

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
"Friends Work Together" Tag
Basket Weaving
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
Paul Escapes Maze
Paul Down the Wall
Transition to Bless

4. Bless

Inviting
Praising
Blessing
At Home with God

Supplies

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

Gather: Masking tape or plastic sports cones | Strawberry or other small baskets | Yarn | Sewing scissors | Plastic yarn needles (optional)

Explore: No additional supplies needed

Respond: Adhesive glue dots or glue sticks

Bless: No additional supplies needed

Before You Teach

In last week's lesson, we heard the story of Paul's conversion. When God directed Ananias to go and search for Paul, God told Ananias that he had chosen Paul to bring God's name to the Gentiles, to kings, and to the 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, Paul's path was not always a smooth one. In today's Bible story, we hear of a time when Paul's life 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 because of 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 to 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 the children about God, you are letting them know that 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 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—“Friends Work Together” Tag (Game)

Before class: Make sure you have a large space in your room to play this game, or plan to go outside. Mark the boundaries of your play area using masking tape or plastic sports cones.

- Choose one child to be “It.” Have that child stand in the center of the group.
 - When the game begins, the child who is “It” will tag someone and link arms with the child. Then the two children will work together to tag and add on another child.
 - Continue playing until everyone has been caught and added to the group. The last person to be tagged and added is the winner and gets to be the next “It.”
 - Play as long as time and interest allow.
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OR

B—Basket Weaving (Art)

Before class: Gather strawberry baskets or other small baskets, at least one for each child.

- Give each child a strawberry basket or other small basket and some yarn.
- Invite the children to weave the yarn through their baskets to create a design. Help as needed.

TIP: *Plastic yarn needles are optional, but may help some children be able to weave more easily.*

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 being sneaky or hiding from someone.

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EXPLORE

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 and his community who prayed for him. And last week we heard a story about how Paul's life was changed. I wonder who we will learn 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 what happened after Paul's heart was changed and his eyes were opened. He needed some help from his community.

- Tell the children the story, "Paul Escapes" (*Deep Blue Bible Storybook*—p. 466).
- Watch the Deep Blue Adventure for Session 13 (Adventure DVD) with the children.

ASK: Who helps you stay safe?

Interact with the Bible Story

- Give each child a copy of "Paul Escapes" (Bible Story Sheets—Session 13).
 - 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).
 - 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 being sneaky or hiding.

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RESPOND

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. 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.

ASK: Why do you think education is important when you are trying to keep kids safe and healthy? What are some things you have learned about how to stay safe and healthy? What would you teach others about ways to stay healthy?

A—Paul Escapes Maze (Puzzle)

Before class: Make a copy of "Paul Escapes Maze" (p. 84) for each child.

- Give each child a copy of "Paul Escapes Maze" (p. 84) and encourage the child to help Paul escape by completing the maze puzzle.

OR

B—Paul Down the Wall (Activity Sheets)

Before class: Make a sample to show the children the finished "Paul Down the Wall" craft.

- Give each child a copy of Activity Sheets—Session 13.
 - Invite the children to create "Paul Down the Wall" scenes according to the instructions.
 - Encourage the children to use their scenes to retell the Bible story.
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Transition to Bless

- Have the children help you clean up and then move to the Bible story circle. Encourage them to move as though they are being sneaky or hiding from someone.

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BLESS

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 basket 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?

Praising

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

- Sing together, “Matthew 5:9” (Class Kit—p. 25).

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

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.

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 13. 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 13 with each child.

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Paul Escapes Maze



Instructions: Help Paul get down the city wall.

