - SAUL
 - VISION

1				D		
	2		A			S
		3		M		
			4	A		
				S		
				6	C	
					7	U
						8
						S

On his way to Damascus, _____¹ saw Jesus in a heavenly light and was struck _____² for 3 days. In a _____³, God spoke to His disciple named _____⁴ and told him to go to the house where Saul was _____⁵ and restore his sight. Ananias was afraid because he had heard reports of the _____⁶ Saul had done to Christians in Jerusalem. He knew Saul intended to _____⁷ all who _____⁸ on Jesus' name.

God reassured Ananias and told him of His great plans for Saul.

Use the letters from the triangles to complete God's words.

1 C R A 2 L G E 3 K N I 4 H T O 5 S M U

"This _____ is My _____ before the _____ to carry My _____ and before _____ and their _____ and before _____ the people of _____"



