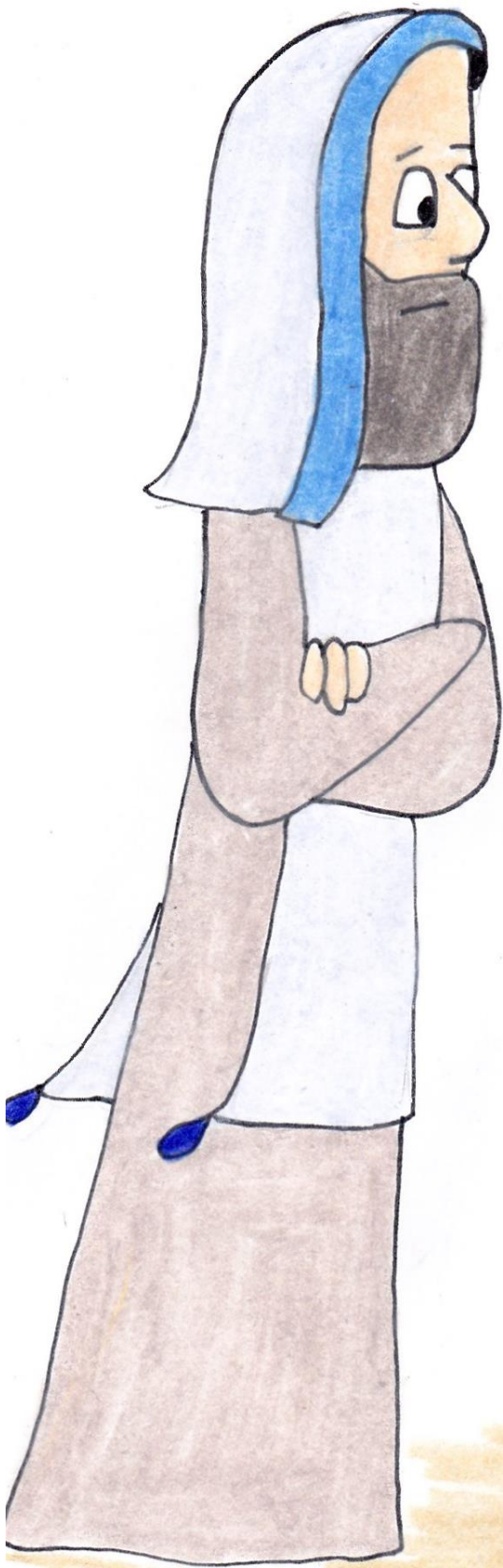


# Saul's Conversion

## Acts 9



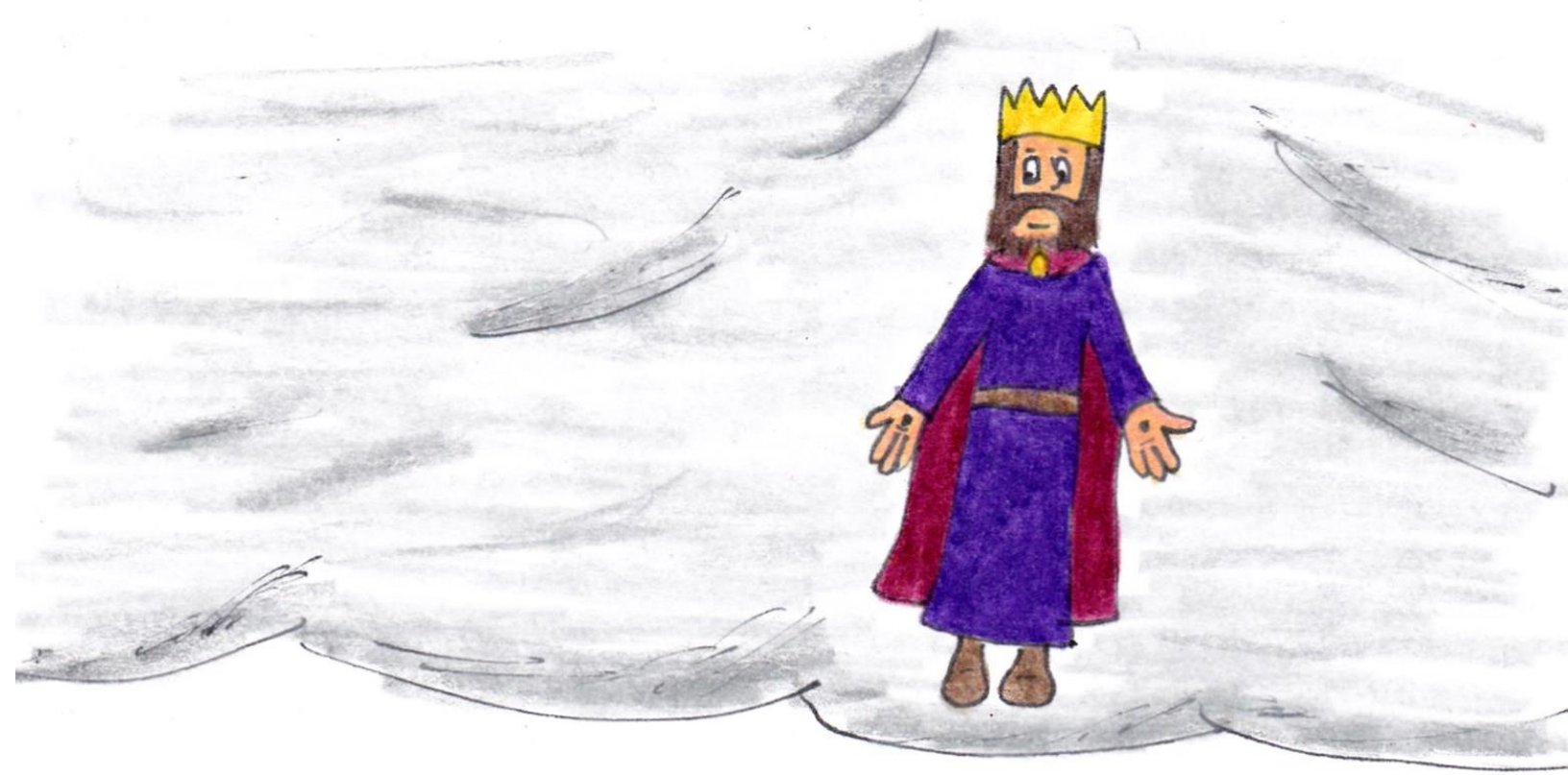


After sending every Christian he could find in Jerusalem to prison, Saul was still filled with anger.

He went to the High Priest, “Sir, I’ve heard that the Christians have fled to Damascus. Give me a writ so that I can pursue these heretics there.”

The High priest agreed enthusiastically, and wrote the letter out for Saul right away.

With the papers, Saul took a few guards and left immediately for Damascus.



As he neared Damascus, he was suddenly blinded by a bright light. Falling to his knees, Saul heard a voice from heaven.

“Saul, Saul why do you persecute me?”

“Ahh, who are you?” he replied in fear.

“I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. Get up and go into the city, you will be told what you must do,” and the voice left him.

Saul stared around blindly, unable to see anything. The guards with him were speechless. They had heard the sound but had not seen anyone. Numbly, they led him into Damascus. For three days Saul was blind. He did not eat or drink, while he waited on God.



Meanwhile, in Damascus, there was a disciple called Ananias who was in prayer. Ananias had a vision.

“Go to the house of Judas, there you will find a blind man named Saul of Tarsus. He has been told you are coming and that you will heal him.”

“Uh, God, I’ve heard about this Saul. Are you sure I should go to him? He has been sending your followers to prison in Jerusalem, and now has come here to do the same. Maybe there is a mistake?”

“Go! This man is my chosen to spread MY Word to the Gentiles.”





So Ananias obeyed.

Ananias found Saul where he had been told in his vision. He put his hands on him, “Brother Saul, in the name of the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road, See! See and be filled with the Holy Spirit.”

Immediately scales fell from Saul’s eyes and he could see.

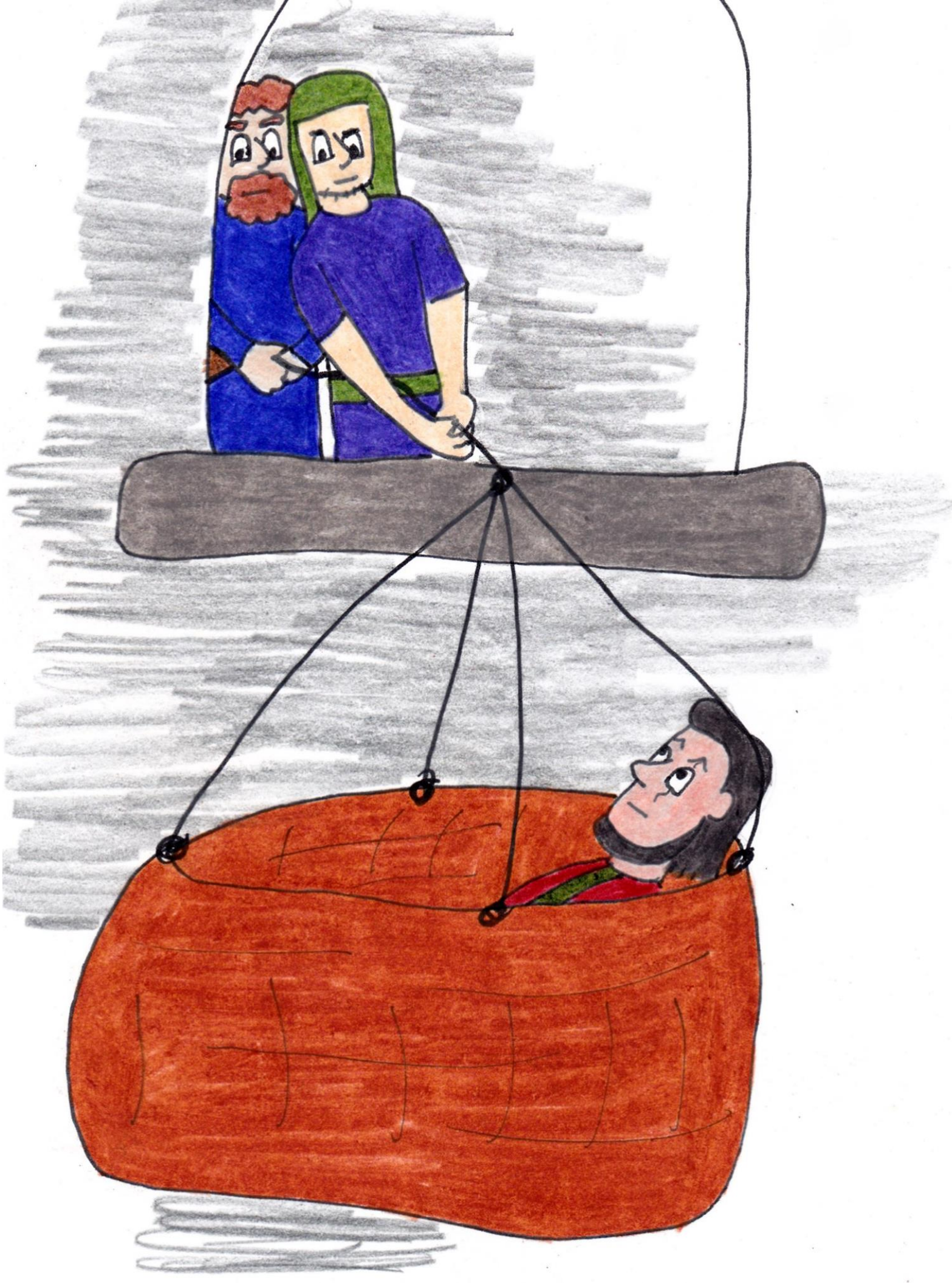
“Baptize me,” Saul implored. They went to the waters nearby and Saul was baptized there. Only then did he eat.



Saul lived with the disciples in Damascus. He soon began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus was the son of God. Everyone who heard him was amazed.

“Isn’t this the man who has been sending all of the Christians to prison?”

Saul continued to grow in knowledge until no one could debate him. Frustrated the Jews began to plot to kill him.



Several believers overheard the Jews discussing the plot and rushed to tell Saul of the plot.

“They are going to wait for you at the city’s gates, and kill you outside the city. They’ll blame it on bandits,” one said in a rush.

“We must get Saul safely out,” they decided, “but how.” Finally, someone remembered the house at the city walls. “Find a large basket, and some rope.”

Slowly they lowered Saul out the window and to the ground. “Go with God,” they called down as Saul set off.



Saul went back to Jerusalem, but none of the believers there would meet with him.

They only remembered all of the believers he had put in jail. They did not believe he now followed Jesus.

Finally Barnabus, who'd been with Saul in Damascus, spoke up for him. "I know it's hard to believe in such a drastic change, but think about Jesus has changed each of you. Saul saw Jesus on the road, he has spent the past several weeks teaching other believers and angering the Jews. They finally plotted to kill Saul, but we smuggled him out in a basket."

Then Saul was finally welcomed among them.

# Questions

## Younger Kids

1. Who did Saul see on the road to Damascus?
2. What did Saul do when he could see again?
3. Why did the Jews in Damascus want to kill Saul?
4. Why were the believers in Jerusalem afraid to meet with Saul?

## Middle Kids

1. Why was Ananias nervous about going to Saul? Read Acts 7:58, 8:3, and 9:13-14.
2. Read Acts 9:16, 2 Corinthians 11:24-27, 2 Timothy 2:9 Jesus promised that Saul would suffer for the gospel. How did he suffer?



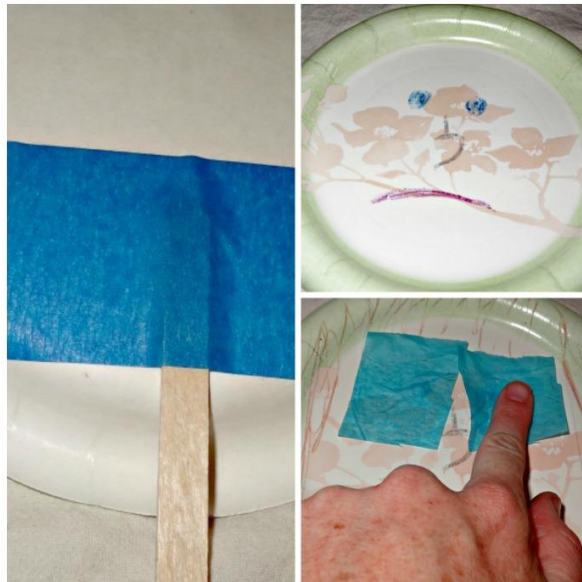
3. Why do you think Saul fasted while he was blind? Acts 9:9
4. Why do you think the Jews wanted to kill Saul? Acts 9:22
5. Why did the believers in Jerusalem not want to meet with Saul? Acts 9:26

### Older Guys

1. Read Acts 9:1-2. Paul sincerely believed the Christians were wrong and they needed to be stopped. Think about a time you were convinced of something, what did it take to show you were wrong?
2. Read Acts 9:13-15. What did God ask Ananias to do? What has God called you to do that is hard?
3. Read Acts 9:26-27. Who came and helped Paul with the other Christians? Who is helping you to grow in Christ?

## Activities

1. If you have a balcony, try lowering something down in a basket or bucket (with your parent's permission). Is it hard to control how slowly it goes down? Do you think it was hard for the believers to lower Saul down?
2. Play Blind Man's Bluff or Marco Polo. Imagine what it was like for Saul, he was blind for 3 days, how humbling it must have been.
3. Make a mask of Saul blinded. Use a paper plate, tissue paper, and a craft stick.



## Online

1. What's In the Bible, how to portray Saul (Paul) to young kids-  
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jSojH50Tq\\_I](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jSojH50Tq_I)
2. Acting out Paul escaping Damascus-  
<http://kidsbibledebjackson.blogspot.com/2012/11/paul-escapes-damascus-in-basket.html>
3. Paul in Damascus-  
<http://gardenofpraise.com/bibl64s.htm>