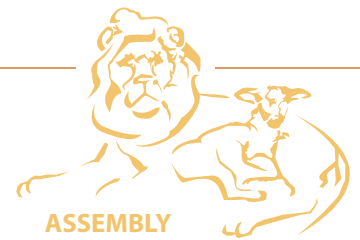


SAUL KNOCKED TO THE GROUND

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: ACTS 9:1-19



The following are some ideas for creative ways that you can present this material.

LESSON IDEAS

BLINDED BY THE LIGHT

Supplies

- a small flashlight
- two or three flash cameras
- brown paper or black plastic
- masking tape

Prior to class, darken your classroom by taping brown paper or black plastic over the windows with masking tape. Use the small flashlight as a spotlight to illuminate the characters while they are acting. If the flashlight is too bright it will dull the impact of the flash cameras. It is okay for the room to be dimly lit as it will add to the drama of the story. When the children arrive, position them safely on the floor in front of your stage area. Explain that you are going to turn out the lights for the skit and that they should not move. Have one of the teachers act out the role of Saul.

Scene One: Saul meeting with the high priest asking for permission to capture the Christians in all the surrounding synagogues.

Scene Two: Saul marching along breathing out murderous threats toward the Christians he will find.

Scene Three: Have a cue to have the flash cameras all go off at once. Then have another teacher play the voice of the Lord. Turn on the classroom lights and have two other teachers or helpers rush up to Saul asking, "What happened?" Then have Saul realize he is blind and cannot see.

From that point tell the rest of the story. Help the children see that like Saul we are also sinners. We need God's help to open our eyes to see who Jesus really is. We need His help to believe, just like Saul did.

SAUL KNOCKED TO THE GROUND

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: ACTS 9:1-19

SAUL IS CHANGED!

Read Acts 9:19-22. Tell the children you are going to pretend that they are Jewish Christians gathering in Damascus. Have one of the children play Saul. Have Saul approach the center of the classroom from one of the corners and have the Christians recognize him, warn the others that, "It is Saul!" and look for anywhere to hide. Then have Saul call out to them, "Do not be afraid. Jesus is the Son of God. I have seen him. He is risen." Then have the whole class act amazed that this man who once persecuted the church now is preaching that Jesus is real!

Take time to talk to the children about how different Paul is in these verses than from the beginning of the chapter where he is breathing murderous threats. Ask them why he is different and how does God similarly want to work in our lives. Have one of the teachers or parents prepared to share their testimony of how God saved and changed them.

WHERE IS the Gospel?

Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the Gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.

When the voice came out to Saul asking, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" Saul did not know who was speaking. He questioned, "Who are you, Lord?" What an amazing answer came to him, "I am Jesus."

We, like Saul, are sinners who do not know Jesus. Saul knew that Jesus was a teacher, a man who lived and died on the cross. But Saul did not yet know and believe that Jesus was Lord, the Son of God, risen in power!

We come to know Jesus in a similar way to Saul. Not with a visionary appearance but by God's initiative while we were yet sinners. Saul was on his way to kill more disciples when Jesus revealed Himself to him. Saul immediately then knew the stories of Jesus' resurrection were true. Jesus was alive!

