



Date: _____
Series: A Miraculous Church
Spring Year 2, Lesson 54

A Miraculous Rescue – Saul

Take Home Point: *God rescues us from unbelief.

*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

Bible Event: Acts 9:10-31

Key Verse: Romans 5:6, 8, “Look at it this way: At the right time, while we were still helpless, Christ died for ungodly people... Christ died for us while we were still sinners. This demonstrates God’s love for us.”

We will help kids know:

- God rescued Saul from blindness and his enemies. But most importantly, God rescued him from his unbelief.
- God rescues us from our unbelief. By his power, we come to trust Jesus as our Savior.
- We can pray for and trust God to help others move from their unbelief to belief in Christ as Savior.




We will help kids feel:

- Confident that God can bring to faith people who do not trust in Jesus.
- Thankful for the believers who know that God has brought them to faith.

We will help kids do:

- Take a peanut home to remind them to pray for an unbeliever.

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
Small Group Warm-Up 	3	Kids will experience a trick with a peanut to show belief and unbelief.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> peanut in a shell <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> Caution: If you know of allergies in your group, use an alternate such as a fruit with its seeds. </div>
Large Group 	4 8-9 9 9-11	Overview Puppet Presentation: “Gordy and the Unbelieving Bus Driver” – Gordy doesn’t think a mean bus driver or cranky cafeteria lady could ever believe in Jesus. Video: <i>The Visual Bible: Acts</i> – Acts 9:10-31 Puppet Conclusion: “Gordy and the Unbelieving Bus Driver” – Gordy learns that God can rescue even a murderer like Saul from unbelief.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> hat for Gordy with “Newsboy” on it Gordy puppets bag of peanuts pencil notepad video, <i>The Visual Bible: Acts</i> Vol. 2, by Visual Bible International 1997.
Small Group Application 	4-6	Kids are given a peanut to take home to remind them to pray for someone who is in unbelief.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> peanuts in the shell (one per child)

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: peanut in a shell (Caution: If you know of allergies in your group, use an alternate such as a fruit with its seeds.)

Hide the peanut in your pocket or purse and say:

Kids, I have something in my pocket (or purse) that has been “in the dark” all its life. Do you believe me? Raise your hand if you believe I have something in my pocket that has never seen light before. Raise your hand if you do not believe me.

After kids raise their hands, say:

Those who believe in me are correct. Let me prove it to you.

Take out the peanut.

This is what has never seen light. *Children may indicate that it's in the light now.* **But the peanut inside this shell has never seen the light before.**

Open the shell and show them the peanut.

Today we will talk about unbelief. The most serious unbelief anyone can have is to not believe that Jesus is the Christ, or the promised one from God.

If we do not believe in Jesus, then we do not believe he is the Savior of the world. It also means we do not put our trust in him. We do not believe what the Bible says about Jesus.

As people who do believe in Jesus and what the Bible says about Jesus, we do not look down or dislike people who are in unbelief. We want to help those who don't believe to do so.

Do you know someone who does not believe in Jesus as Savior? Do you think it is very hard for them to believe? Why?

Today in large group we will meet a murderer. He killed Christians. But, he changed from unbelief to belief. Today we will learn that **God rescues us from unbelief.*

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 and the Unbelieving Bus Driver” –Gordy doesn’t think a mean bus driver or cranky cafeteria lady could ever believe in Jesus.

Video: *The Visual Bible: Acts* – Acts 9:10-31.

Puppet Conclusion: Gordy learns that God can rescue even a murderer like Saul from unbelief.

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?

Supplies needed: a peanut in a shell for each child

Have refer to Acts 9:10-31 in their Bibles for the following questions.

Why was Saul traveling to Damascus? *(Acts 9:1-2. He went there to arrest those who believed and followed Jesus.)*

Who was the Christian man God asked to visit Saul in Damascus?
(Acts 9:10-11. Ananias.)

What happened to Saul when Ananias placed his hands on Saul?
(Acts 9:18. Scales fell from Saul's eyes and he could see.)

How did Saul escape from his enemies in Damascus? *(Acts 9:25. His friends lowered him in a large basket through an opening in the wall at night.)*

Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?

Why did these Jews want to murder Saul? *(Because they felt like he had betrayed them. He used to persecute those who believed in Jesus. Now he believed and preached boldly about him.)*

How do you think Saul felt as an unbeliever when he heard the name of Jesus?

How do you think Saul felt as a believer when he heard the name of Jesus?

Application Questions: What does this mean to me?

I want to tell you a true story about someone who changed.

Ted Bundy grew up in a good home, but made some very bad choices. These choices led him to murder. He murdered many women. Ted was eventually caught and put into prison. While he was in prison, God called him and he went from unbelief to belief.

In an interview, he was asked, “I’m not sure there’s anything you could say that people would believe, yet you told me that you have accepted the forgiveness of Jesus Christ and are a follower and believer in him.”

Ted Bundy answered, “I am.”

Here is a man who many thought would never come to belief in Jesus. God called him and forgave him. He went from unbelief to belief.

The key verse from Romans 5:6, 8 says, “Look at it this way: At the right time, while we were still helpless, Christ died for ungodly people...Christ died for us while we were still sinners. This demonstrates God’s love for us.”

No one, not even the murderers, Saul or Ted Bundy, are beyond God’s reach to rescue. Jesus died for everyone, even the ungodly. That is proof of how much he loves us. God’s love has the power to change a person from unbelief to belief.

Have kids think about people they think would never change or become believers.

Does God want us to give up and think these people will never change or that they are not worthy of God? No, because he loved them enough to die for them, he wants us to show love to them also.

One of the most powerful things we can do to help these people and show them love is to pray for them. **God rescues us from unbelief.*

Closing Prayer: Thank God that he sent Jesus for all people, even those who do not believe. Have kids spend time praying for someone they want God to rescue from unbelief.

Application Activity:

After the prayer, give each kid an unshelled peanut (or substitute seed in fruit) and say:

I want everyone to take a peanut home today. Every time you look at it remember that some people do not believe because they do not see Jesus—they are blind to spiritual things. We think these people will never believe. But, we need to always pray for them and look for chances to show them the truth about Jesus. When their heart is opened to belief, it is like opening the peanut and seeing the truth and coming to belief.

Safety and Security: Safety and security procedures are important for each church to carefully define and implement according to their unique needs. The security, safety, illness and accident procedures described in this curriculum are provided for example purposes only and may not be appropriate, applicable or adequate for every situation. Each church is responsible for determining whether any security, safety, illness and accident procedures contained in the curriculum are appropriate, applicable or adequate for its unique situation. The activities described in this curriculum require adult supervision and may not be suitable for each child and each situation. Each church is responsible for ensuring that adequate adult supervision is provided for all activities and for determining whether an activity is appropriate for each child and each situation. Kids Kount Publishing disclaims all liability for the implementation of any procedures or the performance of any activities described in this curriculum.

Large Group Presentation: 20-30 minutes

Gordy and the Unbelieving Bus Driver Puppet Presentation

Gordy needs a hat with a sign that says "Newsboy" on it, a bag of peanuts and a notepad. Also needed: The Visual Bible: Acts video ready to go at Acts 9:10-31.

Mr. King: Kids, I wonder what Gordy is up to today. Shall we call him?

Kids call for Gordy and he appears with his hat on.

Gordy: Hi, guys. How is everyone today?

Mr. King: Well, we are doing great. Hey, you still have your hat on. That means Mrs. Anderson must have really liked your last story and you are still writing for your school newspaper.

Gordy: Man, she loved it. In fact, she loved it so much that I know she is going to nominate me for the "writer of the year" award.

Mr. King: Gordy, that is fantastic.

Gordy: Yeah, I thought that maybe I could get another good lead on a story here today. But, I was only tricked with that peanut thing.

Mr. King: So you already heard that we are talking about unbelief. The peanut trick was one kind of unbelief, but we are talking about a more serious kind of unbelief. That is when a person doesn't believe Jesus is the Son of God.

Gordy: I know someone who will never believe in Jesus.

Mr. King: Who is that, Gordy?

Gordy: My bus driver.

Mr. King: Do you really think he could never be a believer?

Gordy: There is no way!

Mr. King: Why?

Gordy: He is the MEANEST man in the world!

Mr. King: Now, Gordy, does that mean he could never become a believer?

Gordy: You know it. When a bus driver goes to Mean Bus Driver's School, I don't think they let them become a believer.

Mr. King: Your bus driver went to a mean bus driver's school?

Gordy: He didn't learn to be mean from us kids. We are always nice and very sweet.

Mr. King: Wow, your bus driver must be really mean.

Gordy: He's so mean, he scares the principal.

Mr. King: Even though you think he is mean, how do you know that he is not a believer?

Gordy: Well, one day when I was getting off the bus, I was really trying to be nice. As I walked out the door I said, "God bless you." He just looked at me and said, "I didn't sneeze."

Mr. King: So, because of that you think he is probably not a believer in Jesus?

Gordy: Yes, and I don't think he ever will be either.

Mr. King: Now, wait a minute, Gordy. God can rescue anyone from unbelief, and they can become a follower of Jesus.

Gordy: Anyone but mean bus drivers!

Mr. King: No, mean bus drivers and even worse.

Gordy: There is only one person meaner than my bus driver...the cafeteria lady. There is absolutely no way that cranky cafeteria lady can be rescued.

Mr. King: God is so big that he can rescue even cranky cafeteria ladies. Many times he has rescued unbelievers from their unbelief.

Gordy: Wow, if that were true, this would be a great story for my next column in the fourth grade newspaper!

Mr. King: Today we will watch a true story about a murderer who God called and brought from unbelief to belief. This man murdered Christians and tried to prove that Jesus wasn't the Son of God.

Gordy: This is awesome! Let me go get my special notepad and I'll be right back to hear all about this man. How about some peanuts to eat while we watch the show?

Mr. King: Sure, but hurry back. We are going to show the video real soon.

Gordy leaves.

Video

Show the video *The Visual Bible: Acts*, from Acts 9:10-31.

Gordy and the Unbelieving Bus Driver Puppet Conclusion

Gordy comes back with a bag of peanuts and a notebook.

Gordy: I finally found the peanuts. Can you believe my mom put them on the top shelf? As I was getting them, the chair fell over and the peanuts flew everywhere. Would you like one?

Mr. King: No, thank you, Gordy.

Gordy: Well, I am ready.

Mr. King: Gordy, you missed it. We just finished the video.

Gordy: Not again! What happened?

Mr. King: Why don't you use your interviewing skills to ask a volunteer from the audience to help answer a few questions?

Gordy: That's a great idea!

Mr. King: Will you share your peanuts with him?

Gordy: That's a bad idea!

Mr. King: The deal is three peanuts for three questions.

Gordy: All right. The sacrifices a newsboy has to make for a good story!

Have a volunteer come up and give him/her a peanut for each answer.

Mr. King: What is the first question you would like to ask?

Gordy: Who was our Bible event about today? (*Volunteer answers Saul or Paul.*)

Mr. King: I have a question for you, Gordy. It's from last week and maybe you can remember.

Gordy: I thought I was asking the questions.

Mr. King: Well, this is a special one for you. What was Saul's job?

Gordy: Wasn't he in the business of arresting Christians?

Mr. King: Right. He arrested Christians, and had some beaten, put into prison, and some were even killed. So he was a murderer. He had such strong unbelief that he did not believe Jesus was God's Son or that he was the promised Savior of the world. Okay, now it's time for your next question.

Gordy: If this is a rescue story, how did Saul get rescued?

Ask a volunteer, and give him/her a peanut. (*Answer: His friends lowered him down in a basket through a hole in the wall.*)

Gordy: I can't think of a third question. Can you help me Mr. King?

Mr. King: Sure, I have a great one. It's about being rescued. Saul was rescued from blindness. Then he was rescued from his enemies. But, there is one rescue that is bigger than either one of these. This rescue happened in his heart. God rescued Saul from what?

Ask the volunteer and give him/her a peanut. Before the student answers Gordy interrupts.

Gordy: I don't believe anyone can answer that. It's too hard!

Mr. King: Gordy, you just gave us a hint.

Gordy: What did I say?

Mr. King: What is another word for "don't believe?"

Gordy: Unbelief! That's the answer, isn't it? Unbelief! God rescued Saul from unbelief. Right, Mr. King?

Mr. King: Yes, Gordy.

Gordy: If God could rescue Saul, maybe he can rescue my bus driver and even the cranky cafeteria lady. Maybe I will give them a copy of this story when I am finished.

Mr. King: **That would be great, Gordy. You know what else you should do?**

Gordy: No, what?

Mr. King: **You should pray for God to rescue them from their unbelief.**

Gordy: I will, Mr. King. Well, I better get busy and write this story.

Mr. King: **See you later Gordy. Let me know how things turn out, okay?**

Gordy: Sure, Mr. King. Can I say a prayer right now?

Mr. King: **You bet!**

Gordy: Dear God, thank you that you are powerful enough to even rescue murderers like Saul from unbelief. Please help my bus driver and the cafeteria lady and any others who don't know you, to have belief. In Jesus' name. Amen.