



**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Series:** A Miraculous Church  
Spring Year 2, Lesson 53

# A Miraculous Change—Saul's Conversion

**Take Home Point:** \*Jesus calls us to follow him.

\*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

**Bible Event:** Acts 9:1-22

**Key Verses:** Ephesians 1:18-19; "I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe." (NIV)

**We will help kids know:**

- Saul was spiritually blind and persecuted the body of Christ or the church.
- God is the one who reaches out and calls us to faith.
- People can be religious and still be in spiritual darkness.
- Spiritual sight comes from recognizing Jesus as Lord and Savior.




**We will help kids feel:**

- Joy in being called by Jesus.
- Confident that Jesus loves them and they can trust him as Savior.

**We will help kids do:**

- Listen closely to their partner to cross the hot chocolate river.
- Follow a leader in a faith walk.

# THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
<b>Small Group Warm-Up</b> 	3	Listen to a partner while blindfolded and cross a pretend river.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• blindfolds – one for each pair of students</li> <li>• tissue paper</li> <li>• masking tape</li> <li>• coins or card chips (three or four per pair of kids)</li> </ul>
<b>Large Group</b> 	4  7-8  8  9-11	<b>Overview</b>  <b>Puppet Presentation:</b> “Gordy Searches for a Miracle” – Gordy is writing for a newspaper and is looking for a big story.  <b>Video:</b> <i>The Visual Bible: Acts---</i> Acts 9:1-22.  <b>Puppet Presentation Conclusion:</b> “Gordy Searches for a Miracle” – Gordy missed the video and so he interviews an eyewitness of the miracle of Saul’s conversion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• hat with “Newsboy” on it for Gordy</li> <li>• Gordy puppet</li> <li>• pencil</li> <li>• notepad</li> <li>• sunglasses</li> <li>• video: <i>The Visual Bible: Acts</i>, produced by the Visual Bible International 1997</li> </ul>
<b>Small Group Application</b> 	4-6	Kids pretend to be journalists and answer the questions of “who,” “what,” “when,” “where,” and “why.”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a small notepad per pair of kids</li> <li>• pencils or pens</li> </ul>

# Small Group Warm-Up: 15 minutes



**Purpose:** *Get pointed in the right direction!* Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.

*Supplies: Coins or card chips, masking tape, blindfolds, tissue paper*

In advance, make starting and finishing lines about eight feet apart on the floor with masking tape.

To begin, say:

**Kids, let's play an imaginary game. Imagine there is a river of boiling hot chocolate between these banks** (referring to the masking tape lines). **The only way to cross from one bank to the other is to step on the imaginary marshmallows in the middle.**

Place three or four coins or chips per pair on the floor between the taped lines. Explain that the coins or markers are marshmallows and if kids step off of a marshmallow, they will fall into the hot chocolate.

Divide the group into partners.

**One of you will wear the blindfold while your partner will tell you how to cross the boiling hot chocolate. Those of you who are blindfolded need to listen very closely to your partner.**

Blindfold one child in each pair, using tissue between the child's closed eyes and the blindfold so they are unable to peek underneath.

Coach the kids how to give clear directions, for example: move right foot one step forward, or step a little to the right.

After one child from each pair has had a chance, have partners switch places. Move the markers on the floor to a new position. When all have had a turn, have kids gather together and say:

**You had to listen very closely to your partner for directions, when you were blindfolded, to have success in crossing the imaginary river. You had to hear a clear voice to follow.**

**Today we will hear about someone who was spiritually blind. Jesus called Saul in a very clear voice to follow him. I wonder if we can hear that same voice today, and if we will choose to follow him. Today we will discover that *\*Jesus calls us to follow him.***

## Large Group: 20-30 minutes



**Purpose:** *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

### Overview

**Puppet Presentation:** “Gordy Searches for a Miracle” – Gordy is writing for a newspaper and is looking for a big story.

**Video:** *The Visual Bible: Acts --- Acts 9:1-22.*

**Puppet Presentation Conclusion:** Gordy missed the video so he interviews an eyewitness of the miracle of Saul’s conversion.

## Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



**Purpose:** *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

*Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.*

### Observation Questions: What happened?

Have refer to Acts 9:1-22 in their Bibles for answers to the questions. Explain that they will pretend to be journalists and ask the following “who,” “what,” “when,” “where,” and “why” questions of their partner.

Have kids get into pairs. Have one kid record his/her partner’s answers to the following questions on the notepad. Half way through the questions, have the partners switch and the other one becomes the journalist who record’s his/her partner’s answers. Remind kids that they are eyewitnesses to the Bible event today.

**Who is our Bible event about today? (Saul.)**

**What happened to Saul while he traveled to Damascus? (Acts 9:3-6.**  
*Jesus appeared to him on the road to Damascus. He blinded Saul with a bright light and spoke to him in a vision.)*

**When did Saul accept that Jesus was the Son of God? (Acts 9:9-18.**  
*After Saul had prayed for three days and had a vision, the disciple Ananias came to him, placed his hands on Saul and told him Jesus*

wanted him to see again and to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Immediately, something like fish scales fell from Saul's eyes and he could see again. Then Saul stood up and was baptized.)

**Where** did Saul go tell others that Jesus was the Son of God? (Acts 9: 19-20. In the synagogues of Damascus.)

**Why** did Saul confuse the Jews living in Damascus? (Acts 9:21-22. He used to imprison those who worshiped Jesus, now he was preaching in the synagogues proving that Jesus was the Messiah.)

### **Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?**

**How** do you think Saul felt when a brilliant light flashed all around him and Jesus spoke to him on the road to Damascus? (Frightened and confused. He had believed Jesus was a false prophet leading the people away from God, yet now Jesus did a miracle before him.)

**Why** do you think God chose to blind Saul to get his attention? (To show Saul he was not only physically blind but spiritually blind also.)

**How** do you think Saul felt after he had been blinded and then miraculously received sight again? (Overwhelmed, joyful.)

**How** did this event change him? (He believed that Jesus was the Son of God and proclaimed it boldly knowing that Jews would persecute him like he had persecuted Christians before.)

### **Application Questions: What does this mean to me?**

**How** are you like Saul?

Have you ever felt God calling you?

Are you willing to follow Jesus like Saul did even if you might be persecuted?

Have you experienced a miracle in your life like Saul did when you believed and followed Jesus?

Where do you think God might be leading you since he's calling you to follow him? What special things might God be calling you to do for him?

In the key verse for today, Saul (later Paul) said in Ephesians 1:18-19, *"I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of*

***his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe.”(NIV)***

**What kind of sight is Saul praying for all believers?** (*Spiritual sight to see all that God has done for us and calls us to do.*)

**This is a wonderful prayer for us today. We can be confident that, like Saul, *\*Jesus calls us to follow him.***

**Application Activity:** If time allows, have kids pair up again. This time go outside and have one person close their eyes while the other leads them in a faith walk. Have them try to imagine what Saul might have felt like when he was blind and totally dependant on someone else.

**Closing Prayer:**

After kids have prayed for personal requests, close by praying Ephesians 1:18-19 over them as follows. You can either insert individual names in the blanks or say “these children.”

**Dear God,  
I pray that the eyes of \_\_\_\_\_ heart(s) may be enlightened in order that they may know the hope to which Jesus has called them, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for \_\_\_\_\_ who believe. Amen.**

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# Large Group Presentation: 20-30 minutes

## Gordy Searches for a Miracle Puppet Presentation

*Supplies needed: hat with "Newsboy" on it for Gordy, pencil, notepad, sunglasses, video: The Visual Bible: Acts*

**Mr. King:** Hi, kids. Welcome to Kingdom Quest. Let's bring out Gordy. Are you there, Gordy?

Gordy appears with a hat that says "Newsboy" on it. He has a pencil in his hand. Have one pair of sunglasses for the kid being interviewed.

**Mr. King:** Gordy, what's with the hat?

Gordy: I am a newsboy.

**Mr. King:** Are you writing for a newspaper now?

Gordy: I am a well-known writer now. In fact, I have my very own column in a very important newspaper.

**Mr. King:** That is very impressive. Is it really a big newspaper?

Gordy: Of course it is!

**Mr. King:** Have I heard of it?

Gordy: I am sure you have.

**Mr. King:** Is it \_\_\_\_\_ (*insert the name of your local newspaper*)?

Gordy: No, it's not that.

**Mr. King:** I think you are going to have to help me out here.

Gordy: I can't believe you don't know. It's the only news you need to read. It's Mrs. Anderson's Homeroom News.

**Mr. King:** Oh, it's your school newspaper.

Gordy: That's right! I bet you have heard of it now.

**Mr. King:** Sorry, Gordy. I still haven't heard of it.

Gordy: That's okay. Mrs. Anderson hasn't heard of it yet, either.

**Mr. King:** **So, tell us what you are writing about. Do you have a big story to cover?**

Gordy: I overheard a group of kids talking about miracles happening here. I thought I was going to see a miracle when I heard of the boiling hot chocolate river the kids had to cross. Now, that would have been a story. But...(sounding dejected) it was only pretend.

**Mr. King:** **Yes, it was.**

Gordy: Did you know I bumped my nose trying to stay on those markers blindfolded?

**Mr. King:** **I'm sorry to hear that, Gordy. I hope you are okay. Today we are talking about *real* miracles, though.**

Gordy: Where are they happening?

**Mr. King:** **They happened in the Bible, but they also happen today.**

Gordy: Hot dog. I'm ready. When do I get to see a miracle? I really need a good story. Who can I interview about these miracles?

**Mr. King:** **You will be able to write your story in just a minute. You see, we will hear about a miracle that happened to a man in the Bible named Saul. He was a man who hurt and imprisoned many people who believed in Jesus.**

Gordy: Where do I need to look for this man Saul?

**Mr. King:** **Gordy, we will watch the Bible event on video today. You will learn all about it.**

Gordy: I am so excited! Won't Mrs. Anderson be impressed? I'm sure she will let me keep writing for my class after hearing about this BIG news. I need to go get my official writing tablet. Be right back.

**Mr. King:** **We need to start the video, so hurry back. I would hate for you to miss it.**

### Video

Show the video, *The Visual Bible: Acts*— Acts 9:1-22.



# Gordy Searches for a Miracle

## Puppet Conclusion

Gordy: *(Comes back with notepad taped to his other hand.)* Okay. I am ready now. You can start the video.

**Mr. King:** **Gordy, we already watched the video.**

Gordy: What? How am I going to see a miracle now? How am I going to write that BIG story to impress Mrs. Anderson?

**Mr. King:** **Maybe you could interview some eyewitnesses to the miracle.**

Have a volunteer come forward and have him/her put on a pair of sunglasses.

Gordy: You look very sharp in those sunglasses. I am sure you will be able to help me. Here's the first question. What miracle happened to Saul? *(Jesus appeared to him on the road; Saul was blinded and later healed.)*

Gordy pretends to write down the answers given.

The next question is: What did Jesus say to Saul and what special instructions did he give Saul? *(“Why do you hurt those who love me? Go to Damascus and wait for instructions.”)*

How would you feel if a miracle happened to you and God talked to you in a vision? *(Amazed, scared, overwhelmed or whatever the kid might say.)*

How would you feel if you were suddenly blinded? *(Take any answer.)*

Well, Mr. King I think I got the story.

**Mr. King:** **That's great, Gordy. You can read more about this event in the Bible if you want to. It is found in Acts 9. Do you have any other questions for us?**

Gordy: This blindness thing puzzles me. I wonder why God blinded Saul instead of just talking to him in the vision.

**Mr. King:** **Maybe God wanted to show Saul that he was blind to the truth. Saul was a very religious man. He went to church many times a week. He really believed he was doing the right things for God.**

**He even thought he was doing right for God when he hunted down the Christians and hurt them. He thought he was protecting God's true religion.**

Gordy: Mr. King, why did he do that? Jesus was God's Son.

**Mr. King: Well, Gordy, Saul thought Jesus was a false prophet. So, God showed Saul he was *spiritually* blind when God made him *physically* blind.**

**I think it's interesting that Jesus experienced three days of darkness in the tomb, and Saul experienced three days of darkness with his blindness. When God let Saul see again, he knew that Jesus was real. Saul believed now that Jesus really was the Son of God.**

Gordy: How come I don't see miracles like that today?

**Mr. King: You can, Gordy. Anytime a person in spiritual darkness, which means they really don't know Jesus as Lord and Savior, senses God calling and chooses to follow him, that's a miracle.**

Gordy: It is?

**Mr. King: That's the biggest miracle that could ever happen to you or anyone else. Trusting Jesus as your Savior and following him can only be done by God's power working in us. We call this the miracle of faith.**

Gordy: I have experienced a miracle, Mr. King! I have put my trust in Jesus!

**Mr. King: You have, Gordy! Maybe, though, there are some here who have never experienced that miracle yet.**

Gordy: Do you think so? Oh, Mr. King, I want everyone here to experience that miracle. How about everyone raising their hand...

**Mr. King: (Interrupting Gordy.) Instead of having kids raise their hands if they are not sure Jesus is their Savior, they can accept Jesus into their hearts right now. Kids, if you believe that Jesus died on the cross for the punishment of your sins, then you can pray and ask him into your heart. You can then be sure you have experienced this incredible miracle of faith because the Bible says that if we believe in Jesus, we will have eternal life.**

Gordy: Can I lead them in a prayer Mr. King?

**Mr. King:**       **Sure.**

Gordy:           Dear God, thank you for sending Jesus. Thank you that he is the Son of God and gave his life for us. Some of us here may not have heard you calling or put trust in you. I ask that you would call anyone who hasn't, and they would listen and follow you. I pray they will trust you and turn their life over to you. Please forgive our sins, and be our Savior, and help us follow you. In Jesus' name. Amen.

**Mr. King:**       **That was a great prayer! If any of you prayed this prayer to accept and follow Jesus for the first time, please share this with your shepherd. They would be so excited to hear about the miracle you have experienced.**