



Date: _____

Series: Join God's Family (Spring)
Year 1, Lesson 54

Saul Believes in Jesus and Tells Others

Bible Event: Acts 9:1-20; 26:1-23

Take Home Point: *JOIN GOD'S FAMILY – *Tell others about Jesus.*

*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson. The leader will say the first part of the phrase (CAPS). The children respond with the second part of the phrase (*italics*).

Jesus Link: Jesus died so that all who believe can be in his family.

What kids will learn about God in this worship experience:

- Children will learn that an important part of discipleship is to tell others about Jesus. When we have Jesus' Spirit in our hearts, we want to tell others what God has done for us. Even Saul, who was evil, became filled with the Holy Spirit and told others his story. Kids will take home the point: ***JOIN GOD'S FAMILY– *Tell others about Jesus.***
- Children will respond to God's love as they pray to him, thanking him for loving them and giving them Jesus. They will offer him their songs of worship, their offerings, and their actions of love as they actively learn God's word.

Lesson 54 - 1



Welcome Zone: (15-20 minutes)

Purpose: While kids arrive give them a simple learning readiness activity that requires minimal supervision. This might include a video, games, blocks, or puzzles.

Video Suggestion: Your choice of music.

Activity Suggestion: Blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons.



Opening Worship: (10-15 minutes)

Children can bring forward the cross, candles, Bible, offering plate, and treasure box. The treasure box contains the props used to tell or dramatize the Bible event. Open with a simple prayer having the children repeat after you. Collect offering and talk about how God will use it.

Praise Songs:

Choose two or three songs and list them here.

Bible Event: A Visit from a Dramatized Character

A costumed adult presents the Bible event by telling it from a first person point of view. Explain to the children that they will meet an actor, someone pretending to be a person in today's Bible event. Ask the children to put on their imagination hats so they can imagine that this really is the person in the Bible event.

Saul: My name is Saul. I want to tell you about something that happened to me a long time ago. I was once a powerful man who did not believe in Jesus. In fact, I hated people who did believe in Jesus. I did some horrible things. If I found out that someone believed in Jesus, I would have them thrown in jail. I even had some of them killed. I was a wicked man.

One day, I heard that more and more people were beginning to believe in Jesus. That made me angry! I knew that some of these believers were in a city called Damascus. I decided to travel there and take prisoner or kill anyone I found believing in Jesus. I got some of my friends together and started on my journey right away.

As we were traveling, though, something amazing happened. It was about noon and we were almost at Damascus, when a bright, blinding light from heaven shined down on me. (Shine a spotlight, lamp, or flashlight at the children.) The light was so bright that I couldn't see and fell to the ground. Then I heard a voice talking to

me. It said, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?” I didn’t know where the voice was coming from. I asked, “Who are you, Lord?” And the voice answered, “I am Jesus. Now get up and go into the city and you will be told what you must do.” I didn’t even believe in Jesus, yet he was talking to me!

My friends didn’t know what had happened. They heard a loud noise, but didn’t see anything else. When I finally stood up, I couldn’t see a thing. The bright light from heaven blinded me for three whole days. My friends had to lead me into Damascus to the house of a man named Judas. There I waited to see what Jesus wanted me to do next.

God had big plans! He sent one of his believers named Ananias to see me. Ananias knew what an evil man I was. He was afraid to come see me. But the Lord told him that it was safe to come to me. So Ananias came and put his hands over my blinded eyes and said to me, “Brother Saul, the Lord – Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here – has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.”

As soon as Ananias said that, scaly skin fell away from my eyes and I could see again! Immediately, I became a believer! I was baptized right away and began to tell others about Jesus.

I am proof that Jesus can take a non-believer like me and turn me into a disciple. After this, I didn’t care what any non-believers thought about me. All I wanted to do was teach others about Jesus so they could be filled with his Spirit too.

I want you to remember my amazing story. Also, always remember to: ***JOIN GOD’S FAMILY – *Tell others about Jesus.***



Action Zones: (20-30 minutes)

Purpose: Children move at their leisure to the activities according to their interest. Adults are assigned to oversee each of the zones watching for safety, assisting any activity, and helping the children connect to the lesson of the day. All zones are introduced at the beginning of Zone Time. Some suggested zones are included below. It is usually best to have all children go to the Snack Zone first. Sing a blessing song or say a snack prayer together before dismissing to the zones.

During the Zone Time, children may arrive from mid-service dismissal if this is an option at your church. Be prepared to welcome the children and invite them to choose a zone.

Snack Zone: Regular size or mini Oreo cookies. The outside of the cookie is dark, just like life without Jesus. But if you unscrew the cookie, you find light – just like knowing Jesus.

Healthy Snack Option: Using straight pretzels, break them into little pieces. Have the children think about someone they can talk to about Jesus. Use the pretzel pieces to spell out the names of those people.

Drama Zone: Set up ‘tents’ using tables and blankets. Give children flashlights and let them tell Saul’s story to each other under the tents.

Puppet Zone: Let the children use puppets to practice telling their favorite Jesus events. (For example: his birth, special miracles, dying on the cross and rising again.)

Felt Zone: Use felt board materials to show the story of Saul from today’s Bible event. (For example, use Lesson #166 “Saul Gives His Heart to Jesus” from *Betty Lukens Through the Bible in Felt*.)

Craft Zone: Provide half a sheet of white cardstock with the template to make an invitation for Kids Church. Decorate the card with markers, crayons, stickers, etc. and attach a Hershey’s Hug candy to the front.

Play Zone: Hold horse-ride races. Place masking tape on the floor to mark a starting point and a turn-around point. Have two teams race while “riding” stick horses or broom sticks. When a teammate completes his turn, he should give the next teammate a high five and shout “Share Jesus!” before handing off the “horse.”

Quiet Reading Zone: Basket of books. Include any that feature the story of Saul’s Conversion.

Music Zone: Your choice of music.

Coloring Zone: “Saul Believes” coloring page



Closing Worship: (20 minutes)

Purpose: As you empty the zones and clean up, begin the music so the children can start wandering over.

Worship Songs:

Choose one or two songs and list them here.

Bible Application with Puppet Presentation:

Purpose: The puppet demonstrates the need that will be met in today's lesson. The scripts are not written verbatim, but give a story line in which the group leader can interact with the puppet.

Judy comes out with the "Disciple Picture for Kids." She heard about this from Bubba last week and wants to review it so she knows the different parts. The large group presenter thinks that's a great idea. He pulls out the transparencies or poster of the "Disciple Picture for Kids" and invites the kids to help teach Judy the parts:

1. reading the Bible (Bible)
2. inviting others (motioning hand)
3. sharing your gifts (hands exchanging gift)
4. trusting Jesus (heart with cross)
5. worshipping and praying (open hands on chest)

After this review, the presenter reminds the kids and Judy about today's story with Saul. He recaps that Saul had been an evil man, but Jesus spoke to him, made him blind, filled him with his Spirit and then gave him his sight back. After this, all Saul wanted to do was go tell others about Jesus. The presenter asks the kids which part of the Disciple Picture deals with telling others about Jesus. (Inviting others – motioning hand.)

Remember: ***JOIN GOD'S FAMILY – Tell others about Jesus.**

Prayer Time:

Purpose: Allow children to contribute their own prayers. This will teach them to turn to God in both good times and in times of trouble. End with the Lord's Prayer.

"Children Pray" Options: (select one from the options below)

_____ **Prayer Train Option:** Children line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone and speak their brief prayers of thanksgiving.

_____ **Prayer Chair:** Children stand in a circle around one child sitting on a chair in the middle. All children in the circle will lay a hand on the child sitting in the chair as they say a prayer together.

_____ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and taps children on the head to stand and speak their prayer.

Lord's Prayer: Lead the children through the Lord's Prayer, phrase by phrase, or let them pray the entire prayer along with you.

Blessing:

May God, who is all around you,
pour his love upon you.

(Beginning at the bottom of the circle, slowly make a large circle with your hands. Finish by bringing your hands down and wiggling the fingers to resemble rain.)

And Jesus, his life a sacrifice,
walk right there beside you.

(Slowly make a large sign of the cross. Then move your hands out to the sides.)

And may God's Holy Spirit,
the one who lives inside you,

(Cross hands over the heart.)

keep you strong,
comfort, lead and guide you!

(Move to a "strong man" position. Then cross your arms with the hands on corresponding upper arms to communicate comfort. Bring one hand forward with "lead" and the other with "guide" to complete the blessing.)

Song of Sending:

Choose one song and list it here.



Closing Zones:

Purpose: Children go to an activity zone such as, the coloring zone, quiet reading zone, and children's Christian music video zone, as they wait for their parents.

Supplies:

Welcome Zone:

- blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons

Opening Worship:

- Bible
- costume for Saul
- spotlight, lamp or flashlight

Action Zones:

Snack:

- Oreo cookies – any size

Drama:

- tables
- blankets
- flashlights

Craft:

- half sheet of card stock with template
- markers and crayons
- Hershey's Hugs candies
- tape

Play:

- stick horses or broomsticks
- masking tape

Quiet Reading:

- basket of books

Music:

- your choice of music

Puppet:

- various puppets

Felt:

- materials to reenact story (For example, use Lesson #166 "Saul Gives His Heart to Jesus" from *Betty Lukens Through the Bible in Felt*.)

Closing Worship:

- Judy, the puppet
- large "Disciple Picture for Kids" (transparencies or poster with attachments)

Closing Zones:

- colored pencils
- paper
- basket of books

You Are Invited To: _____

Where: _____

When: _____



Come meet your friend Jesus!

You Are Invited To: _____

Where: _____

When: _____



Come meet your friend Jesus!

You Are Invited To: _____

Where: _____

When: _____



Come meet your friend Jesus!

You Are Invited To: _____

Where: _____

When: _____



Come meet your friend Jesus!