

Church at Home Pack – 30th May 2021

Join us in church for our 10:30am service on Sunday or watch live at home on

<https://ccwsm.org.uk/service-type/sunday-service-online/>

If you like, join in with the discussion on Facebook with our church family (@ccwsm)!

In some sections we make several suggestions of ideas. Some may be more appropriate to you or the different people in your family or life group than others. We're not expecting you to do all of them (although you are very welcome to!) Choose the ones which best suit you.

Our verse for the year is the same as last year's verse as we think about the difference being with Jesus makes to our lives

When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.

Acts 4:13

GATHER TOGETHER

A prayer to start –

Risen Christ,
you met Paul on his way to Damascus.
Meet us as we gather here
and be with us in our daily life,
that we may be transformed as he was,
fulfilling our potential and discovering new possibilities
in ministry and service.

Amen.

Action reminder –

From the top of my head
(Touch head)
to the tips of my toes;
(Touch toes)
from the lobes of my ears
(Touch ear lobes)
to the end of my nose;
(Touch nose)
from my back, to my front
(Turn round)
to my wiggly fingers,
(stretch out arms and wiggle fingers)
God loves me!
(jump up and down)

READ TOGETHER

Acts 9: 1-19



International Children's Bible (ICB)



9 In Jerusalem Saul was still trying to frighten the followers of the Lord by saying he would kill them. So he went to the high priest ² and asked him to write letters to the synagogues in the city of Damascus. Saul wanted the high priest to give him the authority to find people in Damascus who were followers of Christ's Way. If he found any there, men or women, he would arrest them and bring them back to Jerusalem.

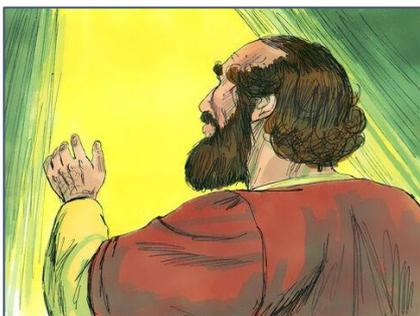
³ So Saul went to Damascus. As he came near the city, a bright light from heaven suddenly flashed around him. ⁴ Saul fell to the ground. He heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul! Why are you doing things against me?"

⁵ Saul said, "Who are you, Lord?" The voice answered, "I am Jesus. I am the One you are trying to hurt. ⁶ Get up now and go into the city. Someone there will tell you what you must do."



⁷ The men traveling with Saul stood there, but they said nothing. They heard the voice, but they saw no one. ⁸ Saul got up from the ground. He opened his eyes, but he could not see. So the men with Saul took his hand and led him into Damascus. ⁹ For three days Saul could not see, and he did not eat or drink.

¹⁰ There was a follower of Jesus in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord spoke to Ananias in a vision, "Ananias!" Ananias answered, "Here I am, Lord." ¹¹ The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight Street. Find the house of Judas. Ask for a man named Saul from the city of Tarsus. He is there now, praying. ¹² Saul has seen a vision. In it a man named Ananias comes to him and lays his hands on him. Then he sees again." ¹³ But Ananias answered, "Lord, many people have told me about



this man and the terrible things he did to your people in Jerusalem. ¹⁴ Now he has come here to Damascus. The leading priests have given him the power to arrest everyone who worships you." ¹⁵ But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! I have chosen Saul for an important work. He must tell about me to non-Jews, to kings, and to the people of Israel. ¹⁶ I will show him how much he must suffer for my name."

¹⁷ So Ananias went to the house of Judas. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus sent me. He is the one you saw on the road on your way here. He sent me so that you can see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." ¹⁸ Immediately, something that looked like fish scales fell from Saul's eyes. He was able to see again! Then Saul got up and was baptized. ¹⁹ After eating some food, his strength returned.

New International Version (NIV)

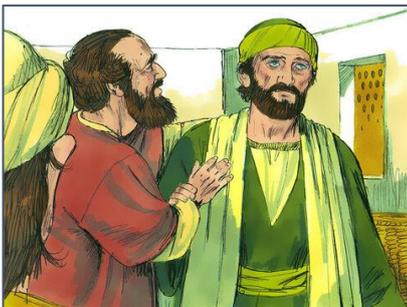
9 Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest ² and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem.

³ As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴ He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?' ⁵ 'Who are you, Lord?' Saul asked. 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,' he replied. ⁶ 'Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.'

⁷ The men travelling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. ⁸ Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. ⁹ For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything.



¹⁰ In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, 'Ananias!' 'Yes, Lord,' he answered. ¹¹ The Lord told him, 'Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. ¹² In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight.' ¹³ 'Lord,' Ananias answered, 'I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your holy people in Jerusalem. ¹⁴ And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name.' ¹⁵ But the Lord said to Ananias, 'Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel. ¹⁶ I will show him how much he must suffer for my name.'



¹⁷ Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, 'Brother Saul, the Lord – Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here – has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.' ¹⁸ Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptised, ¹⁹ and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

WATCH TOGETHER



Paul's Conversion (Acts 9: 1-9) – Saddleback Kids: <https://youtu.be/rLZ67inPx-4>



God's Story – Paul – Crossroad's Kids Club: https://youtu.be/R0p0W_Zbt1s

TALK TOGETHER

- What makes a good story?
- What's your favourite story in the Bible?

STUDY TOGETHER

Our Bible passage is part of Saul's (and later Paul's) story. It's the story of his conversion to the Christian faith. It's an exciting story with a twist. For those of us who have read the story before, Angeline invited us to set aside what we know and look at it with fresh eyes.

Read Acts 7:57 – 8:2

This is where we first meet Saul. Taking part in the stoning to death of Stephen.

- Why was he involved?
- What is your initial reaction to him?

Read Acts 9: 1-2

- Why do you think that Saul was so eager to kill Jesus' followers?
- Why do you think the Jews in Jerusalem wanted to travel as far as Damascus?

Other translations of the Bible phrase his behaviour in different ways – for example the NIV says that he was “breathing out murderous threats”. However it is phrased, it's clear that Saul was passionate about his mission!

Read Acts 9: 3-9

Saul has an amazing encounter with Jesus.

- What do you think about his reply in v5?
- Why do you think Jesus chose to appear to him in this way?
- What effect did this experience have on Saul for the next three days?

Read Acts 9: 10-22

Here comes the twist!

We meet a follower of Jesus, Ananias.

- What was Ananias' reaction to the Lord's instructions to meet with Saul?
- How would you feel if you were asked to do the same?
- What would be your response?

What happened next was a dramatic conversion, brought about by meeting with Jesus but also by God's grace and forgiveness for a man who seemed beyond it and by God's grace and love shown through another of Jesus' followers.

In the **Reflect Together** section there are some questions you might like to use as you consider this story and how it relates to you personally.

Saul went on to share the story of his conversion several times in his new life as a follower of Jesus. Many came to faith but he also encountered suffering along the way.

You might like to read **Acts: 22: 3-21** and **Acts 26: 9-18**.

- Have you ever been able to share your story of faith in Jesus with anyone? If not, could you?

This is a story of God's grace and hope.

- How has God shown you his grace recently?
- How has God given you hope?

PLAY TOGETHER

Blindfold Walk



When Paul was blinded by the light, he was led to Damascus by the men he was travelling with.

Find a scarf and take it in turns to be blindfolded and led around the house. You could make an obstacle course to lead the blindfolded person through. Or, you could start in one place and move to another, then before the blindfold is removed the person being led has to guess where they have been taken to.

Start again!

In the Bible story, Paul made lots of mistakes, but was given another chance to start again by God. Here's a game to help you remember that you can always start again!

Sit in a circle or around your table. One person is chosen to start. They must perform a simple action, such as tapping a foot, clapping hands etc. The next person on their left must perform that action, then add to it another different one. This continues around the circle, each time the original actions are copied and a new one added until someone forgets the action or makes a mistake. If this happens, that person simply starts a new sequence.



MAKE TOGETHER

Paul's story is one of God's grace, forgiveness and hope.

Find a clean glass jar, decorate it however you like but include the words: GRACE, FORGIVENESS and HOPE.

Place a tea light candle inside.

You might like to use the candle in the **Reflect Together** section.



Torchlight Story

You will need:

A clear plastic bag (a sandwich bag will do – we used a bag that some stickers came in)

Pens (permanent markers work best)

White paper

Black or dark paper

Think about the Bible Story we have heard today.

Put the white paper inside the plastic bag (it helps to see what you are drawing) and using the pens draw some pictures of the key moments in the story.

Take out the white paper and draw a torch like the one in the photographs. Make sure you leave the torchlight white. Cut it out.

Now place the black or dark paper inside the bag.

When you place the torch inside the bag between the black paper and the drawing, it looks like the torch is lighting up the story!





This is a good way to explore any Bible Story with young children!

Give them the paper torch and the bag and as you tell them the story, they can find the picture that goes with it!

SING TOGETHER

Amazing grace – Lifetree Kids: <https://youtu.be/3X3nW6dB8As>

My best friend – Hillsong Kids: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7JFiruVrrag>

(Light of the World) Here I am to worship – Integrity Music: https://youtu.be/b_KNvkk2G-Y

See the light – Hillsong: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=30zWND-MWkM>

Meet Jesus – Jonny Diaz: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4mdmjca5lX8>

REFLECT TOGETHER

Sit quietly in the darkness and think about these questions...



- Are there people we think are beyond God's grace?
- Are there people we would struggle to call "brother" or "sister" if they became a follower of Jesus?
- Are there people we struggle to forgive in church today?
- If Ananias could call Saul "brother", surely we can forgive those in our church family who have hurt or upset us in some way.

If you are able to, light a candle and ask God to shine his light on the answers.

(If you made the Grace, Forgiveness and Hope candle in the Make Together Section, you can use it here)

PRAY TOGETHER

God of grace, forgiveness and hope
Thank you that no one is beyond your reach
No matter what has gone before
Jesus can meet with us and we can be changed

Amen

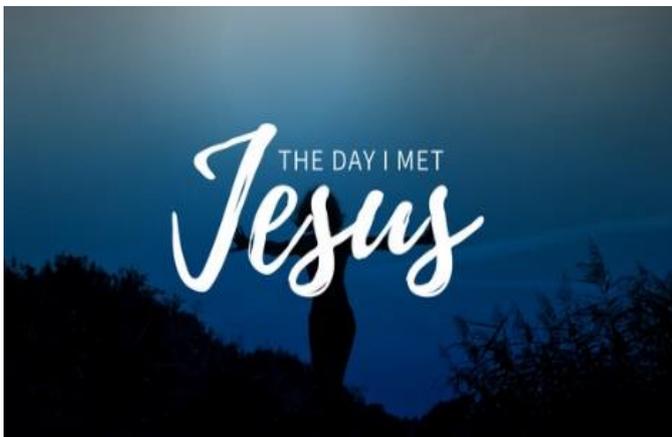
Living God who is with us always,
whom Paul recognised in his darkness and shock,
help us to follow you, too.

Living God who wants us to follow you,
who called Paul to follow you out of his darkness,
help us to follow you, too.

Living God who brings light to the world,
who enlightened Paul to the brightness of your message,
help us to follow you, too.

Amen.

DO TOGETHER



The Bible passage tells the story of the beginning of Paul's relationship with Jesus. Paul shares his story to encourage and bring others to meet with Jesus.

Our stories are all different. Talk to your Christian friends and find out the story of the day they met Jesus.

You could also share stories of what Jesus is doing in your life now.

family.ministry@ccwsm.org.uk

Prayers and Action Reminder taken or adapted from

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'Start again!' game taken and adapted from Energize (www.energize.uk.net)