


the  
Jesus   
Storybook  
Bible  
Curriculum

## A new way to see

The story of Paul, from Acts 6–9, 12–28;  
Colossians 2; Romans 8; Ephesians 2

☉ Please see the curriculum Introduction .pdf for more guidance on praying with your group and on Scripture memory.

☉ The total allotted time per lesson is 45 minutes. This is the minimum amount of time it would take to complete the whole lesson. The time can easily be extended to increase the lesson to as much as 1.5 hours. If you have more than the allocated 45 minutes, please use the extra time to extend the time for activities, to learn the memory verse, and to pray.

☉ The “Notes for Teachers on the Text” section is intended as explanation of the Bible text and advance preparation for you only; it is not expressed in terms or language the children could understand.

*The Jesus Storybook Bible Curriculum*  
By Sally Lloyd-Jones and Sam Shammas

Copyright © 2011 by Sally Lloyd-Jones (text) and Jago (illustrations). All rights reserved. The original purchaser of this product shall have the right to make unlimited paper copies to facilitate the use of this curriculum by the original purchaser, provided such copies are not resold or distributed to the general public. Otherwise, no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means — electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording, or any other — except for brief quotations in printed reviews, without the prior permission of the publisher.

The “Notes for Teachers on the Text” were written and developed from material by Timothy Keller and Redeemer Presbyterian Church and are used by special permission.

Some of the activity ideas in the curriculum were contributed by Juliet Lloyd-Jones and are used by special permission.

All Scripture quotations are taken from The Holy Bible, *New International Version*®, *NIV*®.  
Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.



## Recap of the Previous Story

3 min. 

☉ Welcome the children and ask them to sit in a circle.

☉ Briefly recap the main point of the previous story: “Last time we discovered that the Holy Spirit lives in everyone who believes in Jesus. The Holy Spirit helps us to obey and tell others about Jesus. We also memorized a great verse that we can tell others about Jesus.”

☉ Ask them to recite together the verse they learned at home about the story. “John 3:16 – ‘For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.’”

☉ To lead into the theme of today’s story, say: “In our story today we are going to meet a man named Saul. Saul did not believe in Jesus. But Saul did believe in rules. Saul loved following rules.”

## Activity Introducing the Story

10 min. 

**Aim:** To expend energy and introduce the idea of following something perfectly.

**Materials:** None.

1. Announce that you are going to play “Follow the Leader.”

2. Ask everyone to stand up and to start walking in a circle. Ask a willing volunteer to be the leader. Ask the leader to start hopping instead of walking. Ask everyone else to follow the leader. They should copy exactly the way the leader moves. The leader can lead the children anywhere in the room. Everyone else follows in a line behind the person in front of them.

3. Comment appropriately; e.g., “Try to follow the leader’s movements perfectly”; “Follow the exact way the leader is moving their arms”; “Look carefully at the way the leader is . . . and follow it perfectly”; etc.

4. After a while, ask the leader to go to the back of the line and have the next child in line take a turn to be leader.

5. Tell the leader that they can pick any movement and actions they like for everyone else to follow, e.g., jumping, skipping, waving their hands in the air while walking, etc. (You have played this game before, but it is always good to repeat the rules.)

6. Keep emphasizing that they need to watch carefully and follow the leader perfectly.

7. Toward the end of the allocated time, ask everyone to sit back down in the circle.

8. Say: “In our story today a man named Saul thought the most important thing to do was to follow the rules perfectly. But something happened to change him. Ready to find out what it is?”

Join the children in the circle and announce the title of the story. Read aloud pages 334–341 from *The Jesus Storybook Bible* or listen to CD3 track 14.

### Notes for Teachers on the Text

In John 6:44, Jesus says, “No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them.” In John 15:16, Jesus speaks to his disciples and says, “You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit.” One thing is certain from these texts and others. We do not, initially, “seek” God unless, first, God comes and seeks us. The Bible says that in our natural state there is “no one who seeks God” (Romans 3:11). That is categorical. God opens our hearts (Acts 16:14). We only love him because he first loves us (1 John 4:10, 19). Since no human being will naturally seek God, those who are seeking do so because God has been at work on them.

The opening verses of Acts 9 illustrate this very well. Saul was completely hostile to the gospel and the church. He was not “open” or “seeking” at all. Because the Christians had dispersed from Jerusalem due to persecution, Saul was even willing to travel to neighboring cities to find Christians and to bring them back to Jerusalem for punishment. He was zealous in his opposition to the gospel. Thus his conversion is proof of the power of God’s sovereign grace.

When we are telling others about Jesus, we should keep Saul in mind. Saul was brilliant, a leader, a member of the “elite,” and highly educated. There are plenty of people who seem very hostile and very “far” from the faith, and it is easy to think that their case is spiritually hopeless—it is not. This incident proves that everyone is equally “unlikely” to believe (since every conversion is a miracle) and therefore, everyone is equally “likely” to believe. We should have hope for everyone.

The results of Saul’s conversion are evident:

☉ First, Acts 9 verses 9 and 11 together show that he was fasting and praying. John Stott writes in *The Message of Acts*: “Not that he had never fasted and prayed before... But now through Jesus and his cross Saul had been reconciled to God, and consequently enjoyed a new and immediate access to the Father.” So the first change is a new relationship with God himself.

☉ Second, he had a new relationship to the church. Ananias rightly is shocked and incredulous that Saul could really be a Christian. But he does go to Saul and immediately calls him “Brother.” We should not overlook the significance of this. Saul doubtlessly had killed people that Ananias had known and loved. Yet the gospel destroys the old ties and identities, and now that Saul is a Christian, he is Ananias’ brother. We see that Saul, both in Damascus and in Jerusalem, seeks out the disciples, even when both churches were very wary of him and reticent to embrace him. His new “family” becomes other Christians, regardless of his past record, regardless of class and national distinctions.

☉ Third, we see that Saul has a new sense of obligation for the world. He immediately realizes that he is being called to show others who Jesus is. He risks his life by proclaiming the gospel publicly. In Acts 26:15–18 Paul stresses that he was to be sent out as a witness to the Christ he met. His sense of this responsibility was so strong that he was willing to risk his own suffering and death.

Saul had a personal encounter with Jesus and it changed him forever.

## Understanding the Story

15 min.



**Aim:** To understand that Christianity is not about rules; it's about grace.

**Materials:** Crayons; copies of the handout (the last page of this document).

1. At the end of the story, say: "Paul told people about Jesus, and these people told other people about Jesus and the family of God's children grew and grew. And year after year after year, more and more people told even more and more people the stories about Jesus—the same stories we've been reading together—and that family grew bigger and bigger. We are a part of that family. That is what a church is. It is the family of God's people who love and follow and learn from and worship Jesus together. It is made up of all different kinds of people, who come together because Jesus has rescued them—because of his Never Stopping, Never Giving Up, Unbreaking, Always and Forever Love."

2. Ask: "What happened in our story to change Saul from being a man who thought following the rules was all that mattered and hating God's people to being a man who thought following Jesus was all that mattered and becoming one of God's people? Correct, he met Jesus. Let's act out the story to see what happened to Saul and how he changed."

3. Ask everyone to stand up. Say: "I am going to call out scenes from the story. Get ready to act them out."

STORY	ACTION
Of all the people who kept the rules, Saul was the best. He'd tell you, "I'm good at being good!"	Get them to say: "I'm good at being good!"
Saul was very proud.	Ask: "What can we do to make us look proud?" Get answers and then ask them to look proud.
Saul didn't believe Jesus was the Rescuer or that Jesus was alive. He hated everyone who loved Jesus. He wanted to put them in prison. So he traveled around looking for them.	Get them to walk in place, searching around and looking mean.
Saul was on his way to Damascus when suddenly a bright light flashed around him. Saul shielded his eyes and fell to the ground.	Get them to fall to the ground shielding their eyes.
He heard a loud voice say: "Saul! Why are you fighting me?" Saul answered ...	Ask: "What did Saul answer?" Correct, he asked: "Lord, who are you?" Get them to say "Lord, who are you?"
"I am Jesus," the voice said. "Go to the city and I'll tell you what to do." Saul stood up and opened his eyes, but he couldn't see.	Get them to stand up and open their eyes but then realize they are blind.



STORY	ACTION
Meanwhile, there was a man named Ananias who loved Jesus. Jesus told Ananias to go to Saul and pray for him. Ananias did, and Saul could see again, but Saul saw everything differently. He wasn't mean or proud anymore.	Ask: "How did Saul feel after meeting Jesus, then being blind, and now being able to see again?" Get answers; then get them to act out the new Saul — not mean or proud.
Saul began to be called Paul. He told people: "It's not about following rules."	Get them to say: "It's not about following rules."
Paul told people: "It's about believing in Jesus and following him."	Get them to say: "It's about believing in Jesus and following him."
He also told people: "It's not about rules; it's about grace."	Get them to say: "It's not about rules; it's about grace."
Paul traveled everywhere telling everyone about Jesus and the family of God's children grew and grew.	Say: "THE END."

4. Repeat the story in the table several times so the actions and story become familiar. Every time you repeat it, the pace at which you read and the children's actions should get faster and faster.

5. Toward the end of the allocated time, ask everyone to sit down and give each child a copy of the handout and a crayon. Say: "On your paper you can see a picture of Saul thinking: 'I'm good at being good. God must love me!' You can also see a picture of Paul thinking: 'God loves me because of Jesus.' Look at the question under the picture of Saul. What changed Saul? You can see three possible answers. Let me read them to you. Circle the correct answer."

6. Read aloud the three answers and then ask them what they circled. Say: "Answer 'b' is correct. Saul changed because he met and followed Jesus. If you meet and follow Jesus, you will always change. As we discovered last time, God's Spirit comes to live in you and helps you to obey and tell others about Jesus — which is exactly what Paul did! Paul traveled everywhere he could telling people about Jesus."

7. Say: "The next question on your paper is: 'Why does God save us?'" Read aloud the three answers and then ask them what they circled. Say: "Answer 'c' is correct; God saves us because of his grace, not because of anything we do."

**For larger groups:** You may want to divide the group into smaller circles, each with a teacher. Each teacher can facilitate the activity with their circle, and then the circles can all perform for one another.

---

## Drawing the Story to a Close

1 min. 

Say: “Jesus died and was raised to life so that we can be saved. God saves us because of his grace; it is a gift. God saves us because of Jesus.”

Say: “If you meet and follow Jesus, you will always change. God will send his Holy Spirit to help you obey and tell others about Jesus.”

---

## Jesus in the Story

2 min. 

Ask: “What did we discover about Jesus from today’s story?”

Get a few children to share their answers aloud, commenting appropriately; then ask everyone to write an answer in the space on their handout.

---

## Praying about the Story

5 min. 

Pray aloud, thanking God that he doesn’t love us because we’re good, he loves us because of Jesus. Ask that he would change you and the children, and help you to tell others about Jesus.

Ask the children to pray that God would help them to tell others about Jesus and that “it’s not about rules, it’s about grace.”

---

## A Verse from the Story to Learn at Home

2 min. 

☉ Introduce the verse: “The verse we memorized, you’ll remember, is a great verse to tell others about Jesus.”

☉ Announce the verse: “So, your verse to practice at home is John 3:16 — ‘For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.’”

☉ Read the verse out loud together as a group.

☉ Remind the children to give the handout to their parents and to memorize the verse for next time.

**I'm good at being good. God must love me!**

**SAUL**

**What changed Saul?**

- a) Following the rules.
- b) Meeting and following Jesus.
- c) Following his heart.

**God loves me because of Jesus.**

**PAUL**

**Why does God save us?**

- a) Because we follow the rules.
- b) Because we deserve it.
- c) Because of his grace.

**Jesus in the Story**

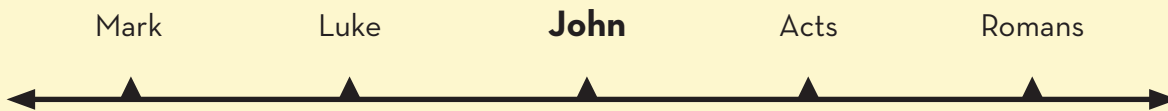


What did you discover about Jesus from this story?

**Jesus**

**A Verse from the Story to Learn at Home**

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.  
(John 3:16)



Notes for parents: From the story we learned about the amazing change that happened to Saul when he met Jesus. We also learned that if we meet and follow Jesus, we will change as well. Please help your child to memorize the verse and the Scripture reference for next time. Please review with them the place of the book of John, using the diagram above. [www.jesusstorybookbible.com](http://www.jesusstorybookbible.com)