



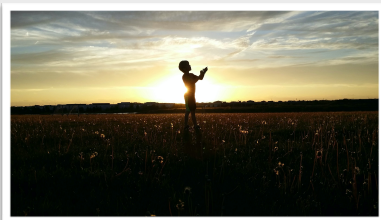
FAITH AT HOME

Aldersgate Church ~ St. Louis Park, MN

Week of May 1, 2022: Acts 9:1-19a

Memory Verse

Acts 9:17: *[Ananias] laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit."*



A Time to Pray

Prayer for the Day: Dear God, Just like with Saul, Jesus walks with us. Help us to remember that he is still here and loves us. Thank you for giving us Jesus. Amen

A Bedtime Blessing:

It's sleeping time, little one
Rest until the risen sun
Jesus loves you, night & day
Always & forever, come
what may.

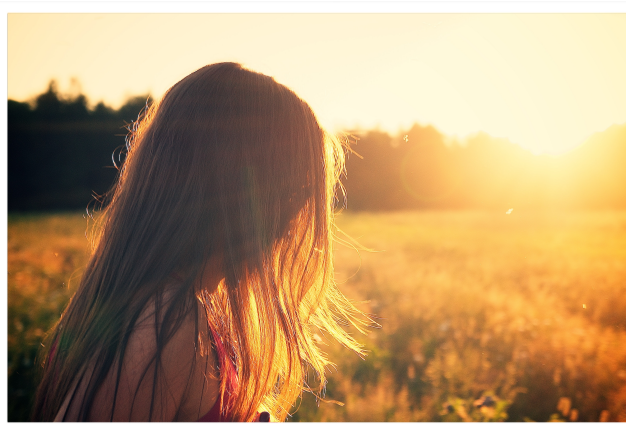
The Story: Storytellers

Lots of people were friends of Jesus. They listened to his stories. They shared food with him. They thought about his questions. They walked along the road with him and saw how he lived.

Many people were enemies of Jesus. They did not like the questions he asked. They did not like the people he mixed with. They did not like it when Jesus challenged the rules that they thought were important.

After Jesus died and came back to life, lots of people decided that they wanted to become Jesus' friends. They were sometimes called followers of the Way.

The book of Acts in the New Testament tells the stories of some of these followers of the Way. This book tells the stories of the beginnings of the church.



In the book of Acts we read the story of a man called Saul, who was later called Paul. One of the storytellers is Ananias who lived in Damascus:

One day, when I was praying, Jesus spoke to me. He said my name, Ananias. He told me to go to the house of a man called Judas in Straight Street. Jesus told me

Activities:

Touchy Feely: *You will need: a dark pillowcase and lots of different objects (e.g. pencil, DVD box, cuddly toy, pencil sharpener, toy car/truck, etc.).*

Put one object at a time into the pillowcase, starting with the simpler objects, letting kids feel through the pillowcase (from the outside, not putting their hands inside) and guess what they think the object might be. Let everyone have a chance to feel before getting their answers. Sometimes there might be more than one answer that could be right (such as pen when it is a pencil).

Saul was struggling to see what was right in front of him. But when God entered his life he then could see more clearly.

My Name: In Acts, Saul also goes by Paul. Talk about how your child/ren received their name. Ask the child if they had a chance to change their name, what would they change it to and why.

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that I would find Saul of Tarsus there. He had been there blinded and without food and drink for three days.

I told Jesus that I knew about this man, about all the trouble he had caused to the Christians in Jerusalem, about his authority from the high priest to arrest any Christians that he found. And Jesus told me that Saul was praying and that he had told Saul that a man called Ananias would come and lay hands on him, and he would be able to see again.

I really didn't want to go and find Saul. He might have been pretending to be blind, and when I got there he might arrest me. But Jesus told me that Saul had been chosen to tell people about the Christian faith, chosen to talk with Jews and Gentiles.

So I went and found the house. I put my hands on Saul and I prayed. I called him Brother and I told him that Jesus had sent me to pray for him. As I prayed something like fish scales seemed to fall from Paul's eyes and he could see again.

Then Saul got up and those of us in the house baptized him. Then we shared our food with Saul and slowly over a few days he recovered his strength.

People can change. Sometimes enemies of Jesus became his friends. Saul, who was later called Paul became a great preacher and teacher in the early church.

Activity: aMAZEing!

You will need: copies of the maze (page 3), pencils

Have kids complete the maze in order to work their way from Jerusalem to Damascus.

Another option: create a maze, either inside or out, and have kids make their way through it. As an added challenge for age-appropriate kids, blind-fold them and have them complete the maze (in a safe way!).

Use this as a way into the story, talking about journeys and the twists and turns we might find along the way, sometimes with unexpected things happening.

Saul's Mini Maze

Can you help Saul find his way to Damascus?

