

# Saul's conversion on the road to Damascus Acts 9:1-19



SuT2H

**Aim: To be reminded that nothing should stop us telling others the good news that Jesus loves them no matter what**



We can probably all think of someone we know or someone famous who has changed their name, profession or image. However, they say a leopard never changes its spots! Can a character totally transform? Saul was a Jesus hater, a Christian killer, a passionate persecutor - until his conversion experience. He literally had a blinding flash of light and met Jesus in a way that changed his whole life. It could be argued that his 'spots' or the nub of his character never changed at all. He always had bold determination, a passion for righteousness, and a no nonsense approach, but he desperately needed to have his sight adjusted. Jesus wasn't his nemesis after all. God saw something in Saul but needed to stop him in his tracks and turn him in the right direction. Once Saul saw the light and set out on his new mission God used him mightily to build his church. God continues to transform the lives of men, women, boys and girls. When Jesus meets with people, they begin to shine the light and when we let our lights shine we play our part in God's story.



Play a modified version of Kim's game. Set up a table with a few toys on. Gauge this by the stages of development of the children in your group. It may need only one item to work best. Throw a cloth over the table and swap one toy for another. Lift the cloth. Can the children spot what has changed? Play a few rounds together. Choose a child to swap the toys.



*Our story from the Big Storybook today is all about someone who God changed. Read Paul meets Jesus Pg. 232, and Paul writes letters, Pg. 243*

Have three paper plates ready. One with an angry face, one with a sad face, and one with a happy face. As you tell the story show the relevant face or ask everyone to decide which face should be held up. For instance: 'He hated Jesus' could be angry or sad.

*Paul started off angry about Jesus and then when Jesus met him, he helped him to grow love in his heart and took away all the anger. Paul was so changed that he couldn't stop telling other people about Jesus' love even though it put him in danger. God changed Paul's heart.*



- *I wonder what Paul thought when he saw the flashing light*
- *I wonder how he felt when he knew that Jesus was talking to him*
- *I wonder what it was like in prison*
- *I wonder if I would be brave enough to tell others about Jesus even though it might put me in danger*



Play a version of grandmother's footsteps with a torch. When the torch flashes anyone moving gets sent back to the beginning. Talk about how Jesus literally stopped Paul in his tracks and turned his life around.

Talk about how we can tell our friends about Jesus

Find out about Christians who are still persecuted today for their friendship with Jesus and how you can support and pray for them. E.g. [www.htp.org](http://www.htp.org)



- Have a selection of torches and safe lights available to play with
- A colourful collage: Provide bright yellow, orange, gold, white strips of paper to stick onto a piece of paper or in the end of a paper towel tube for the heavenly flash of light.
- Bake fairy cakes. Point out how the mixture changes when it bakes.
- Have some ice cubes ready and encourage everyone to watch as you pour warm water over them and they melt. Just like Paul's heart melted when he met Jesus!



*Let's learn signs for 'before', to use in our prayer today.*

**Before:** hand in a fist with knuckles facing out and thumb straight out. Pull the hand backwards and turn knuckles upwards.

*Dear Lord Jesus,*

***Before the world began***

*You loved me*

***Before I was born***

*You loved me*

***Before I could say my name***

*You loved me*

*Thank you, Lord.*

***Amen*** (Rolling arms upwards for a slow loud amen)



- May the God of Hope fill you...  
<https://youtu.be/yXZYzXNjEY>
- Our God is a Great big God
- Jesus' love is very wonderful
- Jump Up



Watch a video with the story: <https://youtu.be/Ag1MllwnlQo>

Encourage everyone to make a heart shape with their hands whenever they turn on or off a light as a reminder that Jesus's love changes lives