

# Behavior

## **Lesson 1**

### **Ananias Sent to Heal Saul**

# Behaviors

Begin with Prayer

## Lesson 1

### Ananias Sent to Heal Saul

**Acts 9:1-31**

#### Memory Verse

**Take your everyday, ordinary life....and place it before God. Romans 12:1-2 (The Message)**

#### Lesson Goals

Learn that everyday God knows us by name.  
Learn that God wants us to obey.  
Learn that we can trust God even when we don't understand our circumstances.

#### Behavior Focus:

**So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Romans 12:1-2 (The Message)**

#### Bible Story

Read Acts 9:10-19 aloud.  
Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible before teaching it. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.

#### Welcome Time

Have you ever had to do something you were afraid to do? Or have you ever had to do something you didn't want to do? In today's story we will learn about a man who had to do just that.

After Saul encounters Jesus on his way to arrest the believers in Damascus, he is blinded. Jesus calls Saul by name and tells Saul that he will be told what to do.

God appears to a man named Ananias in a vision. He was a native of Damascus. Ananias was a disciple. He observed the law according to Acts 22:12. Ananias responds to God, "Yes, Lord." Indicating that he was ready to obey. Ananias knew the voice, he recognized his Lord.

God knew Ananias, too. He calls Ananias by name. Then God tells Ananias to go to the house of Judas. He calls Judas by name. God tells Ananias to go to Straight Street (He knows where we live.) God tells Ananias to ask for Saul of Tarsus. (God calls Saul by name. He knows that Saul is from Tarsus.)

God tells Ananias that Saul is praying. He further adds that Saul has seen a vision. In the vision Saul sees a man named Ananias coming to place his hands on him to restore his sight.

The fact that Saul was praying indicates that he is seeking God. Pharisees made long prayers, but Saul is not reciting a prayer, he is praying indicating that Saul believes in Christ. The one who once breathed murderous threats against the followers of Christ has himself become a believer.

Jesus had told the Pharisees that they were blind guides and blind fools (Matthew 23:16-17). Here is Saul, a Pharisee, now physically blind. He sought to make the believers captive, now he himself is captive to his blindness. Saul waits to be told what to do next.

Then Saul sees a vision. In the vision God responds to Saul's prayers sending him Ananias so that his sight might be restored.

Ananias is confused but does not refuse. He tells God that he has heard about Saul. He has heard from many that Saul persecutes the believers in Jerusalem. Then Ananias notes that Saul is in Damascus with letters given to him by the chief priests so that he has authority to arrest the believers in Damascus. Ananias is afraid but is still willing to obey.

God knows who Saul is and what he has done. God tells Ananias to go to Saul. He tells Ananias that Saul is a "chosen instrument." Saul will take the gospel to the Gentiles, to kings and to Israel. God says, "I will show him how much he must suffer for my sake." Acts 9:16  
God hears the objection made by Ananias. He reassures Ananias that he must go to Saul. God

Week 1

**Memorize:**  
**Romans 12:1-2**  
**(The Message)**

tells Ananias the plans He has for Saul. God reveals His plan to ensure that all people hear the gospel message. Saul will appear before kings. He will take the message of the gospel to the Israelites. Further, Saul will be persecuted. He had persecuted believers, now Saul will suffer as a believer.

Ananias obeyed God. He trusted God. Ananias went to Saul and placed his hands on him. He calls Saul, "brother." This must have been reassuring to Saul. Ananias embraced him, the persecutor, as a son of God. Ananias tells Saul that God sent him. He tells Saul the reason that God has sent him, "that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." Only those who belong to Christ are sealed with His Holy Spirit. (Ephesians 1:13).

Then Saul was baptized. Saul received the grace of Christ and submitted to His authority. Saul accepted that he could only be saved by the grace of God and that it must be by faith not by works (the things we do for God). (Ephesians 2:8-10) He further submitted to the will of God by choosing to give testimony of his faith through baptism.

As a Pharisee, Saul has sought to arrest and kill those who professed to believe in Christ, and those who refused to deny their belief. Now he would suffer the same persecution at the hands of the Jewish religious leaders with whom he had conspired. Saul got up to eat and was strengthened. He remained in Damascus and "began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God." (Acts 9:20)

**Do You Know Jesus?** Ananias served and obeyed God. He trusted God. Saul hated the followers of Jesus because he thought they were a threat to his religion. God spoke to Saul and showed him that he needed to follow and obey Jesus. Have you ever invited Jesus into your heart? (Invited God to be a part of your life). Would you like to follow and obey God?

Romans 10:9-10 tells us that we have to do two things: confess with our mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in our heart that God has raised Him from the dead.

**Pray this prayer:** Dear God, thank you for sending your Son, Jesus, to die on the cross for my sins. Thank you that He has risen from the dead; and because He lives I can have a personal relationship with you. Please forgive my sins. Please come be a part of my life and help me to live for you. Help me to trust you and to obey you.

### Review:

1. **Why was Ananias' assignment scary?** (Saul persecuted the followers of Jesus, he was in Damascus with authority of the chief priests to arrest the believers)
2. What kind of attitude did Ananias have to have towards God? (Ananias responded to God, "Yes, Lord." Indicating that he knew God's voice, he recognized his Lord, and was ready to obey.)
3. **What kind of attitude did Ananias have to have towards Paul?** (Ananias was afraid.)
4. Explain how Ananias had to take a step of faith. (Ananias had to trust God and go to the man who was there to arrest believers.)

### Pray:

1. Pray that God will help you understand that He cares enough to know your name.
2. Pray that God will help you trust Him no matter what happens.
3. Pray that God will help you obey Him no matter what He asks you to do.

### Challenge:

Ananias walked with God and obeyed God. One day it was a little harder to **obey** God. God wanted Ananias to go to a man known to kill believers. His obedience helped confirm to Paul that God was calling him to serve. Ananias's obedience impacted Paul's life. Paul's life impacted the world. The things we say show people that we love and trust God. Our lives show others that God loves us.

Encourage children to begin having a specific time when they will read the Bible and pray. Help them begin keeping a record of prayer requests. Ask them to write down the things they hear God saying to them. Encourage them to be obedient. (Keep a prayer journal.)

### Application:

**Tell others God cares about them and knows their name. Tell about times you have been obedient to God. Tell them about a time you had to trust God.**

### Planning Ahead:

**Saul in Jerusalem  
Acts 9:26-31**

End with  
Prayer

Hands On Activities  
For  
Ananias

Memorize: Romans 12:1-2 (The Message). Use bean bag activity to practice the verse. Memorize one segment at a time.

Create a prayer journal to be used throughout the summer with blank paper, construction paper and yarn. Hole punch the paper and put it together with yarn. Prayer journal: Work on your prayer journal. Write down what God has said to you about your attitude towards others. Write down what you need to change. Ask God to help you.

Name game. Ask each child to introduce himself to the child on his right. Then ask them to tell what their favorite food is. Then ask them to tell what their favorite game is.

Then exchange information with the other child. Now have each child introduce the person they talked to along with the information they learned about each other.

Obedience game. Begin by telling the children that their obedience will be rewarded. Tell them that they will be playing a game. They must obey immediately. Throughout the time with the children plan to give commands that they must obey. If they obey without complaining or questioning give them a reward. At the end give each child an opportunity to obey. Suggestions for commands to obey:

1. Would you please help me pick up that piece of paper? (Say, "Oh thank you, you are such a good helper.")
  2. Would you please help me handout the colors? (Say, "Thank you, so much.")
  3. Would you please raise your hand to answer questions about the story? (Say, "Yes, I see you. You may answer.")
- Encourage children to answer: "That was a good try, but let's see if someone else can try that." )  
Those who have obeyed will receive snacks first.

To Earn Money		Purchase Items		Deduct money	
Attendance	.25	Gum (1 stick)	.50	Bad language	2.00
Participation	.25	Candy (fireball)	.50	Hitting	2.00
Being a helper	.25	Lollipop	.50	Not taking turns	1.00
Taking turns	.50	Tootsie roll	.50	Pushing	1.00
Sharing	.50	Toy soldier	.50	Grumbling	1.00
		Toy car	2.00		
Saying, "Please."	.50				
Saying, "Thank you."	.50				
Saying "I'm sorry."	1.00				
Forgiving	1.00				

Create a list of items which children may buy with play money. Create a list of things for which children can earn money. This will be in addition to snacks. Create or secure play money. Bring items that the children may purchase at the end of your time with them. Be sure to allow plenty of time for them to make purchases. Examples:

Play "Mother, May I." One child gives instructions to a particular child. The child must say, "Mother, may I," before following instructions. The child giving the instructions must say, "Yes, you may."

Play "Red Light, Green Light." One child gives instructions saying either, "Red light or green light." The children must move toward the child giving the instructions when the leader says, "Green light." The children must stop when the leader says, "Red light." If a child moves when the leader says, "Red light," that child must start all over while the others continue trying to get to the leader first. The child who reaches the leader first, gets to be the next leader. To make the game more fun ask them to walk like a certain animal, or crawl, or tiptoe.

**Take your everyday,  
ordinary life.....  
and place it  
before God.  
Romans 12:1-2  
(The Message)**

## **Romans 12: 1-2 (The Message)**

**So here's what I want you to do,  
God helping you:**

**Take your everyday, ordinary life—  
your sleeping, eating,  
going-to-work, and walking-around life—and  
place it before God as an offering.**

**Embracing what God does for you  
is the best thing you can do for him.**

**Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture  
that you fit into it without even thinking.**

**Instead, fix your attention on God.**

**You'll be changed from the inside out.**

**Readily recognize what he wants from you, and  
quickly respond to it.**

**Unlike the culture around you,  
always dragging you down to its level of immaturity,  
God brings the best out of you,  
develops well-formed maturity in you.**

**Romans 12: 1-2 The Message**

## ANANIAS WORD SEARCH

A N A N I A S R S E M O D  
S T M T Q N M D H F P M G  
A B I S O N E O N E Y K B  
U H S U F D N A M I W S A  
L P K R C S F G V Q L Z H  
G I L T V X C D N O E B J  
N O I S I V P A C K M R U  
B D K N T W Z S U S R A T

**ANANIAS**

**OBEY**

**SAUL**

**TARSUS**

**NAME**

**TRUST**

**BLIND**

**VISION**