

## Paul Is Changed – Bible Story

**Narrator:** A man named Saul was on a mission to find all the followers of Jesus and put them in prison. He was cruel to any believer he found.

He was traveling to Damascus with a legal document giving him the power to arrest believers, when suddenly a light from heaven came over him.

**Saul:** I was so shocked by the light, I fell to the ground. Then I heard a voice speaking to me.

**Jesus:** Saul, Saul, why are you bullying me?

**Saul:** Who are you, Lord?

**Jesus:** I am Jesus, the one you are bullying. Get up and enter the city. You will be told what you must do.

**Another man:** We heard a voice speaking, but we didn't see anyone. We didn't know what was happening. We picked Saul up from the ground, and that's when he told us he couldn't see. So we led him into Damascus.

**Saul:** After Jesus spoke to me, I was blind for three days. I couldn't eat or drink anything. I just kept thinking about everything I had done to Jesus' followers and wondering why Jesus had chosen to speak to me. What did the future hold for me now?

**Narrator:** In Damascus, God spoke to a disciple named Ananias in a vision.

**God:** Ananias! Go to Judas's house and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul.

**Ananias:** But Lord, I have heard many reports about this man. People say he has done horrible things to your holy people in Jerusalem. He's here to arrest everyone who calls on your name.

**God:** Go! This man is the person I have chosen to carry my name before Gentiles, kings, and Israelites.

**Narrator:** So Ananias obeyed God. He went to the house and placed his hands on Saul.

**Ananias:** Brother Saul, the Lord sent me— Jesus, who appeared to you on the way as you were coming here. He sent me so that you could see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.

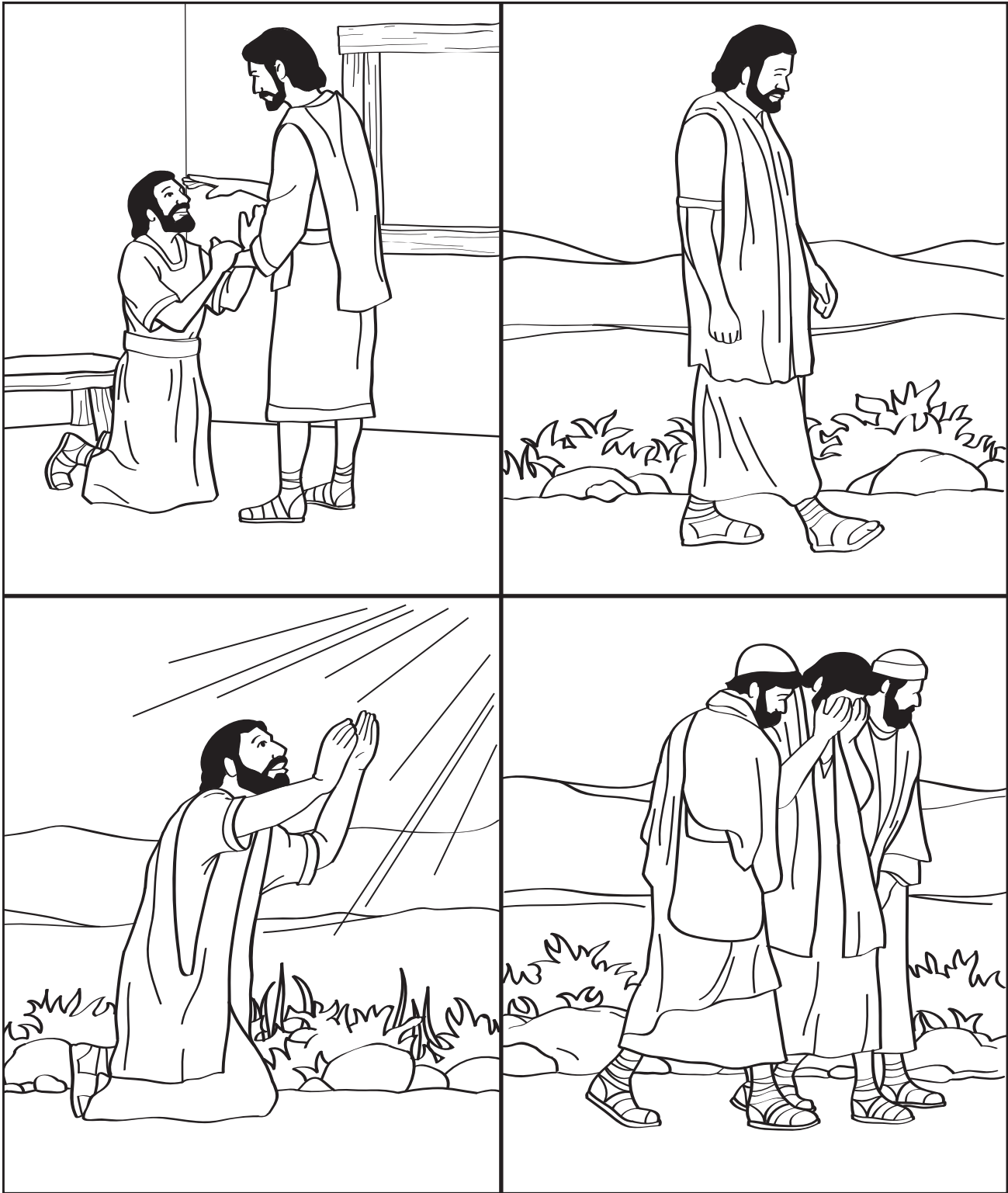
**Saul:** When Ananias touched me, flakes fell from my eyes, and I could see again. I was baptized as a follower of Jesus. He had turned my life completely around. Jesus had turned the hate in my heart for the believers into love. The disciples in Damascus allowed me to stay and fellowship with them for several days. I continued praying, asking what new mission God had for me.

(Based on Acts 9:1-19)



# 12b Put the Story in Order – Puzzle (Preschool)

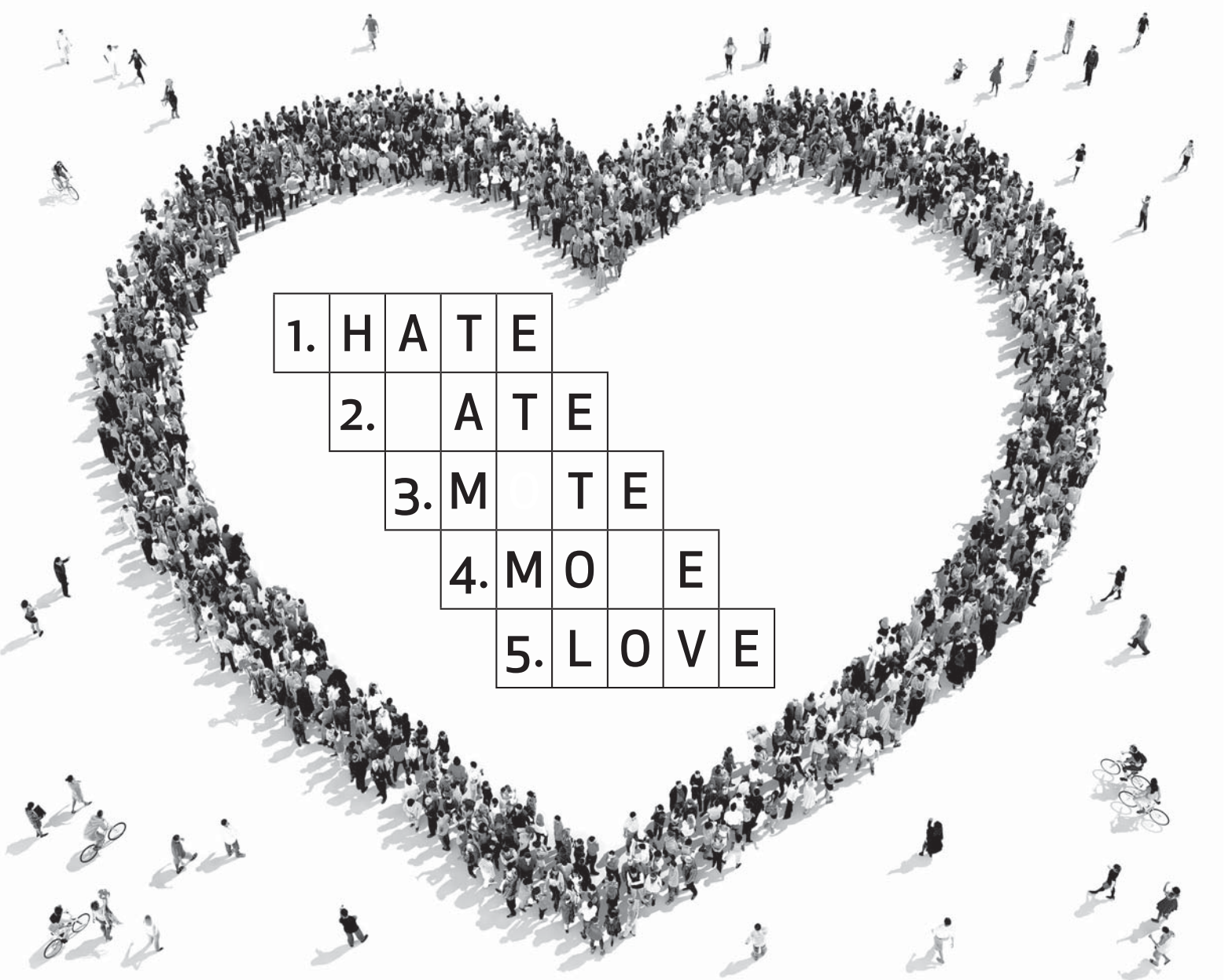
The four pictures tell the story of Paul changing, but they're not in the right order. Cut out the pictures and glue them on construction paper in the correct order.



# Change Hate to Love – Puzzle (Younger Elementary)

12c

Paul hated the followers of Jesus, and he was very cruel to them. But one day, Jesus spoke to him and everything changed. Change the word hate into the word love. You can only change one letter at a time. Three of the letters will stay the same, and the empty box is the letter you need to change.



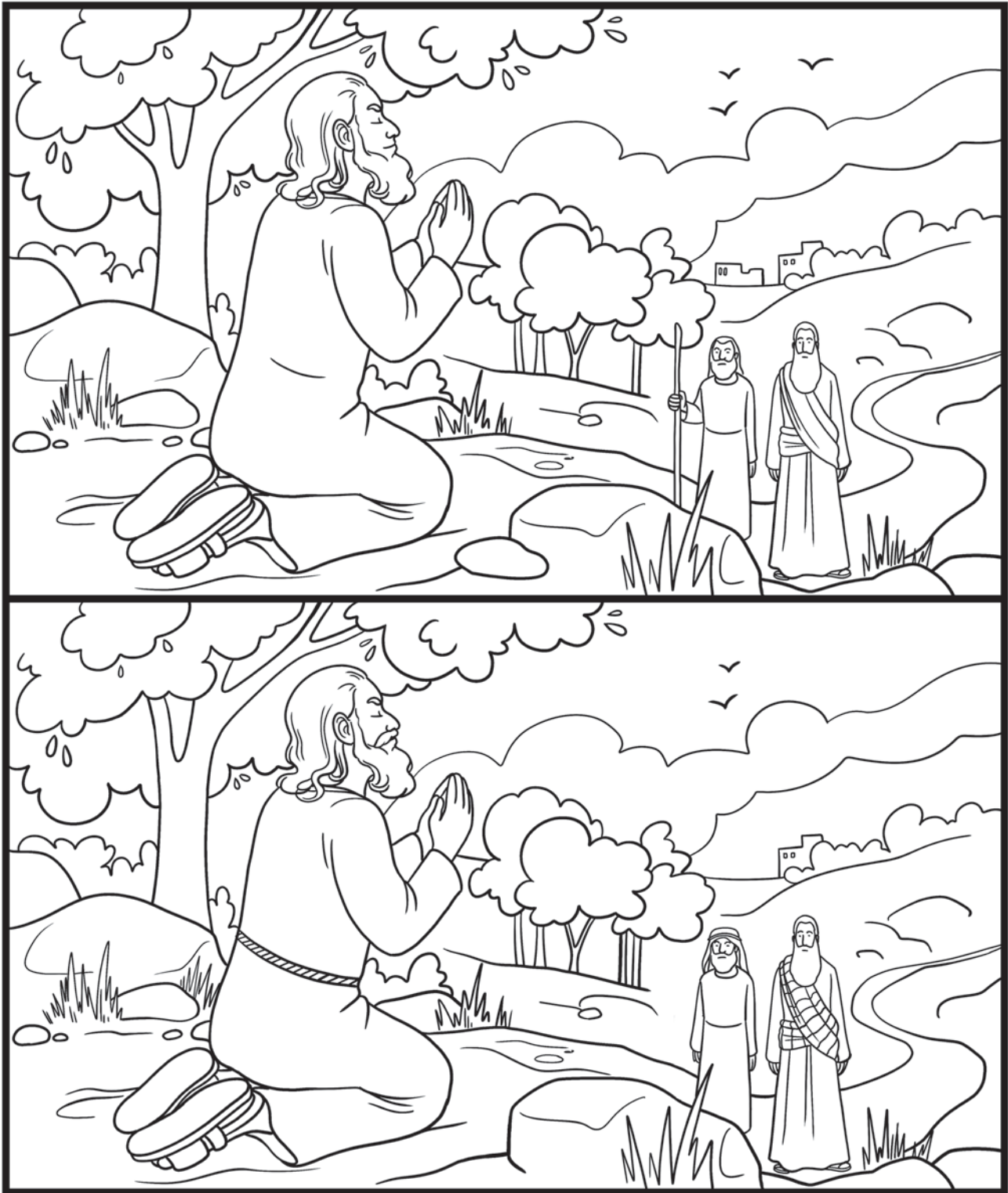
1. H A T E  
2.   A T E  
3. M   T E  
4. M O   E  
5. L O V E

**TIP:** For #3, read Matthew 7:3-5 in your Bible. The word for #3 is another way of saying the word “splinter” in Matthew.



# 12d What's Different? – Puzzle (Older Elementary)

After Jesus spoke to Paul on the road to Damascus, Paul changed completely. Look at the pictures of Paul on the road and find 12 things that are different between the two pictures. Circle the differences.



## Materials:

brown paper lunch bags  
pencils  
pieces of cardboard  
craft blades  
tissue paper (light colors)  
scissors  
tape or glue  
sand or kitty litter  
LED tea lights



## Directions:

1. Flatten your paper bag, and turn it so the smooth side is facing you. The side with the bottom of the bag folded against it is the back.
2. Draw a simple design on the middle of the front of the bag.
3. Slide a piece of cardboard bigger than your design into the bag.
4. Use a craft blade to cut out the design. (Older children or adults should do this step. Be very careful to cut away from your body.)
5. Remove the piece of cardboard and any piece of paper stuck inside the bag.
6. Cut a piece of tissue paper the size of your bag. Place it inside on the backside of the design. Tape it or glue it to the inside.
7. Set the open bag down on the bottom of the bag. Fill the bag with 2 inches of sand or kitty litter to help weigh the luminary down so it doesn't fall over.
8. Place an LED tea light into the luminary and turn it on.
9. The light should shine through the tissue paper design.

## Paul Is Changed

### Acts 9:1-19

A man named Saul had made it his mission to throw in jail all the people who believed in Jesus. He was very cruel to the church. One day on his way to Damascus, a bright light shone down on him. Saul fell to his knees. Then a voice from heaven said, "Saul, why are you bullying me?" Saul realized that Jesus was talking to him. The men with him helped him to Damascus, because Saul was blind. God told a man named Ananias, who loved God, to go help Saul. Ananias obeyed God. Saul was filled with the Holy Spirit, and his sight was restored.

### Verse of the Month

"As for us, we can't stop speaking about what we have seen and heard." Acts 4:20

## What Do You Think?

How do you think Saul felt when Jesus, the person he had been bullying, spoke to him?

How do you think Ananias felt when God told him to go help Saul?

### Family Activity

Talk about how Saul's life totally changed when Jesus spoke to him. Saul was given a new mission—take the good news to the Gentiles. How has knowing Jesus changed your life?

What plans do you think God has for your family? Is there a special group of people you could share the good news with?

### Prayer

Dear God, thank you for loving us just the way we are. Show us what we can change in our lives to bring us closer to God; in Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.