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An introduction to the *Salvation* syllabus, including hints and tips for running lessons, can be found in the file 'Salvation introduction.pdf' on the *Teaching Little Ones: Salvation* CD-ROM.

A list of all activity materials, including photographs, can be found in the file 'Activity materials.pdf' on the *Teaching Little Ones: Salvation* CD-ROM.

More information about teaching Sunday School to young children can be found in Stephanie Carmichael's book, *Their God is so BIG*, available from Matthias Media. For more details visit [www.matthiasmedia.com.au](http://www.matthiasmedia.com.au).

# Something special happens to Saul

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<b>Bible reference...</b>	Acts 9:1-19
<b>Lesson aim...</b>	To help the children understand about Saul's conversion and what a miracle it was, given his treatment of believers.
<b>Main message...</b>	God changed Saul who hated Jesus into Saul who loved Jesus.
<b>Memory verse...</b>	John 20, verse 31, 'Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God'. See instructions on page 45 and a copy of the verse on page 46.
<b>Vocabulary...</b>	<p>believers—People who believe that Jesus is God's Son were called 'believers' in the New Testament times. Believers believe (or know) that Jesus is God's Son, and love him and live with Jesus as their King.</p> <p>Persecution/being persecuted—When believers (Christians) are 'being persecuted' it means that people are mean to them because they believe in Jesus, because they believe that Jesus is God's Son, the Messiah. So 'persecution' is when people are mean to believers.</p>
<b>Story preparation...</b>	You will need your class Bible (Good News Bible) for the Story, as you will be reading much of the Story straight from the Bible. Print page 47 if you want a copy of the words of the action rhyme.

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## Introduction...

This is a revision of the last two weeks. If you have some children who cannot answer any of the questions, you might like to add some questions which the children would be able to answer (from the second set of questions).

Some example questions:

What is a 'believer'?

Did the first believers live selfishly?

Name one person in last week's story.

Name another person in last week's story.

What sort of a man was Stephen?

What sort of a man was Saul?

What does 'persecution' mean?

What book of the Bible did the last two stories come from?

Were the stories true, that is, did they really happen?

Some extra questions for those unable to answer any of the above (e.g. if a child was absent for the last week/fortnight):

Name one of your teachers.

What is our church called?

Name one child in our class.

What book do we look at the most at Sunday School?

## Story...

“Well the story continues.

“Saul still persecuted believers (which means that he kept doing mean things to the believers). One time Saul was on his way to a place called Damascus. He was going there to look for believers to put them in prison.

“Let’s read what happened to him on the way. I’m going to read from the Bible what happened:

*Read from the class Bible (Good News Bible), Acts chapter 9, verses 3-6, ‘As Saul was approaching the city of Damascus, suddenly a light from the sky flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul! Why do you persecute me?” “Who are you, Lord?” he asked. “I am Jesus, whom you persecute,” the voice said. “But get up and go into the city, where you will be told what you must do.”*

“What an amazing thing to happen! And isn’t it amazing that Saul called Jesus ‘Lord’! That means master, king or ruler—that’s a way of saying that Jesus is very, very special.

“When Saul got up he couldn’t see, so his friends led him into Damascus.

“There was a believer in Damascus called Ananias. Jesus spoke to him in a very special way because Jesus wanted him to go to Saul. Let’s read what the Lord said to Ananias:

*Read Acts chapter 9, verses 11-14, “The Lord said to him, “Get ready and go to Straight Street, and at the house of Judas ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul. He is praying, and in a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come in and place his hands on him so that he might see again.”*

‘Ananias answered, “Lord, many people have told me about this man and about all the terrible things he has done to your people in Jerusalem. And he has come to Damascus with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who worship you.”’

“But Jesus said that he had chosen Saul to serve God and tell people about him.

“Jesus asked a believer, Ananias, to go to Saul when he knew Saul was arresting believers. No wonder Ananias wanted to talk a bit more about it!

“But then Ananias did go! He put his hands on Saul. Ananias told him that the Lord Jesus had sent him so that he could see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit (we’ll talk about what that means a bit later). At once something like fish scales fell off Saul’s eyes and he was able to see again! Saul stood up and was baptised. Then he ate some food and his strength came back.

## Conclusion...

“So Saul, who was mean to believers and was on his way to arrest them, was changed. God put his Holy Spirit in Saul. God changed Saul who hated Jesus, into Saul who loved Jesus. What a great story! We’ll hear more about what Saul did next week.”

## Action rhyme...

This action rhyme is going to grow each lesson. It’s your choice whether you do the action rhyme each week in it’s ever expanding state, or just do the verse/s relevant to that lesson. You will find a copy of the words of the action rhyme (for the teacher’s benefit) on page 47. You might decide to have the teacher saying the bold lines and the children joining for the other lines.

<b>Once Saul</b>	<i>clap twice (once on each word)</i>
<b>was mean to</b>	<i>show a mean expression</i>
people who	<i>show and wiggle all fingers (vertically)</i>
believed that	<i>tap head twice</i>
Jesus is	<i>make a cross: hold up one finger vertically (‘Jesus’), add one finger horizontally (‘is’)</i>
God’s Son.	<i>point up once with one hand (‘God’s’), and then with other hand (‘Son’)</i>
<b>Then Saul</b>	<i>clap twice (once on each word)</i>
believed that	<i>tap head twice</i>
Jesus is	<i>make a cross: hold up one finger vertically (‘Jesus’), add one finger horizontally (‘is’)</i>
God’s Son.	<i>point up once with one hand (‘God’s’), and then with other hand (‘Son’)</i>

## What about us?

*[N.B. I realise that I haven't included a long explanation about the Holy Spirit. The Spirit is mentioned briefly in the Story and there is a bit more of an explanation here. A fuller explanation is more appropriate in a whole lesson or two when they are older.]*

“God can change people like no one else can. God doesn't look out for really, really good people to be Christians. God chooses sinners. And that's good, because there aren't any people who are really, really good and don't sin. All of us sin and disobey God and do wrong things. God changes sinners into Christians.

“God changes us by giving us his Holy Spirit. It's quite difficult to understand and we're not going to be able to understand it all today. It's something that no one, not even grown-ups, really understand, because we are all people and God is God. Only God can understand everything about God.

“When people live with Jesus as their king—when they become Christians—God gives us a special gift that no one can see. God gives us his Holy Spirit (or we can call it God's Spirit). It means that God is with us all the time. God's Spirit is living in us. God gives us his Spirit to help us to love and obey him. We can't be a Christian all by ourselves without God's help, and the very special way that God helps us is by giving us his Spirit. We can thank God for his Spirit .”

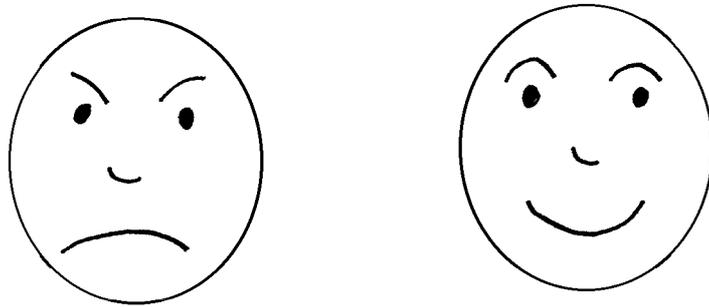
## Pray...

Thanking God for changing Saul from being someone who was mean to believers, to a believer himself. Thanking God that he can change people. Thanking God for his Spirit—and for giving Christians his Spirit who helps us love and obey Jesus.

## Activity suggestions...

### 1. Paper bag puppet of Saul

This activity is suitable for younger children, but will probably need the teacher to draw the faces (see ideas for faces below). Before the lesson, print page 48 and cut out one of each caption per child. Each child will need a paper bag (with the opening at the bottom when in front of them—so they can use it as a puppet) and some scraps of coloured/wrapping paper. On one side of the bag the children make a picture of Saul with collage materials (eg. paste round circle eyes and black paper strips as hair) and drawing (see faces below). Give him an angry face. Attach the first caption from page 48. On the other side, again make a picture of Saul with collage materials but with a normal face. Attach the second caption from page 48.



### 2. Saul, the believer

Before the lesson print page 50. The children draw a picture of Saul on each side, illustrating how Saul was different (eg. one side he could look angry and be putting people in prison and on the other side he could be preaching with a kinder look on his face). See illustrations above.

### 3. Paddle pop stick puppets

Each child will need two paddle pop sticks. The children turn the paddle pop sticks into people by drawing on faces and pasting on coloured paper clothes etc. They turn one paddle pop stick into Saul the persecutor (with a mean face) then turn it over and make Saul the believer on the other side. The children make the other paddle pop stick into Ananias. Paste the captions from page 49 on the base of the stick puppets.

### 4. Drawing picture

Before the lesson, print page 49 and cut out a caption and paste it on a piece of paper for each child. In the lesson, read the text and talk about what the children could draw. Then the children draw a picture.

## Memory verse...

John 20, verse 31, 'Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God'.

When opening and closing fingers for twenty and then thirty, say the words in the following way—for 'twenty' open and close fingers once on 'twen...' and once on 'ty', for 'thirty' open and close fingers twice for 'thir...' and you could emphasise holding on, and then once on 'ty' (then quickly show one finger for 'one').

Remember that when making the letters in the air, the teacher will have to make them in the reverse so that they look the right way around for the children. Children who haven't started learning to read can just go along with the actions not understanding the significance of the letters—that's fine. For readers, the emphasis on the first letter of 'Jesus', 'Messiah' and 'Son of God', is to help the children remember the two titles of Jesus. We are learning this memory verse partly to reinforce these two titles of Jesus. Tell the children that 'Messiah' means God's promised one chosen to be king.

Actions to accompany verse:

John 20	<i>open and close fingers on both hands twice while saying 'twenty'</i>
verse 31	<i>open and close fingers on both hands three times while saying 'thirty' then show one finger for 'one'</i>
Jesus is	<i>write a big 'J' in the air with your finger</i>
the	<i>clap</i>
Messiah	<i>write a big 'M' in the air with your finger</i>
the	<i>clap</i>
Son of God	<i>write a big 'S' in the air with your finger</i>



John 20, verse 31

'Jesus is the Messiah,  
the Son of God'

**Once Saul  
was mean to  
people who  
believed that  
Jesus is  
God's Son.**

**Then Saul  
believed that  
Jesus is  
God's Son.**

*Captions for activity 1:*

*Caption 1:*

Saul the persecutor was mean to believers.
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*Caption 2:*

Saul the believer. We read about Saul changing from a persecutor to a believer in Acts 9, verses 1-19.
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Saul the believer. We read about Saul changing from a persecutor to a believer in Acts 9, verses 1-19.

*Captions for activity 3:*

Saul the persecutor	Saul the persecutor	Saul the persecutor
Saul the believer	Saul the believer	Saul the believer
Ananias the believer	Ananias the believer	Ananias the believer
Saul the persecutor	Saul the persecutor	Saul the persecutor
Saul the believer	Saul the believer	Saul the believer
Ananias the believer	Ananias the believer	Ananias the believer
Saul the persecutor	Saul the persecutor	Saul the persecutor
Saul the believer	Saul the believer	Saul the believer
Ananias the believer	Ananias the believer	Ananias the believer
Saul the persecutor	Saul the persecutor	Saul the persecutor
Saul the believer	Saul the believer	Saul the believer
Ananias the believer	Ananias the believer	Ananias the believer

*Captions for activity 4:*

<p>One time Saul was on his way to a place called Damascus to look for believers and put them in prison. Suddenly a light flashed around him and Jesus spoke to him. God changed Saul who hated Jesus into Saul who loved Jesus.</p> <p>This true story comes from Acts 9, verses 1-19.</p>	<p>One time Saul was on his way to a place called Damascus to look for believers and put them in prison. Suddenly a light flashed around him and Jesus spoke to him. God changed Saul who hated Jesus into Saul who loved Jesus.</p> <p>This true story comes from Acts 9, verses 1-19.</p>
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Saul the believer. We read about Saul  
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