



Saul Escapes from Damascus

Lesson Aim: To keep telling others about Jesus.

THE WORSHIP

Who God Is: The Spirit Who Changes Us

THE WORD

Bible Story: Acts 9:19b-25, 28

What He Has Done: God protected Saul as a witness for His kingdom.

THE WAY

Whisper Verse: "Keep telling them."

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" 2 Corinthians 5:17

Unit 2: The Promise of Change			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
6	God Changes Saul's Heart, Acts 9:1-7	Jesus spoke to Saul from heaven.	To know God can change our hearts to want to be more like Jesus.
7	Saul Escapes from Damascus, Acts 9:19b-25, 28	God protected Saul as a witness for His kingdom.	To keep telling others about Jesus.
8	Peter and Tabitha (Dorcas), Acts 9:36-42	God helped Peter bring Tabitha back to life.	To know we can help others.
9	Peter Visits Cornelius, Acts 10:9-12, 15, 22-35	God showed He does not have favorites.	To know God loves everyone the same.
10	Peter Escapes from Prison, Acts 12:5-17	God sent His angel to rescue Peter from prison.	To know praying together is important.
11	Barnabas Encourages Saul, Acts 9:26-28; 11:22-26	God sent Barnabas to help Saul.	To be a true friend to others.

TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Romans 1:16-17. Please join us in praying, "Thank You, Lord, for the transforming power of the gospel. Thank You for the passion You give us to share the good news with others. Awaken that passion in this next generation. Amen."

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**THE WORSHIP
THE WORD &
THE WAY**

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Treasure Chest	Treasure chest, stamp or sticker of a basket
		Whisper Verse	Sign language for "Keep telling them."
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org.	Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse Song: "A New Creation" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "Give Thanks to the Lord" "How Wide?" "I Can Do Everything" "Let Everything That Has Breath" "He Is Mighty to Save" "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" Additional Hymn Suggestions: "Change My Heart, O God" "Jesus Loves Me"
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	<i>The Adventures of Delbert and Lello</i> puppet script or storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 2, Lesson 7
THE WORD	Up to 10	Watch the Word: Acts 9:19b-25, 28	Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Acts 9:25 Visual: Large laundry basket, preferably wicker
THE WAY	Up to 25	Craft: Basket from Damascus	Paper cup, hole punch, twine or yarn, sturdy paper, adhesive label or strip of paper with tape or glue, crayons or markers
		Game: Hide and Speak	Open container large enough for a child to sit inside (laundry basket, cardboard box, etc.)
		Game: Paul Escapes in a Basket	"Basket from Damascus" crafts, low wall (baby gate, low bookshelf, large piece of cardboard, table turned on its side, or have two children hold a blanket by its ends)
		Snack: Snack from a Basket	Favorite snack served from a basket
	Circle of Prayer	None	
Final 5	Final Five	Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 2, Lesson 7 Color This Story: "Saul Escapes in a Basket"	
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Say & Do: Acts 9:19b-25, 28	None
	Up to 10	Game: New Hearts	None
	Up to 10	Game: "New Heart" Memory Pass	Heart-shaped item (pillow, toy, or sturdy paper cut-out)
	Up to 10	Story Time	Any story about telling others about Jesus

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Keep telling them **THE WELCOME**

Welcome each child as they arrive. **Hello _____. I'm glad you are here! Come open the Treasure Chest to find today's treasure.** Child unlocks the Treasure Chest to receive a stamp or sticker of a basket. **Let this sticker of a basket help you remember Saul escaped in a big basket after he told many people about Jesus! Today's Whisper Verse is "Keep telling them." Let's keep telling everyone about Jesus.** Teach the Whisper Verse in spoken language and in sign language below. **We call it the Whisper Verse so you can whisper it to others.***

SIGN LANGUAGE: "Keep telling them."

(For visual demonstrations, see www.signingsavvy.com.)

Each time we say today's Whisper Verse, let's say it with three hand motions:

- "Keep"** Each hand creates the letter "K" hand shape by resting the thumb on the webbing of the extended middle and index fingers with the other two fingers curled into a fist. Lightly tap one letter "K" hand shape on top of the other.
- "telling"** Place the index finger of the right hand on the throat and drag it forward past the chin and outward from the face.
- "them."** The index finger of the right hand at waist level points forward and then makes a half arc to the right to indicate including multiple people.

Allow children to enjoy free play until everyone has arrived. **Let's sing the "Clean Up Song" as we put toys away before Praise Time.** Praise any child who helps. Allow several minutes for clean up.

**"Clean Up Song": Clean up! Clean up! Everybody, everywhere!
Clean up! Clean up! Everybody do your share!**

Gather and seat children in Praise Time area.

***Today's Whisper Verse:** "Keep telling them," Jeremiah 14:13. The Whisper Verse is a tool to help the children learn a major point in the lesson. It is coupled with sign language or hand motions as a memory aid. The verse is not necessarily chosen from today's Bible story.



The Spirit who changes us

THE WORSHIP

Teacher Tip: To help children identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play “Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God” as children move to that designated area.

It’s Praise Time—our time to sing praise to the Holy Spirit who changes us. He changes us when we learn all about Jesus. One great way to praise Him is to keep telling everyone about Jesus. That reminds me of today’s Whisper Verse. Let’s try it together. Review Whisper Verse together: “Keep telling them.” Include sign language.



Another way we can praise God is to give our offering. Sing: “Let Everything That Has Breath” while collecting the offering.

What is the good news about Jesus that we can keep telling everyone? (Children respond.) **We can keep telling them that Jesus loves them.** Sing: “Jesus Loves Me” or “How Wide?”

We can also keep telling them that when we belong to Jesus, He gives us a brand new start. Sing: “A New Creation.”



Today, we will hear a story about Saul’s new start with his new friends in a city called Damascus. He told people there about Jesus. Saul needed to escape from Damascus so he could keep telling people about Jesus. Saul’s friends hid Saul in a big basket to help him escape from the guards. The guards wanted to stop him from telling others about Jesus. Let’s see if Delbert and Lello have heard about Saul and his escape in the basket. Perform *The Adventures of Delbert and Lello* puppet script or read storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 2, Lesson 7.



God helped Saul be brave and strong to keep telling others about Jesus. God helped Saul’s friends be brave and strong to help Saul escape in the big basket. God will help us be brave and strong, too. Sing: “I Can Do Everything.”



Saul escapes in a basket

THE WORD

Before we begin our Bible Time, let's say our **Classroom Promise with the motions.**

With my eyes on my teacher;

Point to eyes.

My mouth quiet as can be,

Place index finger over mouth as quiet sign.

I will listen to hear,

Cup hand around ear.

How God loves you and me.

Hug self, point to others, and then self.

Last time, we learned God changed Saul's heart. Today, we will see how God kept Saul safe so he could keep telling others about Jesus. Handle Bible as a special treasure, leaving it open to Acts 9:25.

WATCH THE WORD: ACTS 9:19B-25, 28

Read the points below or retell the passage in your own words using the points below as a general guide. To illustrate the story, display a large laundry basket, preferably wicker. Other visual options include the craft sample, Color This Story, or any related picture.

- **After Jesus changed Saul's heart,**
- **Saul kept telling everyone.**
- **He told them Jesus loved them,**
- **And that Jesus is God's Son.**

- **Some didn't want to follow Jesus;**
- **They made a plan to stop Saul.**
- **To escape, friends hid him in a basket,**
- **And lowered him through a window in the wall!**

- **Then, Saul climbed out of the basket,**
- **And he went to Jerusalem.**
- **Saul told people there about Jesus.**
- **He kept telling them to follow Him.**

Did Saul keep telling people about Jesus? (Yes.) What can we do to be like Saul? (We can keep telling people about Jesus.) Our Whisper Verse tells us the answer. Let's say it together: "Keep telling them." Include sign language or hand motions.



What did Saul's friends use to help him escape? (A basket.) Let's find our answer in the Bible. Read Acts 9:25 from the teacher's Bible.



Keep telling them about Jesus

THE WAY

Teacher Tip: Craft and games can be presented at the same time in different areas or one at a time depending on class size and teaching style.

CRAFT: BASKET FROM DAMASCUS

Purpose: To remind the children that Saul escaped from the city of Damascus in a basket.

Supplies: Paper cup, twine or yarn, sturdy flesh-colored paper, label or strip of paper, tape or glue, crayons or markers

Prepare: From sturdy flesh-colored paper, cut out the outline of a man small enough to fit in the cup. Punch a hole on each side of the lip of the cup. Loop twine or yarn between the holes and tie to create a basket handle. Tie one long piece of twine or yarn to the center of the handle to create an attached rope. On a label or strip of paper, print: **"Saul escaped in a basket." Acts 9:19b-25**

Directions:

1. Color the cup to look like a basket.
2. Attach the label or paper strip to the cup.
3. Color Saul.
4. Put Saul in the basket.

Craft Discussion:

- **Who told others about Jesus?** (Saul.)
- **Did everyone want Saul to keep telling others about Jesus?** (No.)
- **Did Saul keep telling them about Jesus?** (Yes.) **Saul did what our Whisper Verse tells us to do! Let's say it with our motions right now!** Say the Whisper Verse together with the hand motions: "Keep telling them."
- **Some of the people wanted to stop Saul. How did Saul escape?** (His friends lowered him in a big basket through a window in the city wall.)

THE WAY *continued...*

GAME: HIDE AND SPEAK

Purpose: Children will experience telling others that Jesus loves them.

Supplies: Open container large enough for a child to sit inside (laundry basket, cardboard box, etc.)

Teacher Tip: For added interest, decorate the container to look like a basket.

One night, Saul's friends hid him in a big basket. They lowered him down through a window in the city wall. Saul escaped from the guards so he could keep telling others about Jesus. Let's each take a turn hiding in the basket and telling others about Jesus.

Directions:

1. If possible, dim the lights so it seems like night time in the room. Teacher and children help the first child into the "basket."
2. The child in the basket crouches low to hide while the teacher leads the children in a chant:
"Into the basket we help Saul! Out the window and down the wall!"
3. The teacher says: **"1-2-3! Saul is free!"**
4. The child hiding in the basket pops up, points to a different child, and says, **"Jesus loves you."**
5. Repeat until each child has a turn in the basket.

GAME: SAUL ESCAPES IN A BASKET

Purpose: Children will use their "Basket from Damascus" crafts to reenact Saul's escape.

Supplies: "Basket from Damascus" crafts, low wall (baby gate, low bookshelf, large piece of cardboard, table turned on its side, or have two children hold a blanket by its ends)

Let's pretend to be Saul's friends and help him escape over the wall in the basket.

Directions:

1. Children stand behind the city wall holding their "Basket from Damascus" crafts: they should hold the basket in one hand and the Saul cut-out in the other hand.
2. **Saul keeps telling others about Jesus. Oh no! Some of the people are angry about this! They want to stop Saul. Make a face just like the angry people.**
3. Children make angry faces.
4. **It's night time! Help Saul escape from the angry people!**
5. If possible, dim the lights. Children place their Saul figures in their baskets and use the long string to lower the baskets over the wall.
6. **You lowered Saul to safety! Now, he can keep telling others about Jesus.**
7. Children say and sign **"Keep telling them."**

THE WAY *continued...*

SNACK: SNACK FROM A BASKET

Purpose: Children receive a snack served from a basket to remind them Saul escaped in a basket.

Snack Suggestion: Favorite snack served from a basket

Directions:

1. Serve snack and drink.
2. **Let's sing the "Blessing Song."** Sing to the tune of "Frere Jacques" or other familiar tune.
God our Father, God our Father. Once again, once again.
Thank You for our blessings. Thank You for our blessings. Amen. Amen.
3. Lead discussion below while children enjoy their snack.
 - **Who was telling others about Jesus?** (Saul.)
 - **When some people tried to stop Saul, how did he escape?** (In a big basket.)
 - **Saul kept telling others about Jesus. Can you keep telling others about Jesus, too?** (Yes.)
 - **Let's say and sign our Whisper Verse right now!** Say the Whisper Verse together with the hand motions: "Keep telling them."
 - **Who can you tell about Jesus?** (Children respond.)



CIRCLE OF PRAYER

God made you and He cares for you. He loves to hear you pray with private words or words you say out loud. Let's fold our hands and close our eyes. As I lift up your name to God in heaven, I will lay my hand on your shoulder. Let's pray together.

Dear God, thank You for making us and loving us. We lift up to You a special prayer for ____, ____, ____ (say each name). We pray for our families and friends. Thank You for teaching us how to love one another. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

COMPLETED CRAFT: Take home your "Basket From Damascus" craft. Tell someone how Saul escaped down the city wall in a big basket.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY: Distribute Ponder, Pray & Play cards, if available. **Show this card to your family. Talk about how Saul kept telling others about Jesus.**

COLOR THIS STORY: "Saul Escapes in a Basket." Discuss the Bible story and play the Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse Song, "A New Creation," as children color.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SAY & DO: ACTS 9:19B-25, 28

Purpose: This pantomime version of the Bible Story helps children remember the story details.

Supplies: None

Directions: With each phrase, the teacher says the phrase and acts it out with hand motions; then repeats the same phrase and motions with the children.

- **After Jesus changed Saul's heart,** (Put hands on heart.)
- **Saul kept telling everyone.** (Cup hands around mouth as if shouting.)
- **He told them Jesus loved them,** (Hug self.)
- **And that Jesus is God's Son.** (Point to heaven.)

- **Some didn't want to follow Jesus;** (Fold arms; shake head no.)
- **They made a plan to stop Saul.** (Push palm forward as direction to stop.)
- **To escape, friends hid him in a basket,** (Hold arms in a large circle like rim of a basket.)
- **And lowered him through a window in the wall!** (Keep arms in basket rim shape, slowly squat to the ground.)

- **Then, Saul climbed out of the basket,** (Stand up tall.)
- **And he went to Jerusalem.** (Walk in place.)
- **Saul told people there about Jesus.** (Point to heaven.)
- **He kept telling them to follow Him.** (Whisper Verse sign language.)



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"
2 Corinthians 5:17

GAME: NEW HEARTS

Purpose: Children learn the meaning of the Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: None

Directions:

1. Seat children in a circle.
2. First child stands in the center of the circle with both hands covering his or her own heart.
3. All the children repeat the Bible Memory Verse after you, replacing the word "anyone" with the name of the child standing in the center of the circle.
 - If child's name is in Christ,** (Children repeat.)
 - He/She is a new creation.** (Children repeat.)
 - The old has gone.** (Children repeat.)
 - The new has come! Hooray!** (Children repeat.)
4. Child in the center removes his or her hands to uncover his or her heart.
5. Play until each child has a turn.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

GAME: "NEW HEART" MEMORY PASS

Purpose: To help children memorize and review the Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Heart-shaped item (pillow, toy, or sturdy paper cut-out)

Directions:

1. Children sit in a circle.
2. Give the heart to a child. Lead the children in saying the first word of the verse: "If."
3. Child passes the heart to the next child. Lead the children in saying the next word in the verse: "anyone."
4. Continue passing the heart with each word until the children have repeated the entire verse.
5. Play again. Each time you play, try to say the verse faster.



STORY TIME

Gather the children and read a favorite story. This can be a Bible story, a chapter from *The Adventures of Delbert & Lello*, or a story about telling others about Jesus.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY

Unit 2, Lesson 7: Saul Escapes from Damascus

PONDER! Read Acts 9:19b-25, 28 with your family. Saul kept telling people about Jesus, even though some people wanted to stop him. What did Saul's friends do to help him escape from the city? Discuss what each of you would like to tell others about Jesus. Who can you tell?

PRAY! Pray this prayer each day this week: "Lord, thank You for keeping Saul safe so he could keep telling people about You. Please help us keep telling others about You, too. Amen."

PLAY! "Saul Escapes!" Use your "Basket from Damascus" craft to act out the Bible story. Ask your family to help you pretend to be Saul's friends and help him escape in the basket over a wall. Be sure to say and do the sign language for "Keep telling them," so Saul will keep telling others about Jesus.

Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse:

"If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" 2 Corinthians 5:17