



Use Week of:

Unit 30 • Session 2

Paul Met Jesus

BIBLE PASSAGE:

Acts 8–9

STORY POINT:

Jesus saved Paul from his sins.

KEY PASSAGE:

Colossians 1:18

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Why does the church exist? The church exists to glorify God.

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LEADER Bible Study

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.

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 had a purpose and a plan for Saul. He had set Saul apart before Saul was even born. (Gal. 1:15) God 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.

The BIBLE Story

Paul Met Jesus

Acts 8–9

In the early days of the church, Paul worked hard to stop people from telling about Jesus. He did not believe that Jesus is the Son of God. He thought that people who believed in Jesus should be put in jail or be killed. Many believers left the city to get away from Paul.



Paul decided to go to the city of Damascus to arrest believers there. He **was traveling along when** all of a sudden, **a very bright light came down from heaven.** It flashed around **Paul**, and he **fell to the ground.** Then **Paul** heard a voice saying, “Why are you against Me?”

“Who are You, Lord?”

Paul asked.

“I am Jesus,” He said.

Jesus told **Paul** to go into the city and wait for more instructions.

Paul got up and opened his eyes, but he couldn’t see anything! So the men who were traveling with **Paul** led him into the city.

A man named Ananias (an uh NIGH uhs) **lived in the city.** Ananias loved Jesus. **God** spoke to Ananias in a vision and **told him to go visit Paul.** Ananias knew that **Paul** was an enemy of Jesus, but God had a plan for **Paul.** **God** said, “**I have chosen Paul to tell many people about Me.**”

Ananias obeyed God. He **went to Paul and said, “Jesus sent me here to help you.”** Then Ananias put his hands on Paul, and Paul could see again. Paul got up and was baptized.

For the next few days, **Paul** stayed in the city with other people who believed in Jesus. He **went to the synagogues** to tell people about Jesus. **“Jesus is the Son of God!” Paul said. The people were amazed. They knew Paul had been an enemy of Jesus, but now he loved Jesus!**

The Jews did not like what Paul was saying, so they made a plan to kill him. The other believers helped Paul sneak out of the city at night.

Christ Connection: Paul was an enemy of Jesus and His followers, but then God changed him. Jesus came to earth to save sinners like Paul. (1 Timothy 1:15). When we trust in Jesus, He changes us from the inside out.

Bible Storytelling Tips

• Tell a monologue:

Invite a guest to dress in Bible times clothing and tell the Bible story as a monologue from Paul's perspective.

• Close your eyes or wear a blindfold:

Lead preschoolers to close their eyes when Paul is unable to see and keep them closed until you reach the part of the story when Paul's sight is restored. You may also offer each child a stretchy blindfold if available.

INTRODUCE the Story



SESSION TITLE: Paul Met Jesus

BIBLE PASSAGE: Acts 8–9

STORY POINT: Jesus saved Paul from his sins.

KEY PASSAGE: Colossians 1:18

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Why does the church exist? The church exists to glorify God.

Welcome time

- “One Foundation” song
- offering basket
- Allergy Alert
- favorite toys related to the Bible story theme

Play a theme song in the background as you greet preschoolers and follow your church’s security procedures. Set an offering basket near the door to collect at an appropriate time. Post an allergy alert, if necessary. Set out a few favorite theme-related toys, such as puzzles and blocks.

Activity page

- “Match the Changes” activity page, 1 per child
- crayons or markers

Guide children to draw a line connecting each creation with how it changed.

SAY • The caterpillar became a butterfly. The foal became a horse. The bulb became a flower. The tree grew leaves. A man in today’s Bible story changed too. Let’s listen to the story and see what changed this man.

LOW PREP

- “The Church (Colossians 1:18)” song (optional)
- “One Foundation” song (optional)

Move to music and talk to friends

Tell preschoolers that you will play music. They should move around the room while the music plays. When the music stops, they should stop and tell the person closest to them one thing about themselves. Play and stop the music, giving preschoolers a prompt each time the music stops. Prompts may be their favorite game, favorite color, favorite food, favorite animal, how old they are, how they got to

church today, or how many people are in their family.

SAY • We learned a lot about each other, didn't we? Often when we meet someone new, we learn something about that person. In today's Bible story, a man named Paul met Jesus. Jesus already knew everything about Paul, but Paul did not know Jesus. Meeting Jesus changed Paul's life. Listen to the Bible story to find out how.

Follow a road blindfolded

Use painter's tape to make a road on the floor about two-feet wide, curving around the room. Clear nearby obstacles. Ask a volunteer to wear a blindfold. Choose another child to gently hold the blindfolded child's arm and guide him from one end of the road to the other. Watch children carefully to ensure safety. Allow any child who does not wish to be blindfolded to be a guide.

· painter's tape
· blindfold

SAY • Not being able to see can be difficult. When you had the blindfold on, you could not see which way to go. In our Bible story today, a man was unable to see all of a sudden. The men with him had to lead him into the city, like you led your friends across the room. Listen to the story to hear what happened next.

Transition to teach the story

To gain the attention of all the preschoolers to move them to Bible study, show the countdown video, turn the lights off and on, or clap a simple rhythm for the children to copy. Encourage children to choose a friend and walk to the Bible study area together.

· countdown video
(optional)

TEACH the Story



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BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Why does the church exist? The church exists to glorify God.

Introduce the Bible story

- Bible
- bookmark
- Giant Timeline

Place a bookmark at Acts 8 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it. Reverently display the open Bible.

SAY • The Bible tells true stories that teach us about Jesus. Our story today is in the New Testament Book of Acts. Acts tells about what happened with Jesus' followers after Jesus went back to heaven.

Point to the Bible story picture on the giant timeline. Remind children that all the stories in the Bible fit together to tell an even bigger story. The Bible tells us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

Watch or tell the Bible story

- Story Point Poster
- "Paul Met Jesus" video (optional)
- Bible Story Picture Poster

Show the video or tell the Bible story using the provided storytelling tips. Use the bolded version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

SAY • Paul was an enemy of Jesus and His followers. He worked hard to stop people from telling about Jesus, but then Paul met Jesus. **Jesus saved Paul from his sins**, and God changed him. Now instead of trying to stop people from telling about Jesus, Paul started telling people about Jesus! Jesus came to earth to save sinners like Paul and like you and me. When we trust in Jesus, He changes us from the inside out.

Practice the key passage

Prepare the “Key Passage Match” strips before the session. Place the key passage marker at Colossians 1:18. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Read the verse aloud, and say it with the motions you created in the previous session. Distribute strips and work together to assemble the verse by matching the images end to end.

SAY • Jesus is the head of the church. That means Jesus is most important, and He is in charge. Jesus leads the church, and the church follows Him.

Sing the key passage song, “The Church,” and the theme song, “One Foundation.”

- “Key Passage Match” printable
- scissors (adult use)
- Bible
- Key Passage Marker
- Key Passage Poster
- “The Church (Colossians 1:18)”
- “One Foundation” song

Learn the big picture question

SAY • Our big picture question is, *Why does the church exist? The church exists to glorify God.* A church is a group of people who love and follow Jesus. God loves His church and created us to bring glory to Him. Together we show the rest of the world how amazing God is.

- Big Picture Question Poster



Missions moment

SAY • Jesus saved Paul from his sins, then Paul became a missionary. Missionaries want others to know that Jesus can forgive their sins.

Hang “Missionaries Around the World” photos around the room. Invite preschoolers to “meet” the missionaries by walking around to look at the photos. Read the captions aloud. Pray, thanking God for missionaries who spread the gospel around the world.

- “Missionaries Around the World” printable

Pray and transition to experience the story

EXPERIENCE the Story



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BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Why does the church exist? The church exists to glorify God.

LOW PREP

- paper plates
- markers

Decide between helping and hurting

Guide children to draw a frown on one side of a paper plate and a smile on the other. Tell children you will describe different scenarios. If the person is helping others, they should hold up the smile. If the person is hurting others, they should hold up the frown. Use the following Bible story statements and scenarios or create your own.

- Paul arrested people who loved Jesus.
 - Ananias obeyed God and went to see Paul.
 - **Jesus saved Paul from his sins.**
 - Paul had been an enemy of Jesus, but he began to tell people about Jesus.
 - Carlos sings “Jesus Loves Me” to his little brother while he is in his baby swing.
 - Aaliyah invites a friend to come to church and learn about Jesus.
 - Declan stamps his foot and tells his dad that he doesn’t want to go to church.
 - Isabella makes a picture of Jesus and some cookies to take to their neighbor who is sick.
- SAY** • Paul had tried to hurt Jesus’ followers, but after **Jesus saved Paul from his sins**, he became a follower of Jesus. Paul helped many people hear the good news about Jesus, including us!

Follow the signs

Print and cut out the “Stop Sign and Arrows” printable. Tape the stop sign to a ruler and the arrows back to back to another ruler. Give the signs to a child while the rest of the group forms a large circle. Guide the child to direct the group’s actions by changing the arrow’s direction or holding up the stop sign. Choose another leader after a few minutes.

- “Stop Sign and Arrows” printable
- rulers, 2
- tape

SAY • Our walking game was just for fun, but it does remind us that our actions can change. Paul was an enemy of Jesus and His followers, but God changed him. After **Jesus saved Paul from his sins**, Paul’s actions changed. He started living in a new way. He even started telling people about Jesus! When we trust in Jesus, He changes us from the inside out.

Make a smash painting

Fill squeeze bottles with red, yellow, and blue paint. Set a sheet of heavyweight paper on top of a larger sheet of waxed paper for each child. Guide a child to dot or squiggle each color on her paper. Help her place another sheet of waxed paper on top of her paper. Encourage the child to smash the paint and spread it over the paper. Gently lift the waxed paper. Point out where the colors changed to make orange, green, and purple. Discard the waxed paper and set the painting aside to dry.

- red, yellow, and blue washable paint
- squeeze bottles
- heavyweight paper
- waxed paper
- plastic tray (optional)

SAY • Look how the colors changed on your smash paintings! That is surprising! The people in our Bible story were surprised when God changed Paul from a person who was an enemy of Jesus to a person who told people about Jesus! **Jesus saved Paul from his sins**, and God changed him. When we trust in Jesus, He changes us from the inside out.

- blindfolds
- paper
- markers
- blocks
- pom-poms
- plastic cups

Perform blindfolded tasks

Challenge a child to perform tasks with and without a blindfold. Tasks could include drawing a picture, writing her name, stacking blocks, or placing pom-poms in a cup.

SAY • Paul could not see anything after he met Jesus on the road, but God sent Ananias to Paul to give him back his sight. God chose Paul to tell many people about Him. **Jesus saved Paul from his sins**, and He will save us too. Jesus came to earth to save sinners like us. When we trust in Jesus, He changes us from the inside out.



Discover missionary tools

Place all the items in a pillow case. Allow preschoolers to take turns pulling an item from the pillow case. Talk about what each item is used for and how a missionary might use each one to show Jesus' love.

- Bible
- cooking utensil
- small garden tool
- small musical instrument
- adhesive bandages
- book
- smartphone
- ruler
- pillow case

- cooking utensil: make food for people, teach a cooking class
- garden tool: grow food to share, teach how to plant a garden
- musical instrument: teach songs about Jesus
- adhesive bandages: help people who are hurt
- book: teach people to read and write
- smartphone: share true information about Jesus
- ruler: teach measurement
- Bible: share God's Word

SAY • Missionaries around the world use many different tools to serve people and spread the gospel, but the Bible is their most important tool. Missionaries want people to know that the Word of God tells us who Jesus is and what He did to save them from sin.

Snack and review

Play the countdown video to signal the end of activities. Wash hands and gather preschoolers for snack time. Pray, thanking God for the snack.

Serve crackers and pretzels for snack. Give each child a small amount of whipped cream cheese to attach the crackers and pretzels to make a stick man. Provide raisins and slices of maraschino cherries to make a face. Comment that Jesus loved Paul. **Jesus saved Paul from his sins.**

Show the Bible story picture as you ask the following questions. Retell parts of the Bible story as needed.

1. Who worked hard in the early days of the church to stop people from telling about Jesus? (*Paul*)
2. Who did Paul meet as he was traveling along? (*Jesus*)
3. What did Jesus ask Paul? (*"Why are you against me?"*)
4. What did God tell Ananias He had planned for Paul? (*"I have chosen Paul to tell many people about Me."*)
5. Why were the people so amazed when Paul said that Jesus is the Son of God? (*He had been an enemy of Jesus, but now he loved Jesus.*)
6. ***Why does the church exist? The church exists to glorify God.***

Transition

When preschoolers finish their snack, they may color the Bible story coloring page, play a simple game to practice the key passage or big picture question, or sing along to the key passage or theme song.

If parents are picking up their children at this time, tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Distribute the preschool big picture cards for families.

- countdown video (optional)
- Allergy Alert
- paper cups and napkins
- snack food
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster
- crackers (optional)
- pretzels (optional)
- whipped cream cheese (optional)
- raisins (optional)
- Sliced maraschino cherries (optional)
- plastic knife (optional) (adult use)

- Bible Story Coloring Page
- crayons
- Key Passage Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster
- "The Church (Colossians 1:18)" song
- "One Foundation" song
- Big Picture Cards for Families: Babies, Toddlers, and Preschoolers