



## Heroes of the Faith Lesson 9 - Paul

**Read** the Bible passages aloud. Then, answer the questions together. Be sure everyone has a chance to speak.

Meanwhile, Saul was uttering threats with every breath and was eager to kill the Lord's followers. So he went to the high priest. He requested letters addressed to the synagogues in Damascus, asking for their cooperation in the arrest of any followers of the Way he found there. He wanted to bring them—both men and women—back to Jerusalem in chains.

As he was approaching Damascus on this mission, a light from heaven suddenly shone down around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul! Saul! Why are you persecuting me?"

"Who are you, lord?" Saul asked.

And the voice replied, "I am Jesus, the one you are persecuting! Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

The men with Saul stood speechless, for they heard the sound of someone's voice but saw no one! Saul picked himself up off the ground, but when he opened his eyes he was blind. So his companions led him by the hand to Damascus. He remained there blind for three days and did not eat or drink.

Now there was a believer in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord spoke to him in a vision, calling, "Ananias!"

"Yes, Lord!" he replied.

The Lord said, "Go over to Straight Street, to the house of Judas. When you get there, ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul. He is praying to me right now. I have shown him a vision of a man named Ananias coming in and laying hands on him so he can see again."

"But Lord," exclaimed Ananias, "I've heard many people talk about the terrible things this man has done to the believers in Jerusalem! And he is authorized by the leading priests to arrest everyone who calls upon your name."

But the Lord said, "Go, for Saul is my chosen instrument to take my message to the Gentiles





and to kings, as well as to the people of Israel. And I will show him how much he must suffer for my name's sake."

So Ananias went and found Saul. He laid his hands on him and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road, has sent me so that you might regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." Instantly something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he got up and was baptized. Afterward he ate some food and regained his strength.

Saul stayed with the believers in Damascus for a few days. And immediately he began preaching about Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is indeed the Son of God!"

Acts 9:1-20, NLT

### **To Discuss:**

- What happened to Saul when he saw the bright light on the road? How did meeting Jesus change him?
- Why do you think Saul was so different after meeting Jesus? What does this tell us about God's power?
- Have you ever felt like you made a mistake or weren't good enough? How does Saul's story show that God can still use us?
- What is one area in your life where you'd like God to help you change?
- Can you think of someone who has changed in a good way? What helped them change?
- How can you help others see that God loves them and can change their lives too?

### **Activity: Transform the Rock**

**Materials Needed:** A small rock and a goldfish cracker (or similar substitution).

Show the rock and ask each family member to think about something in their life they want God to transform.

Pray together, asking God to take those things and help each person grow in a new way. Then replace the rock with the goldfish cracker, symbolizing how God can make something broken into something new and beautiful.

- Why is it hard to change on our own?
- How does God's power make change possible?