

# Adventures with GOD!

## THE MIRACULOUS ESCAPE (C.2.SPRING.6)

Biblical Reference	Acts 9: 23-25, Psalm 91
Key Verse	Psalm 91:14
Key Concept	God cares for me.
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Narrate (through drama, song, drawing) the story of Saul's escape from Damascus.</li> <li>2. Analyze Saul's attitude at the time his life was in danger.</li> <li>3. Say the Bible verse by memory.</li> </ol>

### Life Application

Not too long after giving his life to Christ, Saul found himself in a dangerous situation. But, Saul knew that he was not alone. God was with him. We also experience difficult and sometimes scary experiences. It is in these times that we need to remember that God is watching over us. Even in the midst of difficult circumstances we remember who God is and we go to God in prayer and song.

### 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	Illustrations	5 minutes
Bible exploration		15 minutes
Prayer		5 minutes
Activity/mural	Paper, pencils, markers	15 minutes
My GROW Adventure	Review	5 minutes
Closing Prayer	Candle	1 minute



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## INSTRUCTIONS

**Note:** Find a bunch of different baskets in all different sizes. Use them as decoration around the class today. If possible, find one big enough that one of the children would fit in it. This is part of the story today. Also, look at next week's lesson as it involves some preparation ahead of time.

**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 9:23-25 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:** Have the children gather up all the baskets that are around the room. Ask them what we use baskets for? Have them demonstrate those things that come to mind? Ask them if we use them to transport people. Use this to introduce the Bible story today, where Saul hides in a basket to escape the Jews.

**Bible Exploration:** Have every one sit down together in a circle and open up their Bibles to Acts 9:23-35. Review with them who Saul was and where he came to faith in Jesus. Point out Damascus on a map. Saul started preaching in Damascus after he had the encounter with Jesus. This did not make the Jews happy. Have one of the children read Acts 9:23-25.



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What was the response of the Jews towards Saul? How do you think Saul felt when he found out their intentions? Do you think he was scared? So did he stop talking about Jesus and just go into hiding? NO! How was he able to escape? (If you have a large enough basket, ask one of the children to get in it to pretend he or she is Saul). Read vs. 26, where did he escape to? Saul was in a really difficult situation. He could have said, "Forget it. It's not worth losing my life to preach about Jesus." But what was his response? Saul knew that God was with him.

Together read Psalm 91. What does this Psalm tell us about God? What do we need to remember when we are scared or in a difficult situation? Repeat the memory verse together several times (Psalm 91:14). Then pray together. Ask if anyone has a particular prayer request, a scary situation that they are in where they need to be reminded of God's presence and care.

**Activity:** There are several activities to choose from today. You can set up different stations and have the children choose which one they would like to participate in.

Activity 1: There is an activity sheet that contains an acrostic based on the Bible verse Psalm 91:14. The children can write one word or phrase for each letter of the acrostic. This acrostic can be a letter to God where each child expresses what he or she feels in knowing that God is watching over them.

Activity 2: Mural: Have a group of children continue working on the mural. Locate on the map the city of Damascus and then draw a picture representing Saul's escape.

Activity 3: Collage: Have newspapers and magazines available for the children to make a collage. They can cut out pictures of situations that create fear, or pose a danger and then they can write the Bible verse on the collage to remind them that even in scary situations we can turn to God.

## **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)

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?

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**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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## ACTIVITY 1

### ACROSTIC

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**O** \_\_\_\_\_

**D** \_\_\_\_\_

**C** \_\_\_\_\_

**A** \_\_\_\_\_

**R** \_\_\_\_\_

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**S** \_\_\_\_\_

**F** \_\_\_\_\_

**O** \_\_\_\_\_

**R** \_\_\_\_\_



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M \_\_\_\_\_

E \_\_\_\_\_