

Behavior

Lesson 2

Saul in Jerusalem

Behaviors

Begin with Prayer

Lesson 2

Saul in Jerusalem

Acts 9:19-31

Memory Verse

Practice playing second fiddle. Romans 12:10 (The Message)

Lesson Goals

Learn not to think too highly of yourself.
Learn to think of others first.
Learn to be humble.

Behavior Focus Scripture

Practice playing second fiddle.... Get along with each other; don't be stuck-up. Make friends with nobodies; don't be the great somebody. Romans 12:9-10,14-16

Bible Story

Read Acts 9:26-31 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 a serious disagreement with someone and then had to go ask for their forgiveness? Even worse had to ask for their help? In today's lesson we will learn how Saul had to go ask for help.

Saul had a dramatic change of heart because he met Jesus on the road to Damascus. Saul began to preach in Damascus. But the Jews became unhappy because Saul proved that Jesus is the Son of God. Saul knew the Scriptures. He knew the prophecy. He was a religious leader. He knew how to debate. They decided to kill Saul. The followers of Jesus helped Saul escape.

Saul went to Jerusalem. It must have been an interesting experience for both Saul and the disciples. Saul had been a hater of the believers when he had power and position. He had friends in high places. He was one of the leaders with a high place. He knew the people with the power. He had walked with those who were the "rich and famous."

Now, he had to face those he had tried to arrest. He had been their fierce enemy. He had wanted to murder them. The Bible doesn't tell us if he was reluctant to face those he had tried to hurt. We don't know what emotions Saul felt. But we know he tried to join the disciples but they were afraid. They thought Saul was trying to trick them so that he could arrest them.

Saul no longer had the friendship of the Pharisees and religious leaders with whom he had associated in Jerusalem. He was now the enemy. He tried to go to the disciples who had walked with Jesus but they didn't want to be around him either. They were afraid.

But, Barnabas believed Saul. What a relief that must have been. To find a friend and an ally when you need one is like receiving a cup of cool refreshing water after you have run a race in a desert heat that has worn you out.

We don't know how Barnabas learned about Saul's experience. Barnabas took Saul to the disciples and told them that Saul had seen Jesus on the road to Damascus. Imagine what it must have been like for the disciples who had seen the risen Christ. They knew what it was like to see Jesus, to walk with Him, to talk with Him, to be with Him.

Barnabas told them Jesus spoke to Saul. The disciples knew the voice of their Lord Jesus well. They understood what it meant to receive a command from the Lord. They understood what it meant to be rebuked (scolded) by the Lord. They understood what it was to receive a call to "Come and follow me." (Matthew 4:19)

Week 2

**Memorize:
Romans 12:9-10
(The Message)**

Barnabas believed Saul and told the disciples that Saul “had preached fearlessly in the name of Jesus.” (Acts 9:21) Because Barnabas believed, the disciples believed.

Sometimes we need a Barnabas in our lives. We need someone to take us and introduce us to another person. We need someone to believe us. Sometimes we desperately need someone to believe in us. Barnabas did that for Saul.

When someone new comes to church or to your Bible study, do you welcome them? Do you sit by them? Do you introduce yourself? Do you introduce them to others?

A new person might need that from you. When you are new to a place, you need someone to make you feel welcome, to show you around, to help you meet others.

Saul had been cruel to the believers. The disciples could have chosen not to forgive. The disciples could have chosen not to allow Saul into the fellowship of believers. It would have been easy to understand if the disciples had rejected Saul. But they did not. Because the disciples chose to include Saul, he stayed in Jerusalem.

Saul became a part of them. “He moved about freely in Jerusalem.” (Acts 9:27) This made Saul a bitter enemy of the Jewish religious leaders. They tried to kill him, too. But Saul preached “boldly in the name of the Lord.” (Acts 9:28)

Do You Know Jesus? Ananias served and obeyed 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.

Review:

1. **Why did Saul go to the disciples?** (the believers in Jerusalem were afraid of him)
2. **Did it matter that Saul was not one of the twelve disciples?** (the disciples had personally walked with Jesus, they had been with Jesus during His ministry, Jesus appeared to them after He arose, their endorsement would help Saul)
3. **Did Saul need the approval of the disciples in order to preach?** (No, but it would help)
4. **Explain that Saul was a man of position and power as a Pharisee.** Jesus’ disciples were not educated men. They were ordinary men. Saul had to humble himself and ask for their help so that he could preach the gospel.

Pray:

1. Pray that that God will help you not to think too highly of yourself.
2. Pray that God will help you think of others.
3. Pray that God will help you to be humble.

Challenge:

Ask the children to think of ways that they can think of others first. Encourage them to be humble. Encourage them to be polite, to say, “please, “ and “thank you.” Remind them to ask for permission before doing something. Encourage them to share, take turns, etc. Stress to them that **humility is not weakness**. Have them write down any changes (attitude and actions) in their prayer journal.

Application:

Paul was a well-educated man. He held a high position as a Pharisee. He was a leader who was respected. Paul didn’t have to go to the disciples. Paul chose to go to give testimony of the change that God made in his life. God had called Paul. He didn’t need anyone else’s approval. Paul knew that the disciples were highly regarded. He knew that if he went to them, and gained their trust, the other believers would be more likely to trust him. God wants us to think of others. Live in such a way that others will see the humility of Christ in you.

Planning Ahead:

Saul in Jerusalem
Acts 9:26-31

End with
Prayer

Hands On Activities
For
Saul in Jerusalem

Memorize: Romans 12:10 (The Message). Toss a ball to each other to practice the verse. Each child who catches the ball must say the next word. Keep tossing the ball until everyone knows the verse.

Prayer journal: Work on your prayer journal. Write down what God has said to you about your attitude making friends. Think about what it means not to be stuck-up or to play second fiddle. Write down what you need to change. Ask God to help you.

Ask the children to tell one thing about the story. Ask one child to privately say, "May I be second," throughout the classroom activity time. Each time that child says, "May I be second," give that child something special (like a sticker). Just do this a few times. Ask the child what it felt like to be second. Ask the child what it felt like to be rewarded. Ask the other children what they thought as this was happening. Talk about how Barnabas helped Saul meet the disciples. Then Saul taught in the synagogues.

Create cards that express feelings (happy, sad, afraid, angry) Ask the children to stand in pairs. Tell the children they are to watch their partner as you read a list. Each child must hold up a face that expresses their feelings. Have the partners tell what the other felt about each item on the list. Talk about how Barnabas helped Saul.

List:

1. My mom tells me to clean my room.
2. My brother doesn't let me play with him.
3. It is late and someone knocks on our door.
4. We get to eat ice cream for desert.
5. My sister got into my stuff.
6. My best friend moved away.
7. I got a new toy.

Bring balloons. Have the children get in groups of four or three. Use masking tape to divide an area for each group. Have them stay in their area as they play. Have each group keep balloons up in the air with their noses for 15 seconds. Use a watch to time the game. Talk about how each must play a part. They must help each other by touching the balloon or by moving out of the way. Talk about how Barnabas helped Saul.

Have the children get in pairs. Number the pairs. Ask the children to introduce themselves to each other. Then each one will introduce his partner to the other pairs. Do this until everyone has been introduced to each group. Example: In group one, the first child will say, "Hi, this is Fred." Then his partner will say, "Hi, this is John." Encourage the children to welcome new people by introducing themselves and someone else. Talk about how Barnabas took Saul to the disciples.

**Practice
playing
second
fiddle.**

**Romans 12:10
(The Message)**

Romans 12: 9-10 (The Message)

**Love from the center of who you are;
don't fake it.**

**Run for dear life from evil;
hold on for dear life to good.
Be good friends who love deeply;
practice playing second fiddle.**

Romans 12: 9-10 The Message

SAUL IN JERUSALEM WORD SEARCH

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

JERUSALEM
HUMBLE
BARNABAS
SAUL

DISCIPLES
OTHERS
AFRAID
BELIEVED