

## 12. Paul Is Changed (Acts 9:1-19)

As for us, we can't stop speaking about what we have seen and heard. (Acts 4:20)



# PLAN

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### Session Outline

#### 1. Gather

Greeting  
Light and Dark Freeze Dance  
Word Search  
Transition to Explore

#### 2. Explore

Sacred Conversations  
Hear and See the Bible Story  
Interact with the Bible Story  
Say the Bible Verse  
Transition to Respond

#### 3. Respond

Loving God,  
Loving Neighbor  
Love Glasses  
Color Spinners  
Transition to Bless

#### 4. Bless

Inviting  
Praising  
Blessing  
At Home with God

### Supplies

**Basic Supplies:** Tape | Stickers |  
Markers | Crayons | Pencils | Glue |  
Paper | Scissors

**Gather:** *Deep Blue Annual Music CD* or  
other music CD | Highlighters

**Explore:** No additional supplies needed

**Respond:** Cardstock | Medium-sized  
buttons | Adult scissors | Ruler

**Bless:** No additional supplies needed

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### Before You Teach

Though born in Tarsus, a major center for Greek education and culture, Paul was a Jew and had studied in Jerusalem with Gamaliel, a leading teacher of the Law of Moses. Paul, whose Hebrew name was Saul, was a Pharisee. The Pharisees were a group of Jewish leaders who believed the best way to serve God was to strictly obey the Law of Moses.

When we are introduced to Paul in the ninth chapter of Acts, he is described as a man who was living out his beliefs. Paul's strong beliefs as a Pharisee resulted in his determination to make trouble for the followers of Jesus, who did not follow the Law of Moses the way he thought they should. Paul travelled to Damascus, armed with letters addressed to the leaders of the synagogues there. He wanted the leaders to arrest Jesus followers so that Paul could take them back to Jerusalem for trial.

Paul knew what he believed, and he was determined to act on those beliefs. However, on the way to Damascus, Paul had an encounter that changed his life—he met Jesus. Paul was blinded and had to be led into Damascus by others. It was not the entry into Damascus that he had planned! As a result of his meeting with the risen Christ, Paul was changed, not immediately, but over time. Paul ultimately showed the same determination in recruiting followers of Jesus as he had previously shown in persecuting those followers.

Paul's conversion story is an example of God's ability to use anybody to carry out God's work. With his history of persecuting Christians, Paul seemed an unlikely candidate to spread God's word. When Ananias, a follower of Jesus, received instructions to go and talk to Paul, he countered this directive, saying, "Lord, I have heard many reports about this man. People say he has done horrible things to your holy people in Jerusalem" (Acts 9:13). But God had a plan to use Paul to spread the good news of Jesus to the Gentiles, and to kings, and to the people of Israel. God was able to use Paul's zeal and determination in a positive way.

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# GATHER

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### Greeting

*Before class: Display the Attendance Chart (Class Kit—pp. 15–18) at eye level. Put together the model of the zoo and the figures of Benjie, Cinnamon, and the baby elephant (Class Kit—p. 9).*

- Play, “Changed” (Annual Music CD or Adventure DVD) as you welcome each child.
  - Show the children where to place their offerings, and help each child mark the Attendance Chart with a sticker or permanent marker.
  - Place the Deep Blue Shores Map (Class Kit—p. 11) and the zoo and Benjie, Cinnamon, and the baby elephant figures (Class Kit—p. 9) on a table or on the floor for the children to play with and explore. If available, add the Deep Blue Shores Maps, buildings, and figures from previous quarters.
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### A—Light and Dark Freeze Dance (Movement)

- Play music from the *Deep Blue Annual Music CD* or another music source. Encourage the children to dance.
  - Without stopping the music, turn off the lights and have the children freeze, then turn the lights on and have the children begin dancing again.
  - Do this several times. Play as long as time and interest allow.
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OR

### B—Word Search (Puzzle)

*Before class: Make a copy of the “Word Search” (p. 78) for each child.*

**SAY:** The words in the word search are from our Bible story today. Later, when hear the Bible story together, listen for these words.

- Give each child a copy of “Word Search” (p. 78).
  - Encourage the children to find the hidden words and to highlight or circle them.
  - Read the words together.
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### Transition to Explore

- Have the children help you clean up and then move to the Bible story circle. Encourage them to move as though they are angry.

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# EXPLORE

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### Sacred Conversations

**SAY:** This month we are hearing more New Testament stories about Christians and their communities. We have heard about Peter, John, and the man they healed in Jesus' name. We have learned about Peter's miraculous escape from prison and the joy of his community who prayed for him. I wonder who we will hear about today.

**ASK:** I wonder:

- How many friends are here with us today? Who is missing?
  - How do you feel today?
  - What's one thing that happened in your community this week that you really liked?
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### Hear and See the Bible Story

**SAY:** Today our Bible story is about a man who was a bully to those who were followers of Jesus. But one day, everything changed. Let's listen to the story.

- Tell the children the story, "Paul Changes" (*Deep Blue Bible Storybook*—p. 462).
- Watch the Deep Blue Adventure for Session 12 (Adventure DVD) with the children.

**ASK:** Paul's whole life changed. What has changed in your life?

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### Interact with the Bible Story

- Give each child a copy of "Paul Is Changed" (Bible Story Sheets—Session 12).
  - Read the story with the children, encouraging them to read the words in blue.
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### Say the Bible Verse

*Before class: Post the Bible Verse Poster—Unit 3 (Class Kit—p. 7) on a wall or bulletin board.*

- Point to the Bible Verse Poster. Say the Bible verse for the children, and then repeat it together.
  - Teach the children signs from American Sign Language for some of the words in the Bible verse (Leader Guide—p. 96 and [www.deepbluekids.com/This-Sunday](http://www.deepbluekids.com/This-Sunday)).
  - Watch the Unit 3 Bible Verse video (Adventure DVD) with the children.
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### Transition to Respond

- Have the children move to the next activity as though they are sad.

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# RESPOND

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### Loving God, Loving Neighbor

*Before class: Post "All Are Welcome" (Class Kit—p. 27) and the Mission Poster (Class Kit—p. 29) on a wall or bulletin board.*

- Play, "All Are Welcome" (Annual Music CD or Adventure DVD). Sing along and dance to the music.

**SAY:** This month we are learning about and supporting the John Wesley Community Centre in South Africa. At the John Wesley Community Centre, people support children and families who are affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic. They help them with education and make sure the children and families have what they need to live like food, medical care, and clothes. They also have fun community programs for the children to participate in. One of those programs is called Spell-It, which is kind of like a spelling bee. Everyone takes turns spelling words. Each year, the community centre team makes it to the finals. The past few years they have even placed in the top ten in this competition.

**ASK:** Do you like to spell? What is your favorite word to spell? What is the hardest word you know how to spell? What do you do when you aren't sure how to spell a word?

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### A—Love Glasses (Activity Sheets)

- Give each child a copy of Activity Sheets—Session 12.
- Encourage the children to create "Love Glasses" according to the instructions.

OR

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### B—Color Spinners (Art)

*Before class: Cut out a cardstock circle, 4- to 5-inches in diameter, for each child. Use scissors to create a small slit in the center that is large enough to snugly fit a medium-size button into. The children will use the buttons to spin the circles.*

- Give each child a cardstock circle and a medium-size button.
- Encourage the children to color their circles on one side.
- Show the children how to insert a button (vertically) into the center of the colored circle, using the button to spin the paper circle.
- Have the children spin their circles and observe how the colors seem to mix to create new tones and shades.

**SAY:** After Paul met Jesus, everything looked different. People were the same, but Paul saw them differently. How do you see the colors on your spinner differently when you spin it?

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### Transition to Bless

- Have the children help you clean up and then move to the next activity. Encourage them to move as though they are very happy.

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# BLESS

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### Inviting

*Before class: Cut out the mural pieces from the bottom of the Unit 3—Bible Story Mural (Class Kit—p. 23) and place them in an envelope or zip-top bag. Post the Unit 3—Bible Story Mural.*

- Gather the children around the mural. Invite a child to tape the image of the pair of glasses to the mural.

**ASK:** What do you remember about the Bible story we heard today? What do you think we can learn about community from this story?

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### Praising

*Before class: Display “Singing Together” (Class Kit—p. 25) on a wall or bulletin board.*

- Sing together, “Be Present at Our Table, Lord” (Class Kit—p. 25).

**TIP:** If time permits, invite the children to choose more songs to sing.

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### Blessing

- Sitting in a circle, turn to the child to your right and say, “(Child’s Name), you are an important part of our community.”
- Invite the child to turn to the child on his or her right and say, “(Child’s Name), you are an important part of our community.”
- Have the children continue around the circle in this way until the final child says the phrase back to you.

**PRAY:** God, we are thankful for our church community. Thank you for the way that you are always with us. Amen.

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### At Home with God

**ASK:** What’s one thing about our time today that you can tell your family?

- Give each child a copy of Bible Story Sheets—Session 12. Look at “Family Faith Activities” together.

**ASK:** Which of these activities are you most excited to try this week?

- Send home the Bible Story Sheets—Session 12 with each child.

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## Word Search



BLIND      EYES      PAUL  
BRIGHT    JESUS      SEE  
CHANGE    LIGHT