

13. Paul Escapes (Acts 9:20-25)

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



PLAN

Session Outline

1. Gather

Greeting
Paul Escapes
Move the Basket
Transition to Explore

2. Explore

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

3. Respond

Paul’s Rope
Weave a Basket
Loving God,
Loving Neighbor
Transition to Bless

4. Bless

Inviting
Praising
Blessing
At Home with God

Supplies

Basic Supplies: CD player | DVD player | Projector or screen | Television | Chenille stems | Craft glue | Crayons | Markers | Offering basket | Paper | Pencils | Ribbon | Scissors | Tape

Gather: Bell | Carpet squares | Laundry baskets (2)

Explore: Bell

Respond: Bell | Berry crates (small) | Box with lock | Candle | Carpet squares | Felt | Multipurpose lighter | Rope

Bless: No additional supplies

Before You Teach

In last week’s lesson, we heard the story of Paul’s conversion. When God appeared to Ananias to send him to Paul, God told Ananias he had chosen Paul to bring God’s name to the Gentiles, kings, and Israelites. Following his encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus, Paul essentially spent the rest of his life fulfilling the mission for which God had chosen him, sharing the good news with everyone he met. The last half of the Book of Acts tells of Paul’s travels.

Even though Paul had been chosen by God to share the good news about Jesus, his path was not always a smooth one. In today’s Bible story, we hear about a time Paul’s life when he was in danger because he had been preaching that Jesus is God’s Son. This story reads like an adventure tale, with Paul escaping down the wall in the middle of the night. And this turns out not to be the last time Paul’s life would be in danger for spreading the gospel. While there seemed to be many people out to get Paul, he inevitably escaped with the help of others.

It is easy for us today to feel far removed from Paul’s mission. Few of us are called to travel to foreign lands and spread the good news that Jesus is the Messiah. However, it is worthwhile to note that as Paul traveled, he shared the good news with everyone he met. We can follow Paul’s example and share the good news with persons we meet, wherever life might take us. Each week as you teach your children about God, you are letting them know they are children of God. You are following Paul’s example and spreading the good news.

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GATHER

Greeting

Before class: Display your choice of an attendance chart (Class Kit—pp. 16-17 or pp. 18 & 15).

- Play “Changed” (Annual Music CD).
 - Welcome and greet each child as they enter the room.
 - Indicate the location of the offering basket.
 - Help children mark their attendance inside the building on the Community Attendance Chart (opt.).
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A—Paul Escapes (Activity Sheet)

Before class: Obtain Activity Sheets (Session 13).

- Distribute “Friends”/“Basket Escape” (pp. 27-28).
- Encourage the children to follow the journaling prompt and complete the activities.

OR

B—Move the Basket (Game)

Before class: Obtain two laundry baskets.

- Arrange the children into two groups and give them laundry baskets. Direct groups to form lines.
- When you say, “Go,” the first child in each group will get into the basket. The next child in line will push the basket and child across the room. When they reach the other side, the children will exchange places. Then the children and the basket will return to the starting line with their group.
- When teams reach their groups, the next two participants will repeat this action. The teams in each group will continue playing until all players have made it across the room and back.
- The group completing the task the fastest wins.

SAY: In today’s Bible story, a man named Paul escaped in a basket.

Transition to Explore

Before class: Obtain bell and carpet squares.

- Ring the bell to acknowledge that it is time to transition.
- Direct the children to choose carpet squares (or equivalent items), then sit in a circle on the floor.

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EXPLORE

Sacred Conversation

- Ask a few wondering questions.

ASK: I wonder:

- What made you laugh this week?
 - How did you help someone this week?
 - What are you grateful for?
 - Was there a difficult part of your week, and what made it better?
 - Where did you see God this week?
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Hear and See the Bible Story

Before class: Prepare television and DVD player.

- Read the Bible story (*CEB Deep Blue Kids Bible—Acts 9:20-25*).
- Watch the Deep Blue Adventure DVD Session 13.

ASK: Who helps you stay safe?

Interact with the Bible Story

Before class: Obtain Bible Story Sheets (Session 13).

- Distribute the Bible Story Sheets and draw attention to Bible Story Retelling (p. 1).
 - Assign the role of Paul, then present “Paul Escapes.”
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Say the Bible Verse

Before class: Display Poster: Unit 3 Bible Verse (Class Kit—pp. 14 & 19). Review Unit 3 sign language (Leader Guide—p. 96).

- Recite the Bible verse: “As for us, we can’t stop speaking about what we have seen and heard” (Acts 4:20).
 - Invite the children to say and sign the Bible verse with you.
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Transition to Respond

Before class: Obtain bell.

- Ring the bell, then invite the children to put away their carpet squares.

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RESPOND

A—Paul’s Rope (Game)

Before class: Obtain “Paul’s Rope” (Leader Guide—p. 84) and cut out. Hide the puzzle clues in the room. Obtain a rope and a security box with combination lock. Put the rope inside the box and lock it.

- Show the children the locked box.

SAY: We need to help Paul escape over the wall, but first we must get his rope. The rope is locked inside a locked box. You need to look for puzzle-piece clues to find the instructions to unlock the box.

- Direct the children to look around the room for clues to find the code to unlock the box.

OR

B—Weave a Basket (Art)

Before class: Obtain small berry crates, one per child. Measure strips of ribbon to weave around crate. Measure felt to cover crate bottom. Make an example.

- Distribute the berry crates and felt pieces.
- Show children how to weave ribbon through the top row of the crate, then glue the ends. Repeat.
- Demonstrate how to braid a chenille-stem handle and to glue felt to the bottom of the crate.

SAY: When Moses was three months old, his mother placed him in a basket and set the basket afloat on the Nile River. Use your crate to store small items that are special to you.

Loving God, Loving Neighbor

Before class: Obtain Map 7: Deep Blue Shores (Class Kit—p. 8) and the cut out Figures/Pieces: Deep Blue Shores Map 7 (Class Kit—p. 25). Display Mission Poster (Class Kit—p. 5).

- Display the Deep Blue Shores Map 7 on the floor or table. While the children interact with the map and figures, talk about the mission. Share the information on the mission poster.

SAY: We are learning about the John Wesley Community Centre. The mission organization helps children and families in South Africa. They offer services for children who are sick or their family members who might be ill. Let’s make cards and write letters for the mission organization.

- Distribute paper and craft supplies. The mailing address can be found on the Mission Letter (Leader Guide—p. 66).

Transition to Bless

Before class: Obtain bell, candle, multipurpose lighter (or battery-operated candle), carpet squares.

- Ring the bell to signal transition.
- Direct the children to choose carpet squares, then sit in a circle on the floor.
- Light a candle to symbolize that this is a special time together (*optional*).

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BLESS

Inviting

Before class: Continue to display Poster: Unit 3 Bible Verse (Class Kit—pp. 14 & 19) where it is easily accessible for children. Obtain envelope containing cut out Poster Pieces: Unit 3 Bible Verse Poster (Class Kit—p. 27).

- Gather the children around the Bible-verse poster.
- Display the poster pieces.
- Invite a child to attach to the poster the “Paul Escapes” poster piece.

PRAY: Dear God, thank you for giving us friends to help us and to help keep us safe. Amen.

Praising

Before class: Obtain CD player and Deep Blue Song Sheets.

- Distribute the song sheets for “Changed” (Annual Music CD).
 - Sing the song “Changed” (Annual Music CD).
 - Collect the song sheets and store until the next session.
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Blessing

SAY: This month the Bible stories are about spreading the message of Jesus.

ASK: Who remembers today’s Bible verse?

SAY: Together let’s shout out our love for Jesus.

- Invite the children to follow your instructions.
 - Whisper: “I love Jesus.”
 - Turn to your neighbor and say, “I love Jesus.”
 - Shout: “I love Jesus.”
 - Say, “Amen.”
-

At Home with God

Before class: Obtain Bible Story Sheets leaflets.

ASK: What is one thing that you learned today? Can you share with your family what you learned?

- Send home with each child Bible Story Sheets—Session 13 leaflet.

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Paul's Rope

Directions to set the lock – New code: 9, 20, 25 (The Bible Verse Numbers)

- Be sure the lock is unlocked. Rotate the shackle 90 degrees counterclockwise and press down.
- Hold down and continue to turn counterclockwise another 90 degrees.
- Set your own combination by turning the dials.
- Turn the shackle back as normal, then the setting is complete.
- Turn the dials around a few times and enter your new combination to test that it has set.

