

When finished with activities, return all necessary items to bag and place in the hallway for pick-up.

Program C-2

On the Road to Damascus

Acts 9:1-19

Paul Series: Lesson #1

Bible Verse: Nothing can separate us from the love of Jesus. Romans 8:35

Bible Story for children:

Focus on: Even when Saul/Paul was persecuting the Christians, Jesus loved him.

Prop ideas: Bright Light/lamp
Blindfold
Official-looking Arrest Warrant/Handcuffs

SAMPLE STORY

There was a man named Saul who was one of the Jewish religious leaders. He did not like the teaching of Jesus and did not like the people who loved and followed Jesus. He had many of the followers of Jesus arrested and thrown in jail. He even wanted them killed. Saul went to the highest religious leaders and received letters of permission to arrest any followers in the city of Damascus and bring them back to Jerusalem as prisoners.

As Saul neared the city of Damascus, a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell on the ground and heard his name, "Saul, Saul why are you hurting me?" Saul did not know who was talking to him, so he asked, "Who are you?" The voice answered, "I am Jesus. The one you are persecuting. Get up and go into the city. You will be told what to do when you are there."

The people traveling with Saul had no idea what was going on. They heard some noise, but could not see anyone. When Saul stood up and opened his eyes, he could not see. He had been blinded by the light of Jesus. His friends had to take him by the hand and lead him into the city. For three days he did not eat or drink anything.

In the same city of Damascus, there was a follower of Jesus named Ananias. Jesus spoke to him in a vision, a dream. He said, "Ananias, I want you to go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for Saul." Ananias was scared. He knew that Saul had been hurting the

FLASHLIGHT FUN

Teacher Extra: Bring more flashlights so more children may play at one time.

Materials: Flashlight
Sheet or tablecloth
Blue Tape (In room)

Do: Either hang the sheet or tablecloth over some chairs/table OR tape one end to wall and hang over chairs to make a *tent*. ALWAYS use blue masking tape on the walls. Other tape will damage the finish. (Other tape may be used on the cabinets).
Let the children go into the dark tent and then turn on the flashlight. They will enjoy turning the light on and off. Be sure everyone who wants, gets a turn to control the light.

Talk about: When Jesus appeared to Saul, he was a very bright light. It was so bright that Saul could not see after Jesus left. His friends had to lead him into the city.

Other flashlight activities:

- Move the light along the floor and let the children try to catch it. (If you have a large class this is **not** a safe activity).
- Sit in a circle and pass the flashlight around, letting children take turns shining it on the ceiling and walls.
- Have the children sit in a line facing a wall. Stand behind them, shine the flashlight on the wall. Place an object (block, doll) in front of the light to make a shadow. Let them guess what it is.
- Make shadow puppets. (Rabbit, dog, bird)

If you brought more flashlights from home, try these activities:

- Turn out the lights and let the children take turns making stars on the ceiling and walls.
- Use a piece of paper or cardboard and punch holes through it to make a design for the light to pass through. Foil works, too.
- Cover the ends of flashlights with colored cellophane wrap to add fun. (Cut off the narrow portion of a balloon, stretch over end of flashlight)
- Play flashlight chase...use either a laser pointer or a flashlight with a colored cellophane cover. Move the colored light around the ceiling and walls as the children try to catch *you* with the plain lights.

Be sure that everyone gets a turn. Use a timer if necessary.

I SPY

TEACHER EXTRA: Bring I Spy or Where's Waldo books from home.

Materials: None

Do: Have the teacher start I SPY.
You can let the one who guesses correctly go next. But be sure everyone gets a turn.
Examples: I spy something red...on the wall...very small...rhymes with tall...keep adding clues if they cannot get it. You can also tell them when they are getting close or if they should look on the other side of the room.

Talk About: We use our eyes to 'spy' things. Saul was not able to see anything for 3 days because he was blinded by the light of Jesus. He could not use his eyes to 'spy' anything. After Ananias placed his hands on Saul and spoke to him, Saul could see again.