

Story Time - Read the story to the children
Lesson 252: SAUL IS CONVERTED
ACTS 8:1-4; 9:1-22

Saul agreed that the killing of Stephen was a good thing. Some godly men buried Stephen and cried loudly for him. At that time the Jews began to persecute the church in Jerusalem, making them suffer very much, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the Apostles. Saul was also trying to destroy the group of believers. He went into their houses, dragged out men and women, and put them in jail. All the believers left Jerusalem. Only the apostles stayed. The believers went to different places in Judea and Samaria. They were scattered everywhere, and in every place they went, they told people the Good News.

In Jerusalem Saul was still trying to scare the followers of the Lord, even saying he would kill them. He went to the high priest and asked him to write letters to the synagogues in the city of Damascus. Saul wanted the high priest to give him the authority to find people in Damascus who were followers of the Way. If he found any believers there, men or women, he would arrest them and bring them back to Jerusalem. So Saul went to Damascus. When he came near the city, a very bright light from heaven suddenly shined around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul! Why are you persecuting me?" Saul said, "Who are you, Lord?" The voice answered, "I am Jesus, the one you are persecuting. Get up now and go into the city. Someone there will tell you what you must do." The men traveling with Saul just stood there, unable to speak. They heard the voice, but they saw no one. Saul got up from the ground and opened his eyes, but he could not see. So the men with him held his hand and led him into Damascus. For three days, Saul could not see; he did not eat or drink. There was a follower of Jesus in Damascus named Ananias. In a vision the Lord said to him, "Ananias!" Ananias answered, "Here I am, Lord." The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight Street. Find the house of Judas and ask for a man named Saul from the city of Tarsus. He is there now, praying. He has seen a vision in which a man named Ananias came and laid his hands on him so that he could see again." But Ananias answered, "Lord, many people have told me about this man. They told me about the many bad things he did to your holy people in Jerusalem. Now he has come here to Damascus. The leading priests have given him the power to arrest all people who trust in you." But the Lord Jesus said to Ananias, "Go! I have chosen Saul for an important

work. I want him to tell other nations, their rulers, and the people of Israel about me. I will show him everything that he must go through for me." So Ananias left and went to the house of Judas. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Saul, my brother, the Lord Jesus sent me. He is the one you saw on the road when you came here. He sent me so that you can see again and also be filled with the Holy Spirit." Immediately, something that looked like fish scales fell off Saul's eyes. He was able to see! Then he got up and was baptized. After he ate, he began to feel strong again. Saul stayed with the followers of Jesus in Damascus for a few days. Soon he began to go to the synagogues and tell people about Jesus. He told the people, "Jesus is the Son of God!" All the people who heard Saul were amazed. They said, "This is the same man who was in Jerusalem trying to destroy the people who believe and trust in Jesus! And that's why he has come here--to arrest the followers of Jesus and take them back to the chief priests." But Saul grew more powerful, and he confused the Jews living in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Messiah.

252. SAUL IS CONVERTED

ACTS 8:1-4; 9:1-22



“And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined around him a light from heaven; And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying to him, ‘Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?’” **ACTS 9:3-4**

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MEMORY VERSE:

"But Saul grew more powerful, and he confused the Jews in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Messiah." ACTS 8:39

Review Questions

True or False

1. After Stephen died, the Jews in Jerusalem began to persecute the church, and made them suffer very much.
2. Saul helped the believers of Jesus in Jerusalem.
3. When Saul tried to destroy the group of believers, they were scattered everywhere in Judea and Samaria.
4. Saul went to Damascus to try to find believers there so he could arrest them and bring them back to Jerusalem.
5. On the way to Damascus, Saul was traveling down the road and a great rainbow was shining around him.
6. Saul fell to the ground, and he heard a voice saying to him, 'Saul, Saul, why are you helping me?'

Questions

1. When Saul was on his way to Damascus, what happened to him?
2. Did the other men who were traveling with Saul see who was talking to him? Did they hear the voice?
3. What did the voice tell Saul he must do?
4. What happened to Saul's eyes? How many days was he blind?
5. When the angel told Ananias to go see Saul, what did he do to Saul?
6. After Saul became baptized and stayed with the followers of Jesus in Damascus a few days what did he go and do?
7. What was he telling the Jews and the people in the synagogues in Damascus?

Lesson 252 Activity

I Have the Power!

Make a royal scepter out of something like a dowel and a wrapping bow (you can, of course, get more creative). Have your class stand in a circle and pass the scepter around as you play music. When you stop the music, whoever is holding the royal scepter has “the power”; they can give a command that the class must obey until the next time the music stops. Continue this for a while so that several children get to have the “power.”

Ask your students what it felt like to be so powerful. Explain the power of God’s Word and that [the good news of the gospel tells of God’s power to give salvation to everyone who believes](#).

OPTIONAL ACTIVITY – REQUIRES SUPPLIES!

Volcanoes

You will need:

1/2 cup vinegar

1/4 cup water

3 tablespoons baking soda

a tall glass

a long handled spoon

foil

5 drops liquid dish detergent

a large baking dish

3 drops of red food coloring

Set the glass right side up in the middle of the pan. Use the foil to form the cone shaped volcano around the glass. Put the baking soda in the glass, then add dish detergent and food coloring. Gently pour in the water, then stir gently. Slowly pour the vinegar into the volcano. Wait and watch what happens.

Explain to your class that a real volcano is very powerful; it can destroy everything in its path. Ask if they think God is more powerful than a volcano. The answer is, of course, Yes! Explain that [the good news of the gospel tells of God’s power to give salvation to everyone who believes](#). When we trust God for salvation, we trust that He has the power to save us. He has encapsulated this power in His gospel message! Jeremiah 32:17 tells us that there is nothing too hard for God! We saw the power of the gospel in a man’s life by the name of Saul today. It was MUCH more powerful than any volcano! It changed many lives!

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to share our faith when the Lord gives us opportunity. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the gospel, give them opportunity to do so.