

Parents: Saul went from persecuting the followers of the Lord to boldly proclaiming Jesus is the Messiah. That put him in a challenging position with opposition on all sides. The Jews thought it was best to end Saul's life while the disciples were frightened and didn't trust him. Let's take a look in the Book of Acts at how the Holy Spirit gave Saul (Paul) the power to preach through it all.



Read: Acts 9:19b-31 Saul in Damascus and Jerusalem

Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus. 20 At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God. 21 All those who heard him were astonished and asked, "Isn't he the man who raised havoc in Jerusalem among those who call on this name? And hasn't he come here to take them as prisoners to the chief priests?" 22 Yet Saul grew more and more powerful and baffled the Jews living in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Messiah.

23 After many days had gone by, there was a conspiracy among the Jews to kill him, 24 but Saul learned of their plan. Day and night they kept close watch on the city gates in order to kill him. 25 But his followers took him by night and lowered him in a basket through an opening in the wall. 26 When he came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he really was a disciple. 27 But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. He told them how Saul on his journey had seen the Lord and that the Lord had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had preached fearlessly in the name of Jesus. 28 So Saul stayed with them and moved about freely in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord. 29 He talked and debated with the Hellenistic Jews, but they tried to kill him. 30 When the believers learned of this, they took him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus.

31 Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace and was strengthened. Living in the fear of the Lord and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it increased in numbers.

Discuss: Why were the people surprised and confused that Saul was preaching and teaching that Jesus is the Son of God? *Before Saul's experience with the Lord on the road to Damascus he was trying to harm those that shared about Jesus.*

Some people didn't like that Saul was preaching about Jesus and made a plan to end his life. How did Paul escape? *His followers lowered Saul in a basket through an opening in the wall. Wow! That must have been a sight to see!*

When Saul tried to join the disciples, what happened? *They were afraid of Saul because he had hurt other Christians.* Who told the disciples that Saul was a changed man? *Barnabas.* Did they believe Barnabas? *They must have because Saul was able to stay with them and share news of Jesus with others.* The Holy Spirit encouraged the church (followers of Jesus) and what happened? *The church increased in numbers which means more people believed in Jesus as the Messiah.* How can we be like Paul and Barnabas? *By the power of the Holy Spirit we can fearlessly tell others that we are forgiven because Jesus died for our sins.*

Key Point: Tell Others About Jesus

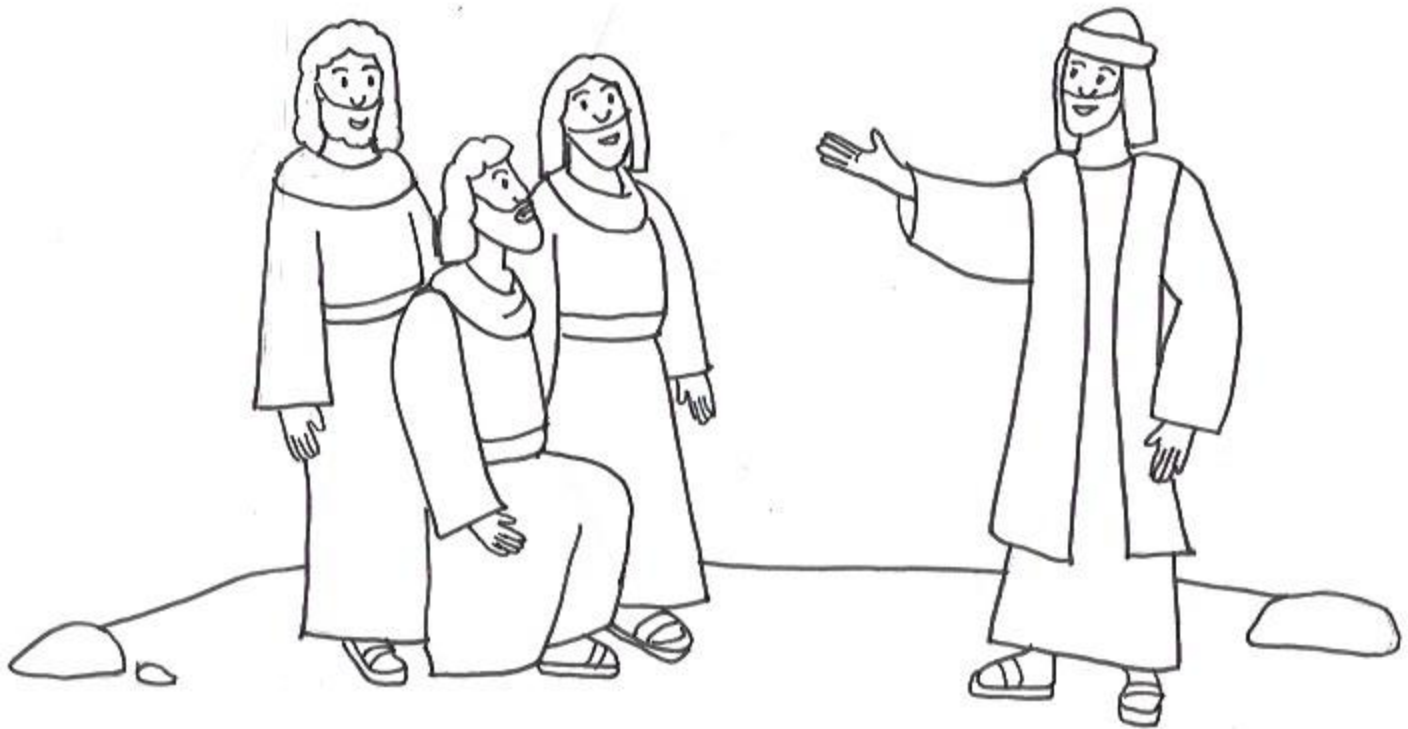
Tell Others (Make "O" shape with one hand bring to mouth like blowing a horn, next point to others in the room)

About Jesus (Tap one finger in the center of the flat palm of the opposite hand)

Family Activity: Color the sheet included. Think of ways you can tell others about the forgiveness we have in the Lord Jesus.

Prayer: Dear God, We praise You for forgiving and changing hearts. By the power of the Holy Spirit let us fearlessly tell others about Jesus. We thank and love You. Amen.

Next Steps: Memorize Acts 9:20 At once he (Paul) began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God.



Tell Others About Jesus

At once he (Paul) began to preach in the synagogues that
Jesus is the Son of God. Acts 9:20