

Adventures with GOD!

THE CONVERSION OF SAUL (C.2.SPRING.5)

Biblical Reference	Acts 9:1-19
Key Verse	Romans 1:16
Key Concept	The good news of Jesus changed my life and now I can share it with others.
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tell the story of Saul in their own words 2. Explain the key Bible verse 3. Make a list of the ways Jesus transforms our life

LIFF APPLICATION

The conversion of Saul was shocking to the first Christians. Saul was a person who openly persecuted the Christians, but his life was transformed by God. He repented of what he had done and dedicated his life to sharing the good news of Jesus with others. There may be people in our lives who we think will never accept Jesus into their lives as Lord and Savior, but the story of Saul teaches us that anyone can be redeemed and transformed by God. We cannot give up on people, because God doesn't give up on people.

Possible Activities and Class Plan

Activity	Materials	Time
My GROW Adventure	GROW Adventure w/God materials	5 minutes
Opening Prayer	Candle	1 minute
Bible Reading	Bible	5 minutes
Introduction	Butterflies of different colors	5 minutes
Group work		10 minutes
Bible exploration	Drama	10 minutes
Activity		5 minutes
Bible verse	Butterflies	10 minutes
My GROW Adventure	Review	5 minutes
Closing Prayer	Candle	1 minute



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INSTRUCTIONS

Note: Transform the classroom today into a beautiful garden. Cut out pictures of butterflies or make your own butterflies out of colored paper and tape them up all over the room.

My GROW Adventure with God Weekly Review: As children enter take time to have them reflect on their adventure with God booklets and either discuss or use art materials to express their journey during the past week. You may wish to add any art work, written poems, prayers or songs to a GROW wall in the room. You can find my GROW Adventure with God materials on the Covchurch.org website in the same place as the Adventures with God sessions.

Opening Prayer: Gather children around a candle. Light the candle and explain that we are entering into a special time with God. Encourage the children to hold their hands out in front of them palms up as a sign they are ready to receive what God has for them today.

Prayer Example: Lord God, thank you for making us, for loving us, for forgiving us, and guiding us. We know you are here with us right now. As we enter into your word, the Bible, help us draw close to you, to understand and to listen to what you have to say to us. Amen (For safety sake, you may wish to extinguish the candle after the prayer)

Bible Reading: Explain that as we read the Bible we do that first to spend time with God. Children can remain with hands out stretched palms up to receive the word as it's being read. Alternatively they can be invited to draw what they hear. Read Acts 9:1-19 twice and ask children to respond.

Question examples: What did you notice in this passage? How does it make you feel? Was there anything you would ask God about that you didn't understand or was confusing? Is God saying anything to you though the story?

Introduction: To begin the class, spend sometime talking about the process of transformation in butterflies. One option would be to read the story of the "Hungry, Hungry Caterpillar" Or tell a story in our own words of a caterpillar that dreams of becoming a butterfly and the process it goes through to become a butterfly. Talk about the amazing creatures that they are and how they've been created by God to transform. Use illustrations to show the transformation process.

What does the Bible say about transformation? Can people be transformed? YES! The Bible says that when we have Jesus in our life we become a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17) In the Bible we read about a very special transformation that took place in the life of Saul. Review who Saul was and what he did against the disciples?

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Group work: Divide the class into two or three teams and give each group a copy of the same worksheet. They can use their Bible to find the answers.

Bible exploration: Tell the story of Saul's conversion found in Acts 9:1-19. Allow the children to contribute with what they've learned in the previous activity.

Ask questions:

- What happened to Saul on the road to Damascus?
- What did he see on the road?
- What happened after his encounter with Jesus?
- What was Ananias reaction when he was called to get Saul? How do you think he felt?
- Did Ananias obey God or no?
- What happened when Saul received his sight?
- After he was baptized what did he begin to teach? How do you think the other disciples reacted?

Drama: Ask two volunteers to interpret the person of Saul, one before his encounter with Christ and one after his encounter with Christ. For example, the first volunteer would start by saying things like, "I am a Jew, born in Tarsus. I can't stand the Christians....." After both volunteers have acted out their portrayal of Saul, then ask the question, what changed? What transformation did he experience?

Activity: Give each person a piece of paper and have them draw a line down the middle. On the top of one column have them write "Before Christ" and on the top of the other column "After Christ." Have them draw two pictures or describe with words, what they were like before Christ changed their lives and what they are like after. Remind them that their story doesn't need to be dramatic like Saul's. But, that each of us experiences transformation when we ask Jesus to be the Lord and Savior of our lives. Have art materials available for this activity.

Bible verse: The symbol for today has been the butterfly. Give each child a butterfly for them to decorate and write the Bible verse on. Then, have volunteers add this symbol to the mural, as well.

Today's GROW Adventure with God Review:

G: God's Word: What is the story? (Give children an opportunity to express their understanding of the story)

R: Relationships: Is there anything in today's Bible story that shows us how we should or shouldn't share God's love with others? (Remind children that sometimes God uses the stories of the bible to show us how we shouldn't act toward God or others and give them a chance to consider how we might show God's love instead)



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O: Outward Action: Is there anything in the Bible story that shows us how we should help or serve God or others? (Explore concrete ways the children could live this out in the coming week)

W: Worship: Is there anything in the Bible story that shows us how we should accept God's love for us and others? Ask: How do you feel about God? How would you like to respond to God? What would you like to say to God?

Closing Prayer: Gather children around the candle again. As you light the candle explain that the flame is something that is present in the light and the darkness. In the same way, it reminds us that God is always with us. Is there anything anyone wishes to say to God? After children have responded, close the prayer time.

Prayer Example: Lord God, we thank you that you are always with us, and always love us. It's good to be with you. Thank you for what we have learned today. Thank you for being with us and for teaching us through the Bible. Help us to remember what you have taught us today and to live it out when we leave. Amen



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WORKSHEET

SAUL'S BIBLIOGRAPHY

Use your Bibles to find the answers:

Birth place: Acts 22:3

Citizenship: Acts 22:25-28

His family: Acts 23:6, 16

Education: Acts 22:3

Position: Acts 23:6

Activity as a young person: Acts 9:1-3; 22:4

Attitude towards Christians: Acts 8:1-3



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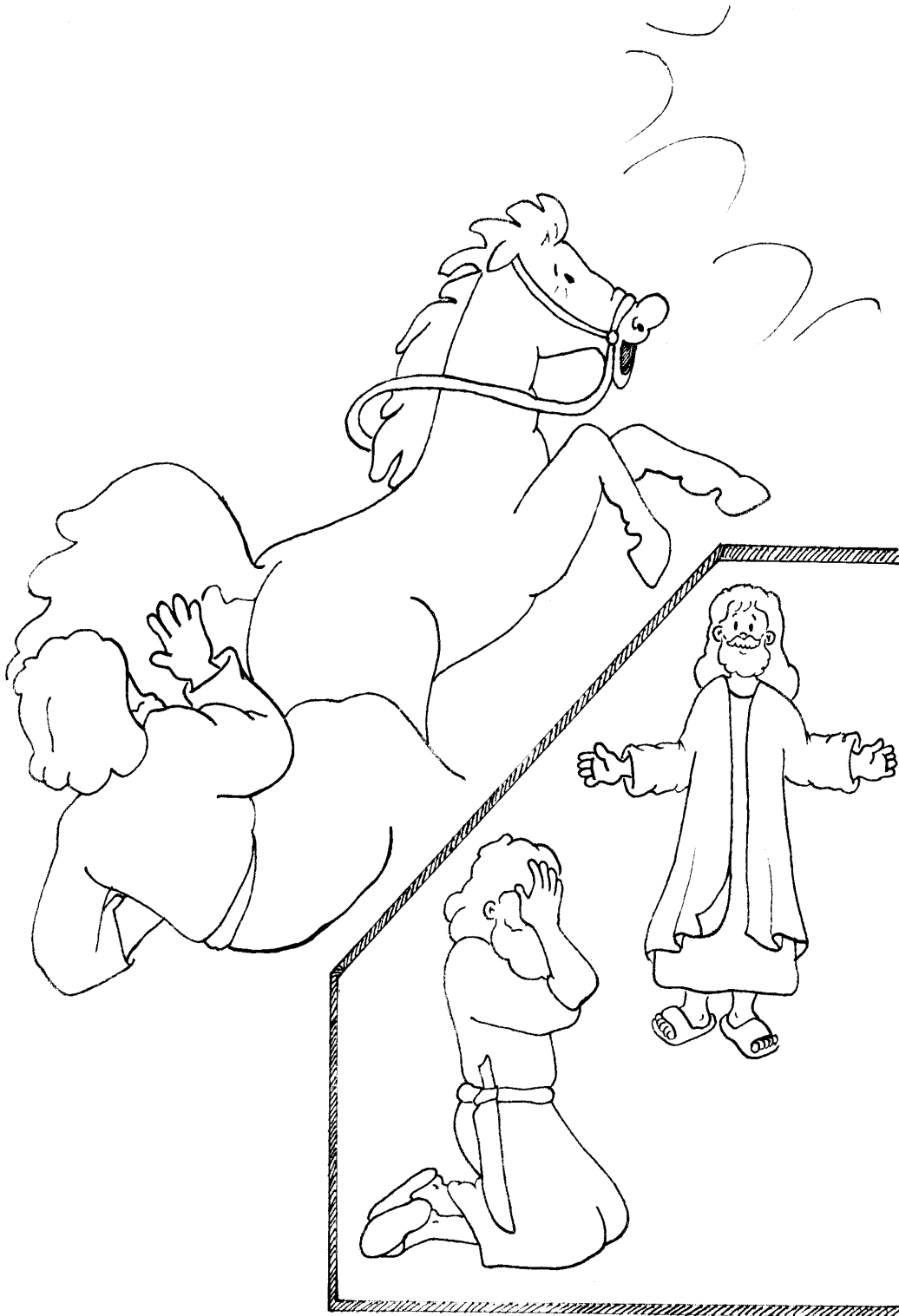
ILLUSTRATION

"SAUL, SAUL, WHY DO YOU PERSECUTE ME?"



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C
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PATTERN

