



Saul Escapes from Damascus

Lesson Aim: To know we can tell 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

"If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation." 2 Corinthians 5:17a

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 12:1-19	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."

TEACHER'S TIP

We can tell others about Jesus. Even a 2-year old or a 3-year old can tell others about Jesus. Encourage the children to tell others, "Jesus loves you." Repeating that simple phrase several times during class will help children share their faith with those around them.



**THE WORSHIP
THE WORD &
THE WAY**

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Welcome	Treasure chest, stamp or sticker of a basket
		Coloring Center: Saul Escapes from Damascus	Coloring pages of Saul being lowered in a basket over the wall, crayons
		Play-Dough Center: Basket in Damascus	Play-dough, cookie cutters, play-dough tools, basket
		Block Center: Over the Wall	Blocks, berry basket or other small basket (tie a length of yarn or string onto the basket for a rope), colored cut-out of Saul
		Music Center: Follow the Leader	Praise music
	Up to 5	Prepare for Worship	None
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org.	Praise music, optional: musical instruments Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse Song: "A New Creation" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "Give Thanks to the Lord" "He Is Mighty to Save" "How Wide?" "I Can Do Everything" "Let Everything That Has Breath" "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" "We Love" Additional Song Suggestions: "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 Visuals: Picture of the Bible story, Bible
THE WAY	Up to 25	Craft: Basket from Damascus	Paper cup, twine or yarn, sturdy flesh-colored paper, label or strip of paper, tape or glue, crayons or markers
		Game: Saul Escapes in a Basket	"Basket from Damascus" crafts, low wall (See game for suggestions.)
		Game: Hide and Speak	Open container large enough for a child to sit inside (laundry basket, cardboard box, etc.) or four chairs
		Snack: Snack from a Basket	Favorite snack served from a basket
	Final 5	Final Five	Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 2, Lesson 7
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 Creation" Ball Toss	Soft ball
	Up to 10	Story Time	Any story about telling others about Jesus

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



The Spirit who changes us

THE WELCOME

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 stamp (or sticker) of a basket help you remember Saul escaped in a big basket after he told many people about Jesus!**

Teacher's Note: These activity centers are designed to reinforce the lesson through hands-on learning experiences either individually or in small groups with the guidance of the teacher. Choose the Bible Activity Centers that best suit the children in your class. Set up the activity centers around the room before children arrive. Allow children to move freely among them.

COLORING CENTER: SAUL ESCAPES FROM DAMASCUS

SUPPLIES

Coloring pages of Saul being lowered in a basket over the wall, crayons

DO

Children color their picture as they talk about today's story.

TALK ABOUT

What do you see in the picture? (Children respond.) **The man being lowered in the basket is Saul. Saul's friends are helping him escape from men who didn't want him to tell people about Jesus. Saul wanted to tell everyone Jesus loved them.** Tell each child, **"Jesus loves you."** **Can you be like Saul and tell others Jesus loves them?** Encourage them to say, **"Jesus loves you,"** to the other children at the table.

PLAY-DOUGH CENTER: BASKET IN DAMASCUS

SUPPLIES

Play-dough, cookie cutters, play-dough tools, basket

DO

Children play with the play-dough while discussing today's story. Encourage children to make people with the play-dough.

TALK ABOUT

Our story today is about a man named Saul who was lowered over the wall in a basket. Place the basket in the center of the table. **Do you think he'd fit in this basket?** (Children respond.) **No. It must have been a very big basket. Our basket is little. Can you make a little person out of play-dough that would fit in our basket?** Children make people and place them in the basket.

THE WELCOME *continued...*

BLOCK CENTER: OVER THE WALL

SUPPLIES

Blocks, berry basket or other small basket (tie a length of yarn or string onto the basket for a rope), colored cut-out of Saul

DO

Children build a city wall from blocks then act out the story by pretending to be Saul's friends and lowering him over the wall in a basket.

TALK ABOUT

Saul needed to escape from Damascus because there were men who wanted to stop him from telling people about Jesus. The only way out of the city was through a window in the very tall city wall. Can you build a tall city wall with the blocks? When you have your wall, let's pretend to be Saul's friends and lower him over the wall and safely out of the city.

MUSIC CENTER: FOLLOW THE LEADER

SUPPLIES

Praise music

DO

Play praise music. Children line up behind you. Walk around the room doing various actions for children to imitate as they follow you. Actions might include hopping, skipping, patting your head, turning in circles, dancing, or pretending to be various animals, an airplane, a car, or a motorcycle. If time remains, let children take turns being the leader.

TALK ABOUT

God guides us every day through His Word, the Bible, and through His Holy Spirit. We know if we trust in Him, He will show us what to do. We can play "Follow the Leader" to remember we should follow God.

PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

It's time for Praise Time. Let's sing a "Clean Up Song" as we put things away. Praise children as they help clean.

**Clean up! Clean up! Everybody, everywhere!
Clean up! Clean up! Everybody do your share!**

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SIGN LANGUAGE

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

**"If anyone
is in Christ,**

(one) Index finger is held upright.

(Christ) Make "C" shape with hand. Move "C" from left shoulder to right hip as a royal sash.

**he is a new
creation."**

(new) Back of right hand makes a scooping motion across palm of left hand.

Both fists make a twisting motion as they bounce on top of each other.

2 Corinthians 5:17a

Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.

Adding sign language or motions to the Bible Memory Verse helps children recall what they are learning.



The Spirit who changes us

THE WORSHIP

Supplies: Praise music, optional: musical instruments

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.



In our story today, Saul tells everyone he sees that Jesus loves them. We can do that, too, but first, let's tell Jesus we love Him. Let's pray. Have the children bow their heads and close their eyes. **Dear Jesus, we love You so much. Thank You for loving us. Help us to tell others You love them, too. Amen.**



Sing: "We Love."

God helped Saul be brave and strong to keep telling others about Jesus. God will help us be brave and strong, too. Sing: "I Can Do Everything" while collecting the offering.



Let's see if Delbert and Lello can tell us more about today's story about Saul.

Perform *The Adventures of Delbert and Lello* puppet script or read storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 2, Lesson 7.



2 Corinthians 5:17a says, "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation." That means if you have Jesus in your heart, He will help you grow to be more like Him. Let's say our verse together. Say verse together two or three times.

"If anyone	(one) Index finger is held upright.
is in Christ,	(Christ) Make "C" shape with hand. Move "C" from left shoulder to right hip as a royal sash.
he is a new	(new) Back of right hand makes a scooping motion across palm of left hand.
creation."	Both fists make a twisting motion as they bounce on top of each other.
2 Corinthians 5:17a	Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.



We can also keep telling them that when we belong to Jesus, He gives us a brand new start. Sing Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse Song: "A New Creation."



Saul escapes in a basket

THE WORD

Supplies: Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Acts 9:25, picture of the Bible story, Bible

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.

Let's reach deep in our pockets and pull out our listening ears. Reach in your pocket and cup your hands behind your ears as if listening.

Hold the Bible. As children arrive, whisper to one or more of the children, **"Jesus loves you."** Once everyone is seated, ask one of the children, **"What did I say to you?"** (Children respond.) **I know Jesus loves you because the Bible tells me so.** Point to the Bible. **The Bible also tells us to share that news with others. Let's all say "Jesus loves you" together.** Optional: Say it three times. Whisper it the first time, saying it louder each time. **Now, tell the person next to you.** Encourage the children to say, "Jesus loves you," to a child near them. **Great job. When you go home, what can you tell the people you know?** ("Jesus loves you.") **Our story is about Saul. Saul wanted to tell everyone he knew that Jesus loved them, too. Let's listen.** Handle the Bible as a special treasure, leaving it open to Acts 9:25.



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

Read the story below or retell the passage in your own words. To illustrate the story, show a picture of the Bible story from a children's Bible, the coloring page, or other source.

- **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.) What can we tell them? (Jesus loves you!)



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.)
- **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.)
- **How can we be like Saul?** (We can tell others about Jesus.) **What can we tell them?** (Jesus loves you!)

Teacher Tip: The children's crafts are needed for the first game.
Be sure to write their names on their crafts.

THE WAY *continued...*

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 (low bookcase, large piece of cardboard, table on its side, or have two children hold up a blanket)

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. **What did Saul tell the people about Jesus?** (Jesus loves you!)

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.) or four chairs

Prepare: Place the open container in the center of the play area, or place four chairs in a square with enough space for a child to sit in the middle.

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.

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 another 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. Pray. 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.)
 - **Who can you tell about Jesus?** (Children respond.)



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

Gather children in a circle sitting or standing and practice the words and motions.

"If anyone is in Christ,	(one) Index finger is held upright. (Christ) Make "C" shape with hand. Move "C" from left shoulder to right hip as a royal sash.
he is a new creation."	(new) Back of right hand makes a scooping motion across palm of left hand. Both fists make a twisting motion as they bounce on top of each other.
2 Corinthians 5:17a	Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.

PRAY

Let's pray together. Say a closing prayer with the children.

PLAY

Allow children to play with selected toys or centers or choose a book to read to them.

DISMISSAL

Have children take home their coloring page, craft, and a copy of the Ponder, Pray & Play for 2-3's.



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 leads the children in doing the hand motions.

- **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.** (Raise hands, as if praising God.)



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation."

2 Corinthians 5:17a

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 CREATION" BALL TOSS

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

Supplies: Soft ball

Our Bible Memory Verse says, "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation." That means if you have Jesus in your heart, He will help you grow to be more like Him.

Teacher Tip: Two and three-year-olds are still learning motor skills such as tossing and catching. You may choose to have the children sit in a circle and roll the ball depending on the age and skill level of the children.

Directions:

1. Children stand in a circle.
2. Toss the ball to the first child.
3. While child holds ball, child recites the Bible Memory Verse: **"If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation."** If a child is uncomfortable saying the verse alone, have the class say it together.
4. Child tosses the ball back to you or to another child.
5. Repeat until each child has at least one turn.



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! Saul's friends helped him escape from men who didn't want him to tell others about Jesus (Acts 9:19b-25, 28). How did Saul escape? (In a basket.)

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! You can pretend to be Saul and use your craft to act out the Bible story. Ask your family to pretend to be Saul's friends and help him escape in the basket over a wall. Tell each other, "Jesus loves you."

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

**"If anyone
is in Christ,**

**he is a new
creation."**

2 Corinthians 5:17a

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