



Saul Escapes from Damascus

Lesson Aim: To speak boldly to others about Jesus.

THE WORSHIP

Who God Is: The Spirit Who Changes Us

THE WORD

Bible Story: Acts 9:19b-25

What He Has Done: God made Saul a bold witness for His kingdom.

Key Verse: Acts 9:22

THE WAY

Christ Connection: Isaiah 63:7

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into His likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord." 2 Corinthians 3:17b-18

Unit 2: The Promise of Change			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
6	God Changes Saul's Heart, Acts 9:3-8, 15, 17-19	The Holy Spirit filled Saul and changed his heart.	To know God can change our hearts. (Salvation Message)
7	Saul Escapes from Damascus, Acts 9:19b-25	God made Saul a bold witness for His kingdom.	To speak boldly to others about Jesus.
8	Peter and Tabitha (Dorcas), Acts 9:36-42	God restored Tabitha's life.	To learn ways our lives can point people to Jesus.
9	Peter Visits Cornelius, Acts 10:11-12, 15, 34-36, 43-45	God proved to Peter that He saves Gentiles as well as Jews.	To know God washes away the sin of anyone who believes in Him.
10	Peter Escapes from Prison, Acts 12:5-16	God sent His angel to rescue Peter from prison.	To join together in prayer and watch for God's answers.
11	Barnabas Encourages the Church, Acts 9:26-28; 11:22-26	God led Barnabas to encourage the church and its leaders.	To show the importance of encouraging one another.

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	Meet & Greet	None
		Game: Saul Is in the Basket	Floor tape, Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse poster
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: "Where the Spirit of the Lord Is" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "Chosen People" "For God So Loved the World" "Praise the Lord, O My Soul" "Search Me, O God" "You Will Seek Me" Additional Hymn Suggestions: "Amazing Grace" "Change My Heart, O God" "Open the Eyes of My Heart, Lord"
		Worship Scripture Reading: Psalm 145:21	Bible
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	Lesson 7 Commander Cosmos script or storybook
THE WORD	Up to 10	Read the Word: Acts 9:19b-25	Bibles, Bible Story Scripture reference poster
THE WAY	Up to 25	Discuss the Word	Bibles, Christ Connection Scripture reference poster
		Christ Connection: Isaiah 63:7	
		Golden Bowl	Golden Bowl, pencils, note cards
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Snack: Snack in a Basket	Any favorite snack served from a basket
	Up to 10	Game: Basket Tag	Floor tape, strip of cloth, optional: Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse Song "Where the Spirit of the Lord Is"
	Up to 10	Craft: Saul's Basket of Bold Words	Sturdy brown paper, index card, small paper bag, tape or glue, crayons or markers, Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse poster
	Up to 10	Discussion: 2 Corinthians 3:17b-18	Bible or Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse poster, small mirror
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Erase It, Then Say It	Chalkboard and chalk or dry erase board and marker
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Balloon Toss	Inflated non-helium balloon, Bible Memory Verse poster
	Up to 5	Bible Timeline Review	Date with story title or name printed on card

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Getting started

THE WELCOME

To spark anticipation, encourage arriving children to meet and greet one another with today's question.
Meet & Greet Question: What is the most exciting ride you have ever had?

GAME: SAUL IS IN THE BASKET

Purpose: Children will work together to fit into a "floor basket" and remain standing in it long enough to say the Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Floor tape, Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse poster

Prepare: For every six children, use tape to mark one 2-foot square on the floor as the outline of an imaginary basket. Display the Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse Poster where children can read it.

Teacher Tip: Enlarge the size of the basket outlines to make the game easier for younger children. Reduce the size as a challenge for older children. If your space is limited, make one basket outline. Challenge the class to see how many children can fit in the 2-foot outline according to the rules below.

In today's story, you will hear how Saul escaped from the city of Damascus in a large basket. Point to a basket outline. **Each team will get a basket outline. The goal is to get your team inside the basket long enough to say our Bible Memory Verse. Your hands and feet must be inside the basket lines.**

Directions:

1. Children create teams of six. Assign a tape outline basket to each team.
2. Teams work together to help each other stand inside their baskets. No feet or hands can be outside the basket lines. Suggest they stand very close together and link arms in the basket.
3. Once the team members are in the basket, they recite the Bible Memory Verse together. If someone falls out of the basket before they are finished, the team must start over.

Saul's friends had to work together to lower him in a basket over the side of a city wall. Let's read our Bible story to find out why Saul had to escape from Damascus.



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 music as children move to the designated area.



Today, we worship the Spirit who changes us. Just as He did with Saul, the Holy Spirit changes our hearts. People will see that change in our lives. We worship God not only with our voices and offerings, but by the way our love shows others the greatness of God. Each time we tell someone about Jesus—that is worship, too! Sing: “Amazing Grace” as the offering is collected.



Read Psalm 145:21.



Perform Commander Cosmos script or read storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 2, Lesson 7.



Sing Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse Song: “Where the Spirit of the Lord Is.” You may also choose to sing songs that focus on telling others about Jesus.



Saul speaks boldly

THE WORD

Teacher Tip: As you move from worship to instruction, change rooms or locations within a room to help redirect the children's focus to the Bible story. During this transition time, have each child write his or her name on a card and place it in the Golden Bowl.

Before we read God's Word, let's go over our Class Covenant. A covenant is an agreement. Just as God made a covenant with His people, I ask each of you to make this covenant promise with me today. Listen as I read our Class Covenant: "I will keep my eyes on my teacher, my mouth in control, my ears on God's Word—knowing God is my goal."

Last time, we learned about Saul on the road to Damascus. What happened to Saul on that road? (He saw a bright light and heard Jesus' voice.) Saul's heart changed from wanting to hurt Jesus' followers to wanting to love and follow Jesus, too.

If a Bible Timeline is available, point out Saul Escapes from Damascus. For a Bible Timeline Review activity, see the GOT TIME? segment of this lesson. **Today, starts with Saul in Damascus. We will see what Saul did after God healed his eyes and filled him with the Holy Spirit.** If a map is available, point out Damascus, Syria.



If you brought your Bible, open it now and share with others. Hand out spare Bibles. **Today's Scripture verse is behind the curtain** (or secret door, secret window, etc.). Child reveals the Bible Story Scripture reference: Acts 9:19b-25.

Before we read, let's stand and ask God to open our eyes, ears, hearts, and minds to His Word today. Who would like to pray that for us? Child prays aloud. **Be seated.** Read Acts 9:19b-25.



Speaking boldly about Jesus

THE WAY

What is the most amazing thing that has ever happened to you? (Children respond.) **Who did you tell about it?** (Children respond.) **Saul was blinded by a heavenly light and he heard the voice of Jesus from heaven. He now knew Jesus was the Son of God. His eyes were healed and he was filled with the Holy Spirit. If all those amazing things happened to you, who would you want to tell?** (Children respond.) **If you could tell others one thing about Jesus, what would it be?** (Children respond.)

After God healed his blindness and filled him with the Holy Spirit, what did Saul do right away in Damascus? (He preached Jesus was the Son of God.) **Everyone was surprised to hear Saul speak boldly about following Jesus because a few days earlier, Saul had made plans to throw the followers of Jesus into prison.**

The Jews thought Saul was wrong to say Jesus is God's Son. They planned to kill him. How did Saul escape? (At night, his followers lowered him in a basket over the city wall.)

God fills us with the Holy Spirit so we can speak boldly. To boldly tell others about Jesus, Saul had to trust God. He trusted the Holy Spirit to give him the words to say and to protect him from any angry listeners. Many of us are not bold speakers. We can trust God will give us the words to say and the courage to tell others about Jesus when the time is right. Just as God uses bold voices, He also uses gentle voices to tell others about Him.

The Holy Spirit changed Saul. If we believe in Jesus and obey the Holy Spirit, we will be changed day by day to become more and more like Jesus. Saul explained this in a letter he wrote years after his escape from Damascus. Part of that letter is our Bible Memory Verse. Read 2 Corinthians 3:17b-18 from a Bible or the Bible Memory Verse poster.

If time allows refer to DISCUSSION: 2 CORINTHIANS 3:17B-18 in the GOT TIME? segment of this lesson.



Connecting the Old Testament, the New Testament, and Us

CHRIST CONNECTION

700 years before Saul boldly preached the good news about Jesus, Isaiah promised to tell others about the Lord. Check it out!



Everyone, place your Bible on your lap. Choose a child to reveal the Christ Connection Scripture reference: Isaiah 63:7. **Let's find this scripture.** Read Isaiah 63:7.

One great way to tell others about Jesus is to tell them the good things He has done in your life. Would anyone like to tell us how you have seen the kindness of the Lord in your life? (Children respond.)

THE WAY *continued...*



Revelation 5:8

GOLDEN BOWL

Teacher Tip: Write the names of classmates, local church leaders, and children in other nations or others who need prayer on small pieces of paper. Place the papers in a golden bowl.

Revelation 5:8 says our prayers are like sweet smelling incense in the golden bowls at God's throne. I'm going to lift each one of your names to God's throne as you pray for each person silently. Then, we will pray the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) aloud together. Let's pray.

Lord God, we lift up to Your throne the name of each child here. We trust You to watch over us and our needs, the ones we say aloud and the ones hidden in our hearts. First, we lift up to You ____, ____, ____. Read names in Golden Bowl.

Now, we pray the prayer Your Son taught us: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

TREASURE TREAT: Today, your Treasure Treat is an "Ask Me About Damascus" sticker. When anyone asks you about Damascus, tell them it was the first place people saw the change God had made in Saul's heart. Tell them how he spoke boldly about Jesus and then had to escape from the city in a basket!

DAILY WAY CHALLENGE: Did anyone bring in a completed Daily Way from last time? Praise or reward those who return a Daily Way. Distribute Lesson 7 Daily Way 5-day Bible study. **Complete this week's Daily Way at home and let God speak to you through His own words in the Bible. Join the Daily Way Challenge by returning your completed Daily Way.**

Teacher Tip: Collect Daily Ways in a basket or other container and periodically reward children as a group for completing the challenge.

OFFERING OF ART: Until it is time to be dismissed, make an Offering of Art. For your offering, draw a picture of the followers lowering Saul in a basket through a window in the city wall.

PRAYER REQUESTS: As children work on their Offering of Art, ask how you can pray for them this week. Write requests in a prayer notebook.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG: Play the Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse Song, "Where the Spirit of the Lord Is," in the background as children wait to be dismissed.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SNACK: SNACK IN A BASKET

Purpose: To provide a visual reminder as children enjoy a snack and discuss Saul's escape in a basket.

Snack Suggestion: Any favorite snack served from a basket

How did Saul escape from Damascus? (His followers lowered him in a basket through an opening in the city wall.) **Let's eat our snack from a basket and think about the way that Saul's friends hid him from his enemy and helped him escape in a basket.**

Directions:

1. Serve snack and drinks.
2. Child prays to thank God for the snack.
3. Ask each child to answer this question: **"Where is your favorite place to hide?"**

GAME: BASKET TAG

Purpose: To help children see the connection between Saul and the Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Floor tape, strip of cloth, optional: Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse Song "Where the Spirit of the Lord Is"

Prepare: Place a tape outline of a square (large enough to stand inside) on the floor at the far end of the play area (ten feet away or more if possible). This will be Saul's basket.

To transform means to change. God transformed Saul from someone who persecuted believers into someone who spoke boldly about Jesus. Later, Saul wrote the words of our Bible Memory Verse in a letter to his friends in Corinth. Let's play a game to remember Saul's words which are found in 2 Corinthians 3:17b-18.

Directions:

1. Children sit in a line, shoulder-to-shoulder, at the end of the play area which is opposite Saul's basket (tape outline).
2. Choose a child to be Saul. Give Saul the cloth.
3. Saul walks back and forth passing each child in the line while Saul and all the children boldly sing the Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse Song or chant the Bible Memory Verse: 2 Corinthians 3:17b-18.
4. At some point in the song or chant, Saul drops the cloth directly in front of one child in the line.
5. That child picks up the dropped cloth and chases Saul to the basket.
6. If Saul gets to the basket without being tagged, the other child becomes Saul. The first Saul sits in that child's place in the line.
7. If Saul is tagged, the child who was given the cloth returns to his or her place in the line. The first Saul stays as Saul.
8. Play again, as time allows.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

CRAFT: SAUL'S BASKET OF BOLD WORDS

Purpose: Children will make a basket and place the Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse inside to help them remember to be like Saul and speak boldly about Jesus.

Supplies: Sturdy brown paper, index card, small paper bag, tape or glue, crayons or markers, Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse poster

Prepare: Cut off the top half of the paper bag. From brown sturdy paper, cut a 1-inch wide strip long enough for a basket handle. Display the Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse Poster.

Optional: Instead of index cards, cut a 3-inch x 5-inch card from sturdy white paper. For classes with limited time or younger children, you may choose to copy the Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse onto the card. Instead of decorating a paper bag, have children weave their own baskets using strips of straw or paper, use berry baskets, or fold and tape sturdy paper into the shape of a basket.

What did people think when they heard Saul speak boldly about Jesus? (They were surprised because he had changed from a man who persecuted those who believed in Jesus, to one who believed and helped others believe in Jesus.) **God's Holy Spirit changed Saul. When the people wanted to kill him, how did Saul escape?** (His followers lowered him in a basket through an opening the city wall.) **Let's make baskets to hold our Bible Memory Verse. It is written by Saul, who was also called Paul, to remind us of the way believers are being changed to become more and more like Jesus. Let this reminder give you courage to speak boldly about Jesus.**

Directions:

1. Color the bag to look like a basket.
2. Attach one end of the paper strip onto each side of the top of the bag to create a handle.
3. Copy the Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse onto the card.
4. Decorate the card.
5. Place the card in your basket.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

DISCUSSION: 2 CORINTHIANS 3:17B-18

Purpose: To help children understand the meaning of the Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Bible or Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse poster, small mirror

Saul, who was later called Paul, wrote about the way the Lord changes those who believe in Him. Our Bible Memory Verse comes from his letter about this to his friends in Corinth. Read 2 Corinthians 3:17b-18. Let's discuss the meaning of each phrase.

"WHERE THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS, THERE IS FREEDOM."

If we believe in Jesus and are following Him, the Spirit of the Lord lives in our hearts. We are forgiven and free to have a life forever close with God.

"AND WE, WHO WITH UNVEILED FACES"

We, as believers, can see Jesus is the Lord. It is as if a veil has been lifted away from our faces so we can clearly see the truth that Jesus is the Lord, the one in charge of the whole universe.

"ALL REFLECT THE LORD'S GLORY,"

This means our lives show others His greatness. (Show a small mirror.) When I hold this mirror towards me, it reflects my image so I can see what I look like and what I am doing. When we are filled with the Holy Spirit, it is as if we are this mirror. Jesus holds us and we reflect back His image; we reflect what Jesus is like. What is an example of something good you can do that may help others see the way Jesus loves and cares for them? (Children respond.)

"ARE BEING TRANSFORMED INTO HIS LIKENESS"

This means we are being changed to be even more like Jesus.

"WITH EVER-INCREASING GLORY, WHICH COMES FROM THE LORD."

This means we will keep showing more and more of His greatness because His Spirit is in us. The Holy Spirit in us helps us become more and more like Jesus.

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

“Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into His likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord.” 2 Corinthians 3:17b-18

Teacher Tip: During both activities, review the meaning of each phrase in the Bible Memory Verse.

Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. (The Holy Spirit frees us to follow Jesus.)

And we, who with unveiled faces (As believers, we can see Jesus is the Lord.)

all reflect the Lord’s glory, (Our lives show others His greatness.)

are being transformed into His likeness (We are being changed to be even more like Jesus.)

with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord. (We will keep showing more and more of His greatness because His Spirit is in us.)

GAME: ERASE IT, THEN SAY IT

Purpose: Children learn the Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Chalkboard and chalk or dry erase board and marker

Directions:

1. Write the words of 2 Corinthians 3:17b-18 on the board. As you write each word, lead the children in saying it with you.
2. Say the whole verse together.
3. Review the meaning of the Bible Memory Verse as explained in the Teacher Tip above.
4. Choose a volunteer to erase one word. Children say the verse again, filling in the erased word.
5. Continue having children erase words and recite the verse until all the words are erased.
6. Choose a few volunteers to say the verse from memory by themselves or as a small group.
7. Say the whole verse together, one more time.

GAME: BALLOON TOSS

Purpose: Children learn the Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Inflated non-helium balloon, Bible Memory Verse poster

Directions:

1. Review the meaning of the Bible Memory Verse as explained in the Teacher Tip above.
2. Divide children into five teams.
3. Assign each team one of the following 5 phrases: **Where the Spirit of the Lord is,/ there is freedom. And we, who/ with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord’s glory/ are being transformed into His likeness with/ ever-increasing glory which comes from the Lord.**
4. Give the teams time to memorize their phrase.
5. Children stand in a circle. Teams should be spread out within the circle.
6. The team with the first phrase tosses a balloon high into the air. They must recite their phrase before the balloon touches the floor.
7. As soon as the team completes its phrase, a member of the next team taps the balloon as high as possible. That team recites their phrase before the balloon touches the floor.
8. Continue until all five phrases have been recited.
9. Play again, as time allows.

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE TIMELINE REVIEW

Prophets & Promises Part One studies the miracles and stories of the Bible from Acts through Revelation. Specific dates and a confirmed chronological order of all events covered in Lessons 1-21 are not available. Events will be ordered as they appear in the Bible. Review recent Bible stories to see the continuing story of who God is and what He has done.

Philip and the Ethiopian (Circa 33 A.D.) Philip saw a man from Ethiopia, a country in Africa. He followed the Holy Spirit's directions to run and stay near the man's chariot. What did Philip do when the man asked him for help understanding the Bible story he was reading? (He sat and read the Bible with the man. Then, he explained the story was about Jesus.)

God Changes Saul's Heart (Circa 33-34 A.D.) What happened to Saul on the road to Damascus? (A bright light blinded him and Jesus spoke to him.) That day, Saul realized that Jesus was the Lord. What happened to Saul when he met with Ananias? (He was filled with the Holy Spirit. Scales fell from his eyes and he could see again.) What was the first thing Saul did once he could see? (He was baptized.) God changed Saul from a man who hurt believers into a man who helped others believe in Jesus.

Saul Escapes from Damascus (Circa 33-34 A.D.) In Damascus, Saul preached boldly that Jesus was the Son of God. The Jews there were surprised Saul had changed his mind about Jesus. They made an evil plan to stop him from telling others about Jesus. How did his followers help Saul escape from Damascus? (They lowered him in a basket through an opening in the city wall.)

How to create a Bible Timeline from Acts through Revelation:

1. Download and print the Bible Timeline for Prophets & Promises (available at www.resourcewell.org).
2. Print each scroll on sturdy paper.
3. Choose a wall or other visible location to display the timeline.
4. Before each lesson, add the scroll for that lesson to the Bible Timeline using the list below.
5. To review, ask the corresponding questions as you point to the associated scroll.

Acts – Revelation: Jesus on Earth (Circa 2 B.C.-33 A.D.) > Jesus Ascends (Circa 33 A.D.) > The Holy Spirit Comes (Circa 33 A.D.) > Peter and the Lame Man (Circa 33 A.D.) > The Stoning of Stephen (Circa 33 A.D.) > Philip and the Ethiopian (Circa 33 A.D.) > God Changes Saul's Heart (Circa 33-34 A.D.) > Saul Escapes from Damascus (Circa 33-34 A.D.) > Peter and Tabitha (Circa 34-37 A.D.) > Peter Visits Cornelius (Circa 38 A.D.) > Peter Escapes from Prison (Circa 41-44 A.D.) > Barnabas and Paul (Circa 46-47 A.D.) > Paul Visits Macedonia (Circa 48-49 A.D.) > Paul and Lydia (Circa 48-49 A.D.) > Paul and Silas in Prison (Circa 48-49 A.D.) > Priscilla and Aquila (Circa 49-54 A.D.) > Paul's Third Journey (Circa 52-57 A.D.) > Paul's Arrest in Jerusalem (Circa 57-59 A.D.) > Paul and King Agrippa (Circa 57-59 A.D.) > Paul and the Shipwreck (Circa 60 A.D.) > Paul Imprisoned in Rome (Circa 62 A.D.)