

Paul's Travels

Week 2 : Paul in Damascus

Theme : Friends need to know we are there for them.

On arrival : Colour in Barnabas badges ready for next week.

4Directional Prayer: Recap on last week's prayer. This week, we focus on Jesus. (*Hold glasses in front of eyes and point forward while marching on the spot.*) Put both parts of the prayer together with the actions. Dear God, you are king of us all (*Hold glasses to eyes with one hand. Point upwards with other hand and then bow.*) Today we ask you to open our eyes to see Jesus whom we follow. (*Hold glasses in front of eyes and point forward while marching on the spot.*)

Games:

Basket case: Divide each team into 2 lines facing each other. Cross hands with your opposite partner so left hand takes left hand and right hand takes right hand. The basket is placed at the beginning of the line across the arms of the first pair. The children bounce or shunt the basket across the arms of the children until it reaches the end. The end pair then bring the basket to the front of the line, cross hands and begin again. When the original pair have reached the front of the line again, the whole team sit down.

Walk the line: Tape a line of string to the floor. Children take it in turns to hold a mirror above their head and must only look in the mirror to walk along the line. If they come off the line, they are out.

Share : Each child is given a wrapped sweet – Starburst work well. Arrange two rows of chairs so the seats face outwards and the backs of the chairs touch. Children sit on chairs, music is played and a lidded tub passed from child to child. Whoever is holding the tub when the music stops puts their sweet into the tub and is out of play. The next time the tub reaches them, the child before must get out of their seat and pass the tub to the next available child. When you only have one child left, give them the choice of keeping the sweets or sharing them. Let's hope they share !!!

Introduction: Briefly share how someone has encouraged you when you have felt picked on or feel unhappy. Show the Barnabas badge (resources) and encourage the children to be encouragers in the coming week. Award Barnabas badges next week.

Story : There is a story in the resources section that the children could act out. The story comes from Acts 9: 20 – 31. Barnabas stood up for the changed Paul and encouraged the people to trust him too. The story ends with Paul's daring escape from Damascus in a basket.

Application : Jews and Christians alike were judging Paul by his past reputation but Paul had some good friends. It was good that Barnabas was there to stand up for Paul . Thanks to him, the believers were willing to help Paul escape those who were plotting against him. Your friend's life is probably not in danger, but he or she may need to be encouraged. Friends may need to know that you will be there when others ridicule them or tell lies about them. Be ready to speak a good word and stand up for your friends. Be a loyal friend.

Memory Verse: *"Fill your minds with those things that are good and that deserve praise". Philippians 4 v 8.* Each team needs a picture of the thinking child (resources) and a set of words displayed around the room. The words are "good", "and that deserve praise". Additionally, include the rest of the words that complete the verse though the children do not need to learn the whole verse. The other words are : "things that are true" "noble" "right" "pure" "lovely" "and honourable", "Philippians 4 v 8" As you read out each section of the memory verse, a child from each team needs to go and find that section of the verse and stick it onto their picture.

Prayer : Give each child three strands of wool to plait into a friendship bracelet. Have the children sit plaiting quietly. As the children think about each strand, encourage them to pray "Joy" prayers – Jesus, others, yourself. When the bracelets are complete, give them to another Kingsquadder.

Resources : There are resources for the memory verse, introduction and story this week.

Song : Another new song to try, *"Standing up for Jesus" from CD, Celebrate God, Spring Harvest Kid's Praise Party 5*



Paul in Damascus - Acts 9:20-31

Saul, the persecutor of Christians, met Jesus on the road to Damascus. After his conversion he was a different person. The man who had been killing Christians now became a follower of Jesus and joined the ranks of believers. The Christians in Damascus didn't know what to think of him. Wasn't this the man who had been persecuting them and arresting them? He began to preach in their city and became more and more powerful. As time went by, Saul began to be known by the Greek name – Paul!

Some of the Jews decided he was dangerous to them and started looking for a way to kill him, but Paul learned of their plan. His enemies watched the city gate day and night, determined to grab him when he tried to leave the city.

Paul and his friends had other plans, and God wanted Paul to survive to preach in other cities. This was their plan: They got a large basket, big enough to hold a man. They tied ropes onto the basket to lower it to the ground. When it was dark, Paul got into the basket and his friends lowered him down through an opening in the wall. He didn't use the gates at all! His enemies' plan was foiled and Paul left the city in safety.

He went from Damascus to Jerusalem, but the Christians there feared him also. Barnabas stood up for him and told the Christians that Paul really was changed. He was accepted by them and preached, but it became dangerous there also when the Jews from Greece tried to kill him. His friends took him to Caesarea and then sent him off to Tarsus, his hometown.

And so it was that the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria had a time of peace. Through the help of the Holy Spirit, the church was strengthened and grew in numbers.

*Fill your minds with those things that
are*

