

# Saul Meets Jesus

## Preparing for Worship

The apostle we know as Paul began his life as a man named Saul. He was a devout Jew, zealous Pharisee, and brilliant student of the Law. Saul quickly became one of the strongest opponents to Jesus' followers, violently persecuting Christians with imprisonment and death. Although this God-fearing Jew notoriously oppressed Christians, God had another plan for Saul's life.

Saul's encounter with the risen Jesus on the road to Damascus changed his entire life. He was blinded by a light during this encounter, and God used an obedient Christian named Ananias to bring back Saul's sight. Saul repented of his sins and became a follower of Jesus. Saul soon became one of the most influential Christians of all time. Though his early life was spent persecuting Christians, Saul ended up enduring persecution for Jesus' sake.

### BIBLE STORY

Acts 9:1-19

"Saul Sees"

### UNIT BIBLE VERSE

"Live a life of love, just as [Jesus] Christ loved us."

EPHESIANS 5:2

### BIBLE TRUTH

Jesus loves us!

### WORSHIP GOAL

To help children know that God can change a person's life.

## Worship TIME PLANNER

CHECK TO USE	Activities	Curriculum Resources	Other Materials
<input type="checkbox"/>	Worship Through Music	<i>Great Big Praise 1</i> songbook and CD; CD player	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Worship Through Movement		
<input type="checkbox"/>	I Spy Someone Who . . .		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Whom Does Jesus Love?		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bible Verse Greeting		Adult helper
<input type="checkbox"/>	Saul's Spotlight		Flashlight
<input type="checkbox"/>	Saul Sees		Flashlights
<input type="checkbox"/>	A Trip with Saul	<i>Worship Time Connections</i> , Sheet 1	Crayons or pencils
<input type="checkbox"/>	Blind Review		Small box, pieces of paper, marker, review questions
<input type="checkbox"/>	Changing		Grape juice, baking soda, white vinegar, dropper, glass
<input type="checkbox"/>	Shiny Snack		Sugar cookies, frosting, aluminum foil, shiny cake decorating sprinkles, craft sticks, adult helpers
<input type="checkbox"/>	Spotlight Spotter		Flashlight

### WORSHIP WITH YOUR KIDS

Saul's conversion story is a great way to introduce the idea of testimony. Children may have heard about God's love for them, but they may not have heard stories of people's personal encounters with that love. Hearing stories about how people became Christians can help young children when the time comes for them to make a decision for Christ. Help the children understand Christ reveals His love in different ways. We should share these stories with each other.

## TIPS & TOOLS



### WORSHIP TIPS

Teaching tips for a lesson activity.



### 30-SECOND SKILLBUILDER

General teacher training helps.

# Active Worship

## music & movement



### 30-SECOND SKILLBUILDER

Young children love to add motions to music. For example, when you sing, “Down in My Heart,” crouch lower and lower each time you sing the phrase, “down in my heart.”

## Worship Through Music

Music is a great way to bring children together. Use the *Great Big Praise for a Great Big God, Book 1* songbook and CD to sing the following songs:

- “Jesus Loves the Little Children,” No. 31
- “Down in My Heart,” No. 13

- *Great Big Praise 1* songbook and CD
- CD player

You'll need

## Worship Through Movement

### I Spy Someone Who . . .

During worship, gather the children in a circle. Say, *I am glad you have come to learn about Jesus and His love for us. How many of you know how to play I Spy?* Let the children respond. Say, *Today we are going to play a game like I Spy. We are going to “spy” people Jesus loves. Listen carefully to what I say. “I spy someone Jesus loves. It is someone who . . . (description of child).* Allow the children to guess who it might be. Continue until all children have been named. If time allows, let the children take turns “spying” and describing another child for the group.

### Whom Does Jesus Love?

During worship, gather the children in a circle. Say, *Today we are going to play a game to help us know Jesus loves us. I am going to choose a person to be “It.”* Have that child stand in the center of the circle. Let “It” choose a child to begin play. Say, *If “It” chooses you, then choose another person to trade places with you. When you choose someone, say, “Jesus loves (name of child).”* Have the child who is “It” try to take the place of one of the children who is switching places. If he or she succeeds, the child who is left out may stand in the center and choose the next child to continue the game. Play until all children have had an opportunity to speak.

## Bible Verse Greeting

During worship, demonstrate this Bible verse greeting. Approach an adult helper and say, *Live a life of love.*

Hug the helper. Then have the helper respond, *Just as [Jesus] Christ loved us.* Have the children try this activity among themselves for about a minute. Then repeat, using handshakes, high fives, and grand bows. If space allows, have each child join hands with a partner and skip in a circle as they say the verse. At the end of this activity, repeat the verse as a group, including the Bible reference.

- adult helper

You'll need



### WORSHIP TIP

Move among the children, helping them remember the Bible verse as they greet one another. If you sense that a child is uncomfortable with hugging, shift the activity from hugs to handshakes.

# Bible Time Worship

## Saul’s Spotlight

Before worship, dim the lights in the room, if possible. Have the children stand against a wall while you stand against the opposite wall. Say, *I am going to give you some directions to help you get across the room. Whenever I turn on the flashlight and you see the bright light, obey the*

- flashlight

You'll need





## WORSHIP TIP

Use these review questions for Blind Review:

- Why was Saul going to Damascus?
- What happened to Saul when the bright light shone on him?
- What did Jesus say to Saul?
- Was Saul traveling alone? Who was with him?
- What did the Lord tell Ananias to do?
- What happened after Ananias prayed for Saul?



## WORSHIP TIP

Keep containers of baking soda and vinegar away from children. Both can sting if they get into the eyes. Also, the smell of vinegar does not wash off little hands easily!

Sometimes object lessons can be a little abstract. Kindergarteners may understand, but three-year-olds may have a harder time.



## WORSHIP TIP

Craft sticks make a good, safe alternative to plastic knives for young children.



## WORSHIP TIP

Make sure there is at least three feet between each child so the children can tell where the spotlight is pointing.



## WORSHIP TIP

Are you unable to dim the lights in your classroom? Since children are both uncomfortable and unsafe moving in total darkness, do not turn off the main classroom lights. Instead, try covering a window to keep out extra light. Children will still see the flashlight beam, even if it is not dark.

## Blind Review

**Before worship**, print Bible story review questions on pieces of paper, and place them inside the box.

**During worship**, have all the children cover their eyes. Approach one child at a time, and have him or her draw from the box of review questions. Read the question to the child. When they have answered their questions, the children may uncover their eyes.

- small box
- pieces of paper
- marker
- review questions

You'll need

# Connecting Worship to Everyday Life

## Changing

**During worship**, pour the grape juice into the glass. Mix the baking soda into the grape juice. The color will begin to change to blue. Next, add the vinegar one drop at a time. The vinegar drops will change to pink.

Say, *Did you see how when I added the vinegar, the grape juice changed colors? When we accept Jesus as our Friend and Savior, we invite Him to be a part of our lives. When Jesus comes into our lives, we change too! We don't become a different color, but we act and say and do things more like Jesus.*

- ¼ cup grape juice
- 1 tablespoon baking soda
- 1 tablespoon white vinegar
- dropper (optional)
- small, clear glass

You'll need

## Shiny Snack

**Before worship**, cut squares of foil. Place the squares on the table, with the shiny side facing up. Place a cookie on each foil square.

**During worship**, have students join adult helpers at tables. Let the children use craft sticks to spread frosting on the cookies. Then, let the children sprinkle the sparkles onto their individual cookies. Say, *When Saul was blinded by the bright light, he realized all the stories about Jesus were real. Jesus really is God's Son. Jesus loves us, and He wants to be our special Friend. It doesn't matter what we have done in the past. Jesus will forgive us for what we've done. All you have to do is ask.* Pray a short prayer thanking God for the snack, and for His willingness to forgive us when we have done wrong.

- sugar cookies (one per child)
- frosting
- aluminum foil
- shiny cake decorating sprinkles
- craft sticks
- adult helpers

You'll need

## Spotlight Spotter

**During worship**, dim the lights in the room. Say, *Saul did some wrong things. He hated Jesus' followers, and he wanted to put them all in jail. But after Saul met Jesus, his life was totally changed. Since God was able to help Saul change, He can also help us change. Jesus loves us. Do you remember what happened to Saul on the road to Damascus? (A bright light blinded him.)*

- flashlight

You'll need

Let's play a game to help us remember whom Jesus can help.

Have the children sit on the floor with their heads down but their eyes open. Pick one child to be the "spotlight spotter." Have that child shine the flashlight on a child's feet and say, "Jesus can help (name of child)." Say, *When you see the light on your feet, stand up and say, "Jesus loves you" loud enough for everyone to hear. Then it is your turn to be the "spotlight spotter."* Help the spotlight spotter to aim the flashlight on another child's feet. Guide the spotlight spotter to choose a child who has not had an opportunity to speak. Play until all children have been the spotlight spotter.

