

# The Conversion of Saul

## Lesson Objectives

- The students will hear the story of the conversion of Saul.
- The students will name two ways Saul changed.
- The students will name one way they can change this week.

## Lesson Text

Acts 9:1-31

## Scripture Memory Verse

Yet Saul grew more and more powerful and baffled the Jews living in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Christ.

*Acts 9:22*

## Lesson Plan

Greeting and Registration

Preclass Activity: A-maze-ing Conversion

Welcome and Singing

Centers:

Bible Story: A Radical Change

Craft: Saul's Turnabout

Scripture Memory: More and More

NOTE: Allow time for a snack.





# The Conversion of Saul

## A Radical Change

The students will hear about the radical conversion of Saul.

### Materials

*For the teacher:*

- 4 highlighters, or light colored pencils
- 3 bed sheets or robes
- 1 piece of poster board, 22" x 28"
- thick black marker

*Reproducible Pages:*

- Page B, 1 copy for each student

### Preparation

1. On the poster board, neatly print in large letters: "Road to Damascus."
2. Read through the script carefully on the back of this Lesson Card and practice presenting Saul's part with feeling and conviction.

### Introducing the Bible Story

Open your Bible to Acts 9. Tell the students that today's Bible Story comes from the New Testament book of Acts. Ask students if they have ever heard of the apostle Paul.

*Before Paul became a disciple of Jesus, he was called Saul. Saul was very religious and highly educated in the Scriptures. He was respected as one of the most powerful Jewish leaders of his day. Saul had a passion for God. He hated anything that went against his religion—and Saul hated Christians. Saul believed that disciples of Jesus were criminals. He aggressively went about having them arrested and thrown into jail. Saul even watched over the stoning death of Stephen—and approved of it! Saul hated Christianity and he was determined to stop it.*

*The disciples knew about Saul and they were afraid of him. They knew that he would try to arrest them and perhaps even have them killed! The disciples tried their best to stay away from Saul. Stephen had been their brother and beloved friend.*

*God knew what Saul was doing and he had a plan for Saul. In your story today, you will hear about the absolutely amazing—radical—change that happened in Saul's life.*

### Presenting the Bible Story: Reader's Theater

Select students to read the following roles: Narrator 1, Narrator 2, Jesus, Ananias. Help "Jesus" and "Ananias" with their costumes by making robes from the sheets. Prepare your own costume. You will be reading the part of Saul. Hang up the sign you prepared.

Distribute the copies of Reproducible B, and give highlighters to the four students selected to read a part. Have them highlight and read over their parts silently.

When everyone is ready, read through the story of Saul's "Radical Change." When you are done, use the discussion questions below to review the story.

- *How would you have felt if Jesus had sent you to get Saul and teach him the truth?*
- *How does it make you feel to know that God loved Saul and wanted him to be saved?*
- *How does it make you feel to know that someone like Saul could totally change?*
- *How does it make you feel to know that God can still change people today?*

### Sharing with Others

Explain to the students that Saul understood how the disciples felt toward him. He knew that they were afraid of him—and some did not trust him at first. Saul spent many years proving to the disciples that his change was real and not just a trap to arrest more disciples. By the end of his life, Saul had been persecuted so many times that the disciples deeply respected him and considered him a great leader of the church. Saul never forgot how he hurt Jesus and that he was forgiven for his past sins against the Christians. He also never stopped trying to help others learn about Jesus.

Ask the students who they want to tell this amazing story to this week. Close with a prayer thanking God for Saul's radical change.

### Teacher Tips

- If necessary, adapt this activity for the reading level and size of your group.



**3rd and 4th Grades**

# The Conversion of Saul

## A Radical Change

ROLES: Narrator 1, Narrator 2, Jesus, Ananias, Saul (to be played by the teacher)

SAUL: My name is Saul. Most of you may know me as Paul. I'm grateful and honored to share with you how God changed my life. I was the worst enemy of the early church. I was there when they put Stephen to death. I even approved of it. I wanted to get rid of anyone who followed Jesus.

NARRATOR 1: Saul did everything he could to stop the disciples, and this time he was going to take all the disciples in Damascus, and put them in jail in Jerusalem. As soon as he got permission from the high priest, he started on his way to Damascus.

NARRATOR 2: When Saul got near the city, something AMAZING happened! A bright light from heaven flashed, and Saul fell to the ground as he heard a voice.

JESUS: Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?

SAUL: Who are you, Lord?

JESUS: I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.

NARRATOR 1: Now the men who were traveling with Saul didn't know what to say. They were speechless. They heard the sound, but couldn't see to whom Saul was talking.

NARRATOR 2: Saul got up, but when he opened his eyes, he could not see. He was blind. So the men had to hold his hand and lead him the rest of the way to Damascus.

NARRATOR 1: For three days, Saul didn't eat or drink anything and he was still blind.

NARRATOR 2: Meanwhile, Jesus spoke to a disciple staying in Damascus. His name was Ananias.

JESUS: Ananias!

ANANIAS: Yes, Lord?

JESUS: There is a house on Straight Street. I want you to go there. It's the house of a man named Judas. Go there and ask for a man named Saul.

ANANIAS: Do you mean Saul, the man who has done terrible things to the disciples in Jerusalem? I've heard about him. He has come to arrest all the disciples here in Damascus!

JESUS: Yes. I have chosen him. Saul will go and preach to all the Gentiles and their kings and to all the people of Israel.

NARRATOR 1: So Ananias obeyed Jesus, in spite of his own fear. Ananias knew that God wants everyone to be saved—even Saul. Ananias went to the house where Saul was staying.

ANANIAS: Saul, I have come with a message from the Lord. Jesus appeared to you on the road and he has sent me so that you may see again—and be filled with the Holy Spirit.

NARRATOR 2: As soon as Ananias said this, something like the scales of a fish came off of Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and got baptized. Then he ate some food.

SAUL: After becoming a disciple of Jesus, my life radically changed. Instead of preaching against Jesus and killing his disciples, I preached the good news about Jesus! He saved my life. Many people were very confused—even baffled—when they saw me and heard my new message. Some of the disciples were still afraid of me because they couldn't believe that I could really change. But a disciple named Barnabas helped the apostles to accept me into the fellowship. I spent the rest of my life traveling around the world to tell people about Jesus. I even suffered a lot of persecution, which helped me to understand how Jesus must have felt, not to mention those I persecuted. I even went to my death preaching the good news of Jesus.

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# The Conversion of Saul

## Saul's Turnabout

The students will create moving pictures to remind them of Saul's radical conversion.

### Materials

For each student:

- 1 non-bending straw
- crayons or markers
- glue stick

For the teacher:

- scissors

Reproducible Pages:

- Page C, 1 copy for every 3 students

### Preparation

1. Cut out the folding pictures from the copies of Reproducible Page C. Each student will need only one folding picture.
2. Make a sample craft to show the students.

### Instructions

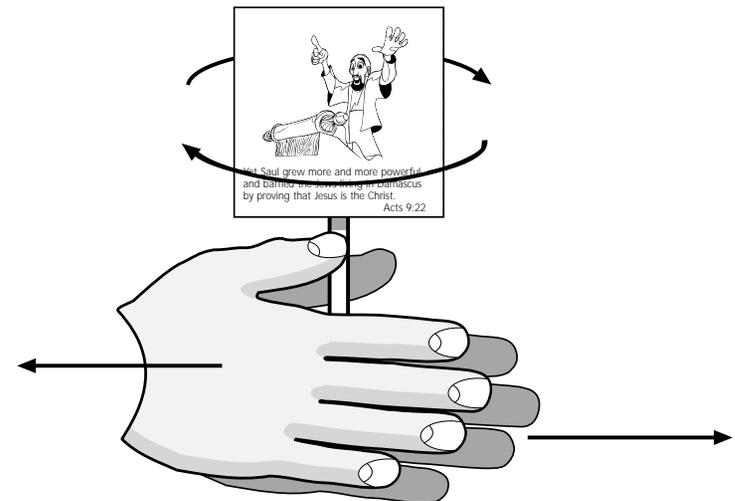
1. Introduce today's activity: *In today's lesson you are learning about Saul's radical conversion. You will make a craft that will remind you of the radical change he made.*
2. Show the students your moving picture. *This is a picture of Saul when he was persecuting Christians. Demonstrate how to twirl the straw between your hands to make the picture move. Here is Saul after he became a Christian! What a change!*
3. Distribute the folding pictures you prepared. Have the students fold the pictures along the dashed lines, as shown in Figure A.
4. Distribute the crayons and have the students color their pictures.
5. Give each student a straw and glue stick. Have them center the straw onto the backs of their pictures, as shown in Figure B, and then help them tape it into place.
6. Have the students place glue on the backs of the pictures, and then fold the pictures together.
7. Help the students place their straws between their hands, and then slowly spin the pictures, as shown in Figure C.
8. Make sure the students write their names on their pictures.

### Conclusion

Remind the students of God's power to change people. Encourage them that anyone can change with God's help. Close with a prayer for God to help the students change.

### Teacher Tips

- Encourage the students to use their crafts to share this week's story with their families.



**GENERATION**  
*next*

3rd and 4th Grades

# The Conversion of Saul

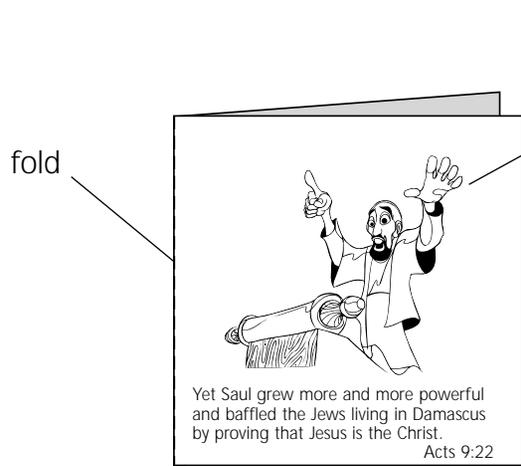


Figure A

folding picture from  
Reproducible  
Page C

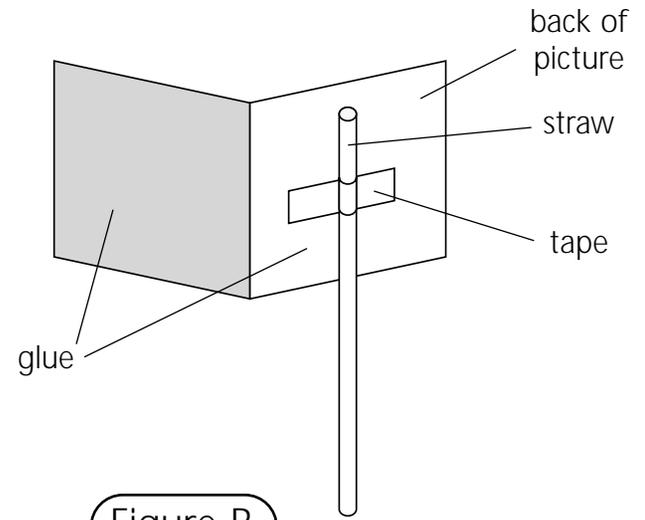


Figure B

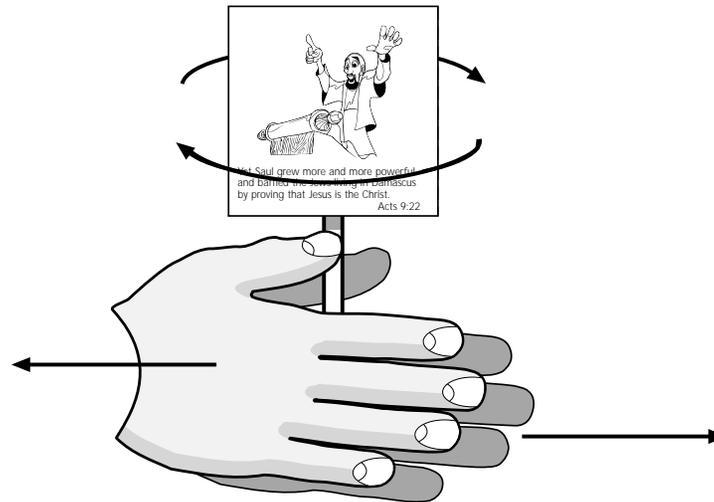


Figure C

# The Conversion of Saul

## More and More

The students will learn and memorize the Scripture Memory Verse as they participate in this activity.

### Scripture Memory Verse

Yet Saul grew more and more powerful and baffled the Jews living in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Christ.

*Acts 9:22*

### Materials

*For the teacher:*

- sponge ball (or other soft material, e.g. Nerf, Koosh, etc.)

### Preparation

1. Learn the Scripture Memory Verse by heart.
2. Practice leading this activity.

### Instructions

1. Introduce today's activity: *This week in your Bible Story you are learning about the conversion and radical change of Saul. Saul was a Jewish religious leader who violently opposed the church. God stopped Saul in his mission to destroy the church and brought about a radical change in his life. In your Scripture Memory Verse, you will hear about the amazing change in Saul's life and what others thought about it.*
2. Show the students the Scripture Memory Verse on the back of the Lesson Card. Say it to them three times as they follow silently. Point to the words as you say them. Ask the students to say the verse with you three more times. Ask for volunteers to say the verse together with you.
3. Ask the students if they know what "baffled" means. Explain that when the people saw that Saul was preaching the good news about Jesus they were shocked and very surprised because he had been totally against the church before. This change baffled them!

4. Have the students sit in a circle. Tell them that you are going to pass the ball and they are going to say the verse one word at a time. As each student takes the ball, they will say the next word of the verse. The students continue passing the ball until the entire verse has been said. Repeat this, passing the ball in the opposite direction.
5. Change the activity to a "building" exercise. Say the first word and pass the ball to the student next to you. That student says the first word and the next word, and passes the ball to the next student. That student says everything said before, adds the next word and passes the ball to the next student who does the same thing until the whole verse has been said.
6. Finally, toss the ball to a student. That student, together with the students on either side of him, will say the verse together from memory and toss the ball back to you. Continue this until everyone has participated in a small group saying the verse.

### Conclusion

Ask the students how it makes them feel to know that Saul went from being an enemy of the church to being a great preacher. Close with a prayer for God to bring about radical change in many other people's lives like he did for Saul.

### Teacher Tips

- Remind the students to toss the ball gently. Adapt this activity to your class setting.

# The Conversion of Saul

Yet Saul grew more and more powerful and baffled the Jews living in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Christ.

Acts 9:22



*3rd and 4th Grades*

## Lesson Objectives

- The students will hear the story of the conversion of Saul.
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## Lesson Text

Acts 9:1-31

## Scripture Memory Verse

Yet Saul grew more and more powerful and baffled the Jews living in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Christ.

*Acts 9:22*

## Lesson Plan

Greeting and Registration

Preclass Activity: A Changed Life!

Welcome and Singing

Centers:

Life Application: Radical Man

Game: Blinded by the Light

Bible Skills: Places in Time (Part 1)

NOTE: Allow time for a snack.

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## A Changed Life!

The students will review this week's lesson as they complete a questionnaire about Saul.

### Materials

*For each student:*

- pencil

*Reproducible Pages:*

- Page D, 1 copy for each student

### Preparation

Complete the activity on your copy of Reproducible Page D.

### Instructions

1. Greet the students as they arrive. Remind them that this week they are learning about the radical change and conversion of Saul. Tell them that their activity is a questionnaire that reviews ideas from the story of Saul's conversion. Tell them that they will see these questions again during their Game center.
2. Distribute the copies of Reproducible Page D and pencils. Have the students work with a partner. Pair the students who did not hear this week's Bible Story with those who did.
3. Circulate among the students to offer encouragement and assistance. Help the students to locate the Bible verses if they have difficulty.

### Answer Key

1. preach
2. proving
3. fearlessly
4. speaking boldly
5. talked, debated

Challenge Question:

the Jews in Damascus

### Teacher Tips

- If for some reason the students did not hear this week's Bible Story, have them read Acts 9:1-31 before doing this activity.
- Play contemporary Christian music to set the mood for today's lesson.



**3rd and 4th Grades**

## Radical Man

The students will review this week's lesson as they hear a story of one man's radical change of character.

### Materials

*For the teacher:*

- dictionary

*Reproducible Pages:*

- Page E, 1 copy for each student

### Preparation

1. Read Acts 9:1-31 to review the events of this week's Bible Story.
2. Look up the word "radical" in the dictionary, and write down the definition(s). Bring this definition with you to class.
3. Practice reading the article on your copy of Reproducible Page E with expression and enthusiasm.

### Reviewing the Bible Story

Open your Bible to Acts 9. *This week you learned about the conversion and radical change in Saul. As a non-Christian, Saul was an enemy of the church and persecuted the disciples. But God had a plan for Saul. On his way to arrest disciples in Damascus, Saul was blinded by a bright light from heaven. He fell to the ground and Jesus spoke to him and said, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" Saul then realized that when he had been persecuting the Christians, he was also persecuting Jesus. For three days, Saul sat in darkness, praying and eating nothing. God sent the disciple Ananias to help Saul and teach him how to be saved. Saul was baptized and changed so radically that he immediately went out to preach the good news of Jesus. When the Christians first heard about Saul's conversion, they were not sure if they could trust him. But Barnabas took Saul to the other apostles and when they heard about his conversion and saw how fearlessly he preached, they were convinced. They realized that God had a great plan in store for his life.*

Tell the students that they will hear another story about a man who had a radical change in his life.

### Life Application

Ask the students what they think it means to be "radical." (Take responses.) Share with them the definitions you prepared. Ask the students to describe some ways that Saul changed. Answers should include: he changed from persecuting the disciples to preaching the gospel; he went from trying to stop the church to helping to make it grow; he went from believing that Christianity was a crime to taking the gospel all over the world.

Read the article on your copy of Reproducible Page E, "Dull to Daring." Ask the students to describe some ways that the man in this story, Emil Zátópek, changed. Explain that a radical change is something extreme or obvious. Ask the students to describe the radical changes they see in Saul's life.

### Conclusion

Ask the students to think of one way that they would like to make a radical change for God. Give them examples such as: changing from shy to outgoing so that you can ask someone to church; praying to God for courage instead of giving in to fear, etc. Tell them to think of a person who can help them to change, such as a parent, brother, sister, best friend, etc. Encourage the students to talk to that person today or tomorrow, telling them about this story and asking for help to change.

Distribute the copies of Reproducible Page E for the students to take home and share with the person they want to help. Close with a prayer for the students to see a great change in their friends' lives (and their own lives!) this week.

### Teacher Tips

- Talk to the parents about the assignment as they pick up their children.
- Follow up with the students personally. Encourage them for the progress they are making.



**3rd and 4th Grades**



## Blinded by the Light

The students will review key ideas from this week's lesson in this fun blindfold game.

### Materials

*For the teacher:*

- blindfold (e.g. scarf or bandana)
- large writing surface

### Preparation

1. On the large writing surface, neatly print: "Saul, Saul! Why do you persecute me?" and "Who are you, Lord?"
2. Practice leading this activity.

### Instructions

1. Introduce today's activity: *In your Bible Story this week, you learned about the conversion and radical change of Saul. Before he was a Christian, Saul violently opposed the church and put disciples in prison. After his conversion, Saul changed radically and began to preach that Jesus was the Son of God. Because Saul was an expert teacher in the Law, he could prove that Jesus was the Christ—from the Old Testament! In your game today, you will take turns pretending to be Saul when he was blinded by a light from heaven and then answer questions from the Bible Story.*
2. Explain that today's game will have questions based on this week's Bible Story from Acts 9. Read Acts 9:1-19 aloud to the students. Show the students the words on the large writing surface. Explain that the students will all say Jesus' words, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" and one student will respond with Saul's words, "Who are you, Lord?"
3. Have the students stand and form a circle. Choose one student to stand in the middle of the circle and be blindfolded. Turn the blindfolded student around slowly a few times, and have the students in the circle say together, "Saul, Saul why do you persecute me?" Have the student in the middle stand still and point his arm outward and say, "Who are you, Lord?"

4. Whoever the blindfolded student points to must answer a question that you ask from the back of this Lesson Card. If the student answers correctly, then he becomes the next to go into the middle to be blindfolded. If he does not, then the student in the middle will turn around again and do the same thing. If the next student chosen for a question does not answer correctly, then open it up to the entire group. Whoever answers correctly may be the next student in the middle.
5. Continue playing until all the questions have been asked and all the students have had a chance to be in the middle and be blindfolded.

### Conclusion

Ask the students what they think was the most amazing thing about Saul's change. Close with a prayer thanking God for Saul's radical change.

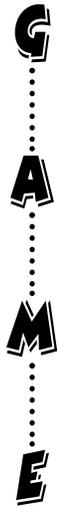
### Teacher Tips

- Pair the students who did not hear this week's Bible Story with those who did so that they can answer together as a team.
- Exercise caution when spinning the student in the center.
- Do not insist that a student be blindfolded.
- If your class did not hear the Bible Story this week, offer the questions as "multiple choice" rather than fill-in the blank. For example: For the first question, offer three choices: preach, pray and pretend. The students must choose the right answer from the three.



## Blinded by the Light

Game Questions and Answers



### Questions

### Answers

**Fill in the blank from Acts 9:20.**

At once [Saul] began to \_\_\_\_\_ in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God.

preach

**Fill in the blank from Acts 9:22.**

Yet Saul grew more and more powerful and baffled the Jews living in Damascus by \_\_\_\_\_ that Jesus is the Christ.

proving

**Fill in the blank from Acts 9:27**

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 \_\_\_\_\_ in the name of Jesus.

fearlessly

**Fill in the blank from Acts 9:28.**

So Saul stayed with them and moved about freely in Jerusalem, speaking \_\_\_\_\_ in the name of the Lord.

boldly

**Fill in the blank from Acts 9:29.**

[Saul] talked and \_\_\_\_\_ with the Grecian Jews, but they tried to kill him.

debated

This week's Bible Story comes from which chapter of Acts?

9

To what place was Saul going when he was blinded by the light?

Damascus

What did Jesus say to Saul on the road?

"Saul, Saul why do you persecute me?"

What did Saul say to Jesus?

"Who are you, Lord?"

Who did Jesus choose to teach Saul about how to become a disciple of Jesus?

Ananias

Did Saul eat or drink during the three days that he was blind?

No

Why was Ananias afraid to meet Saul?

Ananias thought Saul might arrest him.



3rd and 4th Grades

# B I B L E S K I L L S

## Places in Time (Part 1)

During this unit, the students will make a timeline of Paul's ministry.

### Materials

*For each student:*

- colored pens or pencils
- manila folder or large envelope

*Reproducible Pages:*

- Page F, 1 copy for each student

### Special Teacher Note

The Bible Skills Activity throughout Unit 18 is devoted to a timeline of the ministry of Paul. Each week the students will make a section that corresponds to the events featured in their Bible Story. At the end of this unit, the students should have completed a seven-panel timeline highlighting Paul's ministry from his conversion in Damascus to his imprisonment in Rome. Be prepared to collect the students' work each week and bring it back with each new lesson. Prepare a complete timeline in advance for the students to see at the beginning that will help motivate them. Think of ways to vary the activity using music or offering snacks while they work on this. Investigate ways to make their timelines more durable by mounting and/or laminating their final product.

### Preparation

Complete the activity on your copy of Reproducible F.

### Instructions

1. Introduce today's activity: *In this week's lesson you learned about Saul's conversion and radical change from persecutor to preacher! In this activity, you are going to begin to track the events of Saul's conversion by making a timeline. Throughout this unit, we will see the great changes that Saul—who later became known as Paul—made and the great things God did through him. Not only did God save Saul, but God also changed him and then sent him out to preach the word throughout the world.*

2. Distribute the copies of Reproducible F and pencils to the students. Tell the students to open their Bibles to Acts 9.
3. Ask the students to work in pairs to look up the first scripture reference on their timelines and raise their hands when they have found it.
4. Tell the students to find the phrase in the box at the bottom of their pages that best fits the scripture reference and write it in the blank provided. Remind them to circle the phrase that does not belong.
5. Continue until all the blanks are filled in. Use the Answer Key on the back of this Lesson Card to check the students' work. When the students have filled in all the blanks on their pages, have them color the pictures on their pages.
6. Distribute the manila folders to the students. Have them write their names on them and place their timelines inside. Collect these folders and bring them back for the next class.

### Conclusion

Ask the students what they like most about the story of Saul's conversion. Encourage them that over the next several weeks, they will learn about the incredible and exciting ways that Saul—who became known as Paul—helped lots of people all over the world to become disciples. Close with a prayer thanking God for Saul's great change.

### Teacher Tips

- Adapt this activity to the skill level of your class. If necessary, do each step together as a group.
- Pair new or visiting students with others who are confident in their ability to look up scriptures.



**3rd and 4th Grades**

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### Places in Time

Answer Key



Saul meets Jesus on the road.

**Acts 9:1-9**

Ananias places his hands on Saul.

**Acts 9:17**

Saul is baptized.

**Acts 9:18**

Saul persecutes the church. **Acts 8:1**

**Acts 9:20** Saul preaches.

Saul meets Jesus on the road.  
Ananias places his hands on Saul.  
Saul preaches.

Saul is baptized.  
Saul persecutes the church.  
Saul runs away.

Core/Preclass

1 copy for each student

A-maze-ing Conversion

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Start here to join Saul on his spiritual journey.

Saul persecutes the church.

Saul blinded on the road and questioned by Jesus.

Ananias sent by God to heal Saul's sight.

Saul fasts and prays to God.

Saul is baptized and begins to preach.

Saul starts his missionary journey.

Directions:

Find your way through Saul's amazing conversion. On the lines, print the letters you find along the way and figure out the hidden message.

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3rd and 4th Grades

**Core/Bible Story**

1 copy for each student

**A Radical Change**

ROLES: Narrator 1, Narrator 2, Jesus, Ananias, Saul (to be played by the teacher)

SAUL: My name is Saul. Most of you may know me as Paul. I'm grateful and honored to share with you how God changed my life. I was the worst enemy of the early church. I was there when they put Stephen to death. I even approved of it. I wanted to get rid of anyone who followed Jesus.

NARRATOR 1: Saul did everything he could to stop the disciples, and this time he was going to take all the disciples in Damascus, and put them in jail in Jerusalem. As soon as he got permission from the high priest, he started on his way to Damascus.

NARRATOR 2: When Saul got near the city, something AMAZING happened! A bright light from heaven flashed, and Saul fell to the ground as he heard a voice.

JESUS: Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?

SAUL: Who are you, Lord?

JESUS: I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.

NARRATOR 1: Now the men who were traveling with Saul didn't know what to say. They were speechless. They heard the sound, but couldn't see to whom Saul was talking.

NARRATOR 2: Saul got up, but when he opened his eyes, he could not see. He was blind. So the men had to hold his hand and lead him the rest of the way to Damascus.

NARRATOR 1: For three days, Saul didn't eat or drink anything and he was still blind.

NARRATOR 2: Meanwhile, Jesus spoke to a disciple staying in Damascus. His name was Ananias.

JESUS: Ananias!

ANANIAS: Yes, Lord?

JESUS: There is a house on Straight Street. I want you to go there. It's the house of a man named Judas. Go there and ask for a man named Saul.

ANANIAS: Do you mean Saul, the man who has done terrible things to the disciples in Jerusalem? I've heard about him. He has come to arrest all the disciples here in Damascus!

JESUS: Yes. I have chosen him. Saul will go and preach to all the Gentiles and their kings and to all the people of Israel.

NARRATOR 1: So Ananias obeyed Jesus, in spite of his own fear. Ananias knew that God wants everyone to be saved—even Saul. Ananias went to the house where Saul was staying.

ANANIAS: Saul, I have come with a message from the Lord. Jesus appeared to you on the road and he has sent me so that you may see again—and be filled with the Holy Spirit.

NARRATOR 2: As soon as Ananias said this, something like the scales of a fish came off of Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and got baptized. Then he ate some food.

SAUL: After becoming a disciple of Jesus, my life radically changed. Instead of preaching against Jesus and killing his disciples, I preached the good news about Jesus! He saved my life. Many people were very confused—even baffled—when they saw me and heard my new message. Some of the disciples were still afraid of me because they couldn't believe that I could really change. But a disciple named Barnabas helped the apostles to accept me into the fellowship. I spent the rest of my life traveling around the world to tell people about Jesus. I even suffered a lot of persecution, which helped me to understand how Jesus must have felt, not to mention those I persecuted. I even went to my death preaching the good news of Jesus.



**3rd and 4th Grades**

Core/Craft

1 copy for every 3 students

The Ministry of Paul  
Lesson 1



Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples.

Acts 9:1



Yet Saul grew more and more powerful and baffled the Jews living in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Christ.

Acts 9:22



Yet Saul grew more and more powerful and baffled the Jews living in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Christ.

Acts 9:22

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***3rd and 4th Grades***

**A Changed Life!**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Directions: Use your Bible to complete the verses below with words that describe Paul's changed life.

**Fill In the Blanks**

1. Look up Acts 9:20.  
At once he [Saul] began to \_\_\_\_\_ in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God.
2. Look up Acts 9:22.  
Yet Saul grew more and more powerful and baffled the Jews living in Damascus by \_\_\_\_\_ that Jesus is the Christ.
3. Look up Acts 9:27.  
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 \_\_\_\_\_ in the name of Jesus.
4. Look up Acts 9:28.  
So Saul stayed with them and moved about freely in Jerusalem, \_\_\_\_\_ in the name of the Lord.
5. Acts 9:29  
He [Saul] \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ with the Grecian Jews, but they tried to kill him.

**Before and After**

Think of three words to describe Saul BEFORE he became a Christian and three words to describe Saul AFTER he became a disciple. Write them in the spaces below:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>BEFORE</p> <p>1.) _____</p> <p>2.) _____</p> <p>3.) _____</p> | <p>AFTER</p> <p>1.) _____</p> <p>2.) _____</p> <p>3.) _____</p> |
|--|---|

**Challenge Question**

To what group of people did Saul preach when he first began preaching the gospel? (HINT: Acts 9:20-22)

\_\_\_\_\_



**3rd and 4th Grades**

Radical Man Radical Man

## From Dull to Daring

Emil Zátopek lived in the town of Zlin in the country of Moravia. He worked in the chemistry lab of a shoe company. Every spring the company sponsored races and all able-bodied residents were strongly encouraged to run. The story is told that in 1941 Zátopek was not too excited about the idea, so he hid himself in the town library. But someone found him and talked him into running. Finally, Emil took his place at the starting line. Something very surprising was about to happen.

Zátopek finished second in the town race! Soon he was training for even bigger races. His times rapidly improved, and many of his fellow countrymen were completely amazed at his ability. In 1948 he went to the London Olympic Games and won the gold medal for the 10,000-meter run and the silver for the 5,000. After watching Zátopek, one American sportswriter wrote that he was “gasping, clawing at his abdomen, bobbing, weaving, staggering, gyrating, flinging supplicating glances towards the heavens.” There was apparently nothing boring about Emil Zátopek! He had become a passionate runner who knew how to win.

Four years later in the city of Helsinki, Finland, Emil would do greater things. This time he won the gold in both the 10,000 and 5,000 becoming only the second man in history to do so. The second victory came on the same day when his wife, Dana, won the gold in the javelin. Dana thought the Zátopeks with their three gold medals were finished with the competition, but as they celebrated that night, Emil, as an afterthought, decided to run the marathon and try to do something that had never been done: win the gold in the three longest races in the Games.

Since Zátopek was not familiar with this race, he asked another runner, Jim Peters of Great Britain, if he could run next to him. At one point in the race, Zátopek said to Peters, “Isn’t this pace too fast?” Peters answered, “No, it is too slow.” Zátopek believed him and ran ahead of Peters and everyone else in the race—to win the gold medal!

Whoever found Emil Zátopek hiding in the library of an obscure town, gave the Olympic Games one its greatest champions—a hungry runner with passion and zeal.

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Radical Man | 3rd and 4th Grades

**Supplement/Bible Skills**

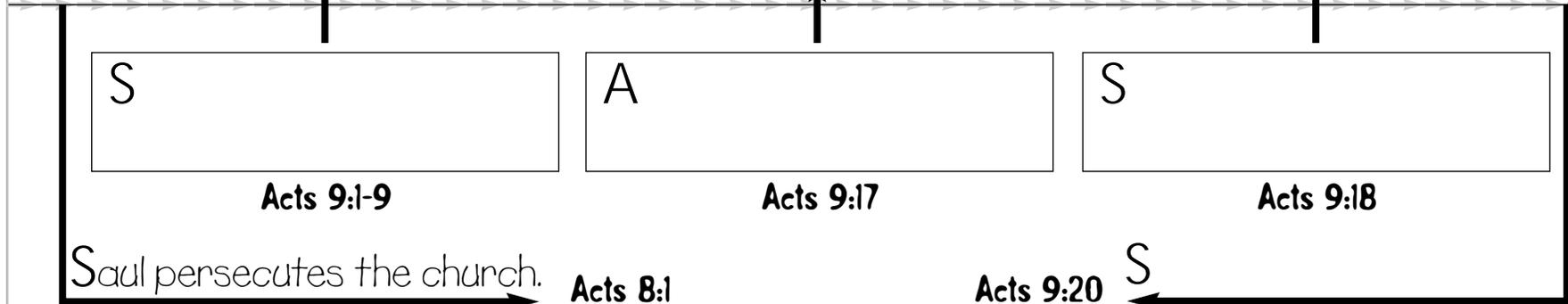
1 copy for each student

**Places in Time (Part 1)**

Directions: Look up the verse references below and select the phrases from the box that best describe the verses. Write them on the appropriate blanks on the timeline. Circle the phrase that does not belong.

**Places in Time**

Name \_\_\_\_\_



Saul persecutes the church.

Acts 8:1

Acts 9:20

S

Saul meets Jesus on the road.  
Ananias places his hands on Saul.  
Saul preaches.

Saul is baptized.  
Saul persecutes the church.  
Saul runs away.