

GOD'S BIG STORY SCRIPT

SUPPLIES: Bible, mini-flashlights (1 per kid) or several regular-sized flashlights; Bible-times tunic costume; paper chain; spotlight (optional)

Ahead of time, invite an adult leader to play the part of Saul (also called “Paul”). Gather items for a Bible times tunic (or ask the adult volunteer to provide his own). The costume might include a plain tunic and a rope to use as a belt. This Experience It! Script calls for two roles: the leader (you) and Saul. Provide a copy of the Experience It! Script for the person playing Saul and encourage him to familiarize himself with it ahead of time. Create a paper chain by cutting strips of paper and stapling them together to make loops that are looped through one another, creating a chain. Your chain can be as long or short as you want.

Gather kids together. If you have mini flashlights, hand one to each kid. If you have several regular-sized flashlights, distribute them to several kids. Instruct kids to keep the flashlights off and in their laps until the appropriate time in the story. If you don't have enough, only a few kids can have flashlights.

Leader: **"After Jesus went back to heaven following His resurrection, God sent the Holy Spirit to His followers.**

There were people who didn't like Jesus' followers and wanted to keep them from telling others about Jesus.

One of them was a man named Saul, who was sometimes called Paul. Saul tried to arrest some of Jesus' followers. Some followers of Jesus were even killed!"

"Saul" steps near the stage area, if possible, with the paper chain in hand to convey the idea that he is searching for Christians to chain them up.

Leader: **"Saul was on his way to the city of Damascus to capture some of Jesus' followers when, suddenly, he was blinded by a bright light from heaven! Saul keeps walking slowly across the stage area. Invite kids to turn on their flashlights and shine them in the direction of Saul (but not directly in his eyes!). If a spotlight is available, shine it on Saul."**

Saul falls to the ground. "As Saul fell to the ground, a voice said, "Saul! Saul! Why are you opposing me?"" Saul to closes his eyes.

Saul: Crouched on the ground, confused. "Who are You, Lord?"

Leader: **"I am Jesus," he replied. "I am the one you are opposing. Now get up and go into the city. There you will be told what you must do" (Acts 9:4–6, NIV).** Instruct kids to turn off their flashlights and place them back in their laps. If flashlights will be a distraction, collect them. Turn off the spotlight, if applicable.

Saul had to be led into Damascus by others who were with him because the bright light had blinded him." Invite two kids to the stage area to lead the now-blind Saul from one end of the stage to the other.

"For three days, Saul wouldn't eat or drink anything, and he kept praying. Saul's two friends leave the stage area. *Saul kneels in a praying posture.*

Leader: **A follower of Jesus named Ananias was living in Damascus. He could have been one of the very same people Saul had planned to arrest. But Jesus told Ananias to go lay his hands on Saul so Saul could see again.**

Ananias could barely believe that Jesus wanted him to go to Saul, who was famous for hating Christians! But Jesus said to him, "Go! I have chosen this man to work for me." (9:15, NIV).

Jesus had a plan to completely change Saul through the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus would transform Saul into a Jesus-follower! His name would be changed to Paul.

Ananias found Paul and placed his hands on him. Ananias prayed, and something like fish scales fell from Paul's eyes."

Saul: Standing up with eyes wide open. "I can see again!"

Leader: **"Instead of arresting the followers of Jesus, Paul was baptized and became a Christian himself.**

Everyone who knew him was surprised that Saul—a famous enemy of Jesus' followers—was now calling Jesus the Messiah. What a change!

The Spirit of God transformed an enemy of God into a follower of Jesus. *Saul stands in front of the kids, a smile on his face.* The Holy Spirit turned Paul's life around and made him a completely different person. Paul became a missionary who travelled many places telling others about Jesus. The Spirit of God can change us and make us new too. Nothing we do can stand in God's way. When we trust in Jesus, the Holy Spirit changes us. When we believe in Jesus as our Savior, the Holy Spirit comes to live inside us and makes us more like Jesus."

Collect the props and thank kids for their help in telling the story.

WONDER TRUTH: The Holy Spirit Changes Us

GOD'S BIG STORY-Acts 9: Jesus confronts Saul on the road to Damascus and miraculously changes him from an enemy of Christianity into a Christ-follower through the Holy Spirit's transforming power.

WORD OF WONDER: Don't copy the ways of the world. Let God transform you. —from Romans 12:2







