

# Paul's Vision

*Children will be invited to come to the front of the church to hear the story. The Desert Bag should be waiting in front of the Altar with the story materials beside it.*

## Acts 8:2-4

At that time the church in Jerusalem suffered terribly. All of the Lord's followers, except the apostles, were scattered everywhere in Judea and Samaria. Saul started making a lot of trouble for the church. He went from house to house, arresting men and women and putting them in jail.

The Lord's followers who had been scattered went from place to place, telling the good news.

## Acts 9:1-19

Saul kept on threatening to kill the Lord's followers. He even went to the high priest and asked for letters to the Jewish leaders in Damascus. He did this because he wanted to arrest and take to Jerusalem any man or woman who had accepted the Lord's Way. When Saul had almost reached Damascus, a bright light from heaven suddenly flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice that said, "Saul! Saul! Why are you so cruel to me?"

"Who are you?" Saul asked.

"I am Jesus," the Lord answered. "I am the one you are so cruel to. Now get up and go into the city, where you will be told what to do."

The men with Saul stood there speechless. They had heard the voice, but they had not seen anyone. Saul got up from the ground, and when he opened his eyes, he could not see a thing. Someone then led him by the hand to Damascus, and for three days he was blind and did not eat or drink.

A follower named Ananias lived in Damascus, and the Lord spoke to him in a vision. Ananias answered, "Lord, here I am."

11 The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the house of Judas on Straight Street.

**Storyteller:** *Hold out the figure of Saint Paul.* After Jesus rose from death and ascended into Heaven, His followers went from place to place, telling people the Good News. But a young man named Saul started making a lot of trouble for the church. He went from house to house, arresting men and women and putting them in jail. *Set down Saul in his stand.*

*Hold out the "letter" -- a scroll with a ribbon tied around it.* Saul asked the High Priest to give him a letter to take to Damascus, so that he could arrest the Lord's followers in that city, too. *Use an elastic band to put the letter in Saul's hand.*

*Roll out the road to Damascus (a strip of grey felt) at Saul's feet, and start moving Saul along it, until he is almost at the end.* When Saul had almost reached Damascus, a bright light from heaven suddenly flashed around him. *Open your fingers suddenly from behind Saul's head, like a flashing halo.* He fell to the ground. *Lay the doll down on its face.*

He heard a voice that said "Saul! Saul! Why are you persecuting me?"

"Who are you?" Saul asked.

"I am Jesus" the Lord answered. "I am the one you are persecuting. Now, get up and go into the city, where you will be told what to do."

*Stand Saul back up in his stand. Drop the letter, and leave it lying on the ground.* When Saul got up from the ground and opened his eyes, he could not see a thing. Someone led him by the hand into Damascus. *Move Saul off the end of the roadway.*

*Hold out the Ananias doll for the children to see.* A follower

## Story Materials

- roadway
- Saul's letters
- Dolls with stands:
  - Saul/Paul
  - Ananias

Tray, basket or shallow open box to hold the story

When you get there, you will find a man named Saul from the city of Tarsus. Saul is praying, and he has seen a vision. He saw a man named Ananias coming to him and putting his hands on him, so that he could see again.”

Ananias replied, “Lord, a lot of people have told me about the terrible things this man has done to your followers in Jerusalem. Now the chief priests have given him the power to come here and arrest anyone who worships in your name.”

The Lord said to Ananias, “Go! I have chosen him to tell foreigners, kings, and the people of Israel about me. I will show him how much he must suffer for worshipping in my name.”

Ananias left and went into the house where Saul was staying. Ananias placed his hands on him and said, “Saul, the Lord Jesus has sent me. He is the same one who appeared to you along the road. He wants you to be able to see and to be filled with the Holy Spirit.”

Suddenly something like fish scales fell from Saul’s eyes, and he could see. He got up and was baptized. Then he ate and felt much better.

named Ananias lived in Damascus. The Lord said to him in a vision, “Get up and go to the house where Saul is staying. Saul has seen a vision of you coming and healing him so that he can see again.”

*Set down Ananias in his stand, and turn his back sharply to the children, to show that he is arguing with God.* Ananias said

“Lord, this man has done terrible things to your followers!” The Lord said to Ananias “Go! I have chosen him to tell strangers and kings about me, and to suffer for worshipping in my name.”

*Turn Ananias around, and then walk him over to Saul.*

*Move Ananias' hands so that they touch Saul.* Ananias said

“Saul, the Lord Jesus has sent me. He wants you to be able to see and to be filled with the Holy Spirit”.

Suddenly something like fish scales fell from Sauls eyes, and he could see!