

Parents: On Saul's way to Damascus his heart was full of intentions to harm the Lord's followers when the unexpected happened. Saul's conversion was truly amazing. Only God could bring about such a change. Let's take a closer look at what happened to Saul or as we know him, Paul, the Lord's chosen instrument, during his journey into the city.



Read: Acts 9:1-19 Saul's Conversion

9 Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest² and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. 3 As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. 4 He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"⁵ "Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked. "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. 6 "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."⁷ The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. 8 Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. 9 For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything. 10 In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!" "Yes, Lord," he answered. 11 The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. 12 In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight."¹³ "Lord," Ananias answered, "I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your holy people in Jerusalem. 14 And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name."¹⁵ But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel. 16 I will show him how much he must suffer for my name."¹⁷ Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." 18 Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, 19 and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

Discuss: Saul wanted to do what with people that followed the Lord? *Take them to Jerusalem as prisoners.*

As Saul got close to the city of Damascus what flashed around him? *A light from heaven.* He _____ (*fell*) to the ground and _____ (*heard*) a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul why do you persecute me?" Jesus was asking Saul why he was persecuting which means attacking, treating unfairly. Jesus told him to go to the _____ (*city*) and then he would be told what to do.

Others heard the sound but did not see anyone. When Saul opened his eyes he could see nothing. For how many days was he blind? *Three.*

In the city the Lord called to a disciple named Ananias in a vision and told him to find Saul, put his hands on him, and restore his sight. The Lord said He chose Saul to tell the world about Himself. In fact, Saul was his chosen instrument.

What did Ananias say? *He had heard of Saul and how he had harmed the Lord's followers.* Do you think it would have been scary for Ananias to go to Saul? *Probably so., but he trusted the Lord and followed His directions.*

Ananias placed his hands on Saul. What happened? *Paul was able to see again and he was filled with the Holy Spirit.* What did Paul do next? *He got baptized and ate.*



Key Point: Chosen by God

Chosen by (Hold out one flat hand and with other hand's pointer and thumb pull the flat hand's finger)

God (Take both fists with thumbs pointing to forehead and spread fingers out)

Family Activity: Color the sheet included. Thank the Lord that you are his chosen one. Think of ways you can share the good news of Jesus with others.

Prayer: Dear God, We praise You for Your plan. It may not be what we expect, but we know that we can trust You completely. We're grateful You chose Saul and each one of us to share news about Jesus. We thank and love You. Amen.

Next Steps: Memorize Acts 9:15a - "But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name..."



“But the Lord said to Ananias, “Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name...” Acts 9:15a