

Paul: When Jesus spoke to me, my life changed completely. He showed me so much love, even though I had treated his followers cruelly. Jesus changed the hate in my heart into love, and I wanted to share that with others.

With power from God, I began to preach in the synagogues. I told everyone that Jesus is God's Son. But my reputation followed me. The people were confused, and they asked, "Aren't you the one who was wreaking havoc among those in Jerusalem who called on this name? Didn't you come here to take those same people prisoners?"

It was difficult at first to get people to understand what had happened to me. But as I learned from the believers in Damascus, I grew stronger. My new mission became proving that Jesus is the Christ.

Eventually many people believed my story, but not the Jewish leaders. They hatched a plot to kill me. I found out they were keeping watch at the city gates around the clock so they could capture me.

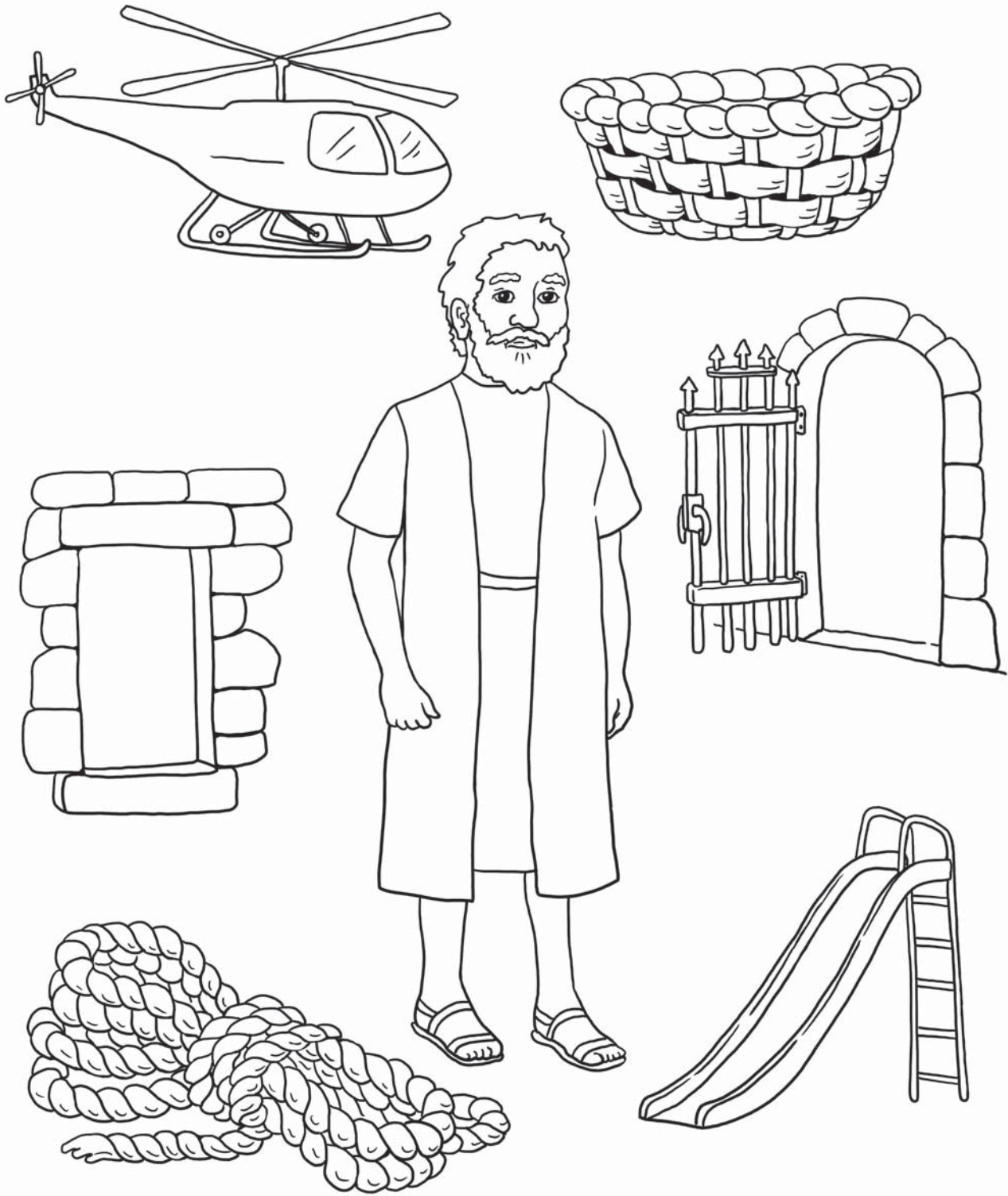
My new friends, who were followers of Jesus, helped me escape. When it was night, they lowered me in a basket through an opening in the city wall. I escaped safely thanks to their help. But I didn't stop telling the good news about Jesus. That was the beginning of my journey with Jesus.

(Based on Acts 9:20-25)



13b What Did They Need? – Puzzle (Preschool)

Some people wanted to bully Paul. Paul's friends helped him get away from the bullies. Look at the pictures around Paul. Circle the things you think the friends used to help Paul escape.



Choose the Letters – Puzzle (Younger Elementary)

13c

All of the letters that make up the words in the answers to the questions are found in the grid. As you answer the questions, cross out the letters you use in the grid. Start with the questions you find easiest. If you get stuck, look at the remaining letters in the grid for help. Also, look at Acts 9 in your Bible to help with the answers.

L	J	S	O	B
G	S	L	T	N
R	I	I	A	D
E	H	E	D	U
A	S	K	B	T

1. Something very unusual happened to Saul when he was walking on the _____ to Damascus.
2. First a _____ shone down from heaven.
3. Then _____ spoke to Saul.
4. Why did the men with Saul have to help him get to Damascus? He was _____.
5. What did Paul's friends use to help him escape when some people wanted to hurt him?

13d Paul Word Search – Puzzle (Older Elementary)

Look for the words listed at the bottom in the word search. The words can be horizontal, vertical, diagonal, frontwards, and backwards. All of the words are in the story of Paul found in Acts 9.

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

ANANIAS

CHRIST

JERUSALEM

PRAYING

ARREST

DAMASCUS

JESUS

PREACH

BAPTIZED

DISCIPLE

LIGHT

ROPE

BASKET

EYES

LORD

SAUL

BLIND

HOLY SPIRIT

PAUL

VISION

VOICE

Basket for Paul – Activity

13e

Materials:

paper lunch bags
yarn
single-hole punch
colors
markers
card stock

Directions:

Set your paper lunch bag up.

Cut about 1/3 of the bag off from the top, which is close to the opening.

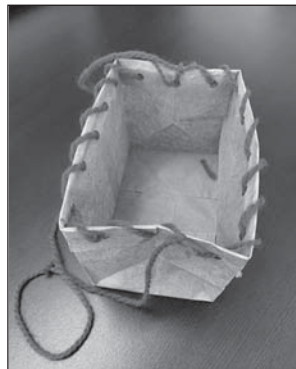
Fold about an inch down on the outside of the bag around the opening.

Use a single-hole punch to punch out holes around the top on the folded down part.

Thread yarn in and out of the holes around the bag.

Tie the ends of a long piece of yarn to the middle of the two short sides.

Cut out Paul on this page. Color him and place him in the basket.



13f Loving God/Loving Neighbor – Faith Family Devotional

Paul Escapes

Acts 9:20-25

God showed great love to Paul, and that love changed Paul's whole life. With the power of the Holy Spirit, Paul began to preach in the synagogues and share his good news. He told everyone that once he persecuted anyone who followed Jesus, because he had hate in his heart. But Jesus spoke to him, and that hate turned to love. He had a new mission, to share the good news of Jesus. But not everyone believed Paul had changed. Some even plotted to kill him. Paul's new friends helped him escape by lowering him in a basket to the outside of the city wall, and Paul kept preaching.

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?

Do you think you would have believed that Paul had totally changed?

How can God change hate into love?

Family Activity

Talk about the change in Paul's life. Why do you think Jesus spoke to Paul when Paul was treating the church cruelly?

What can you as a family do to show God's love to those around you? Make a list of ways to show love. Talk about the opportunities you have each day to show love to others.

Prayer

Loving God, thank you for loving us, even when we're not lovable. Show us how to love others like you love us; in Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.