



10/23/11

Acts 9: Paul, a redeemed leader

Materials

Paper and Crayons

Opening Activity

Ask the children to tell you of a time they may have said or done something they shouldn't have and may have gotten into trouble. Have them explain to you what happened to them as a result of getting into trouble. Tell the children that today they will learn about a man named Paul that was doing very mean things to the people who believed in God. We will find out what God did for Paul.

Summarize Acts 9

Once Jesus died and came back to life, God the Father sent his Holy Spirit to live inside the people who believed that He was their savior, and those who believed began live together like a big family. There were still people who did not believe that Jesus had died on the cross for their sins. These people would be very mean to the believers and even put them in jail! One of the worst of these people was named Paul. Paul would travel all over the area finding believers and putting them in jail. One day he and some of his friends were on their way to a place called Damascus and suddenly a bright light came from heaven and blinded Paul. He was so blind that he fell to the ground and couldn't see anything! Jesus spoke to Paul in this light and asked him why he was doing these mean things to His believers. He also told Paul to go into the city of Damascus and find a man named Ananias who was a believer. Paul could not see, so his friends led him to Ananias' house. God had also spoken to Ananias and told him that Paul was on his way. Ananias was scared of Paul because of all of the mean things Paul had done. Ananias was told by God to heal Paul and allow him to see again. When Paul got to Ananias' house, Ananias put his hands on Paul and healed him and Paul could see again! Once Paul was healed he was filled with God's Holy Spirit and got baptized. Paul then began telling everyone he saw about how Jesus was really God's son.

Question 1:

Why did Paul begin telling everyone that Jesus was God's son?

Paul had been chosen by God to be one of his people even though he was sinning by putting believers in jail. Paul had done so many awful things to the believers it must have amazed Paul that God would choose him to be one of his people. Paul had experienced forgiveness from God and had seen that Jesus truly was and is God's son. When we see Jesus for who He really is, everything changes, and we want to tell others how wonderful He is.

Question 2

What did Paul do once he was healed from his blindness?

He immediately began telling everyone he saw about how much God loved us and how God sent His son Jesus to die on the cross for our sins. Paul was eager to tell other people about what had happened to him on the way to Damascus and how God had forgiven him for all of his sins.

Question 3

Can we be like Paul?

Yes! When we accept Jesus as our savior from our sins, then we too have the Holy Spirit living inside of us, just like Paul did. God has forgiven us from our sins just like Paul was forgiven. We are called by God, just like Paul was, to tell others about Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. The good news is that when we believe in and follow Jesus, we are free from sin and can be with God forever and ever!

**Passage Activity**

Remind the children that God loves us even when we sin. He is our loving King, and when we believe in Him, He also calls us His friend! Have the children tell you about their best friend. Let them explain to you things they do with their best friend such as spending time together, talking, playing, etc. Tell them that true friendship means doing whatever it takes to meet someone's needs, which is what God has done for us! Have the children tell you ways they can spend time with God now that He calls us His friends. Have them illustrate this in a picture.

Wrap Up

Thank God for His love for us and for saving us from our sin and showing us what friendship truly is, the willingness to do whatever it takes to meet someone else's needs. Invite folks to ask their parents if they'd like more information on what it means to believe in and follow Jesus Christ.