



3rd -5th

April 20-21, 2013

DATE

Paul Meets Jesus

LESSON TITLE

Acts 9 (Pg. 1209-1211)

WHERE TO FIND IT

Paul “practices” following Jesus like training to run a race.

MAIN POINT

schedule

Hang out with kids (10 minutes): Ask kids about their week. Get kids into groups and play games together.

Large Group (30 minutes): Model what it looks like to be engaged in large group. And don't be afraid to redirect kids who aren't!

Small Group (20-30 minutes): Keep kids in small groups until parents arrive. If you *all* have extra time at the end, you can review the video and songs together.

tips

When you move from one activity to the next, set kids up for success—tell them what you expect from a good audience in Large Group, and how to participate well in Small Group.

check-in/out

Remind kids to tell their parents how they plan to “train” this week!

large group heads up

Paul viewed following Jesus like practicing for a big race. Except instead of winning a race, when we follow Jesus, our “prize” is getting to live with him forever in the perfect world he recreates for us!



instructions

Goal: to help kids connect to the story and begin to process how it applies to their individual lives

Why? When we follow Jesus, it sometimes means hard work. It's important for us to take that seriously and think about ways we can "train" to know him more.

Tip: Don't feed kids answers; help them turn to the Bible and ask God for his help to draw their own conclusions.

small group

***To remind kids of the theme of viewing "following like Jesus" like training for a race, whoever is answering the question gets a sports-related ball. Only the person with the ball may respond. You can have kids toss it to others, pass it around, whatever works best with your group!**

CONNECT

1. What was the best part of your week? (if you haven't connected before large group, be sure to ask kids their names)
OR
2. (If you've already connected before large group): What was the most surprising part of today's story?

RELATE/RESPOND

Spend time discussing; use the **sports ball and get multiple kids involved.*

3. Do you know anybody who was mean but totally changed when they met Jesus? (let kids share; they might not all know somebody, so no need to linger on this)
4. What surprises you about the way Paul met Jesus? (let kids share; emphasize how God called to Paul, even when Paul had done horrible things)
5. Have you ever felt like you should help somebody who isn't very nice to you? If so, what happened? (let kids respond in case they can relate to Ananias)
6. Why was Paul willing to follow Jesus, even when it was hard? (Direct kids to the verse: **1 Corinthians 9:24-25 (Pg. 1265): You know that many runners enter a race, and only one of them wins the prize. So run to win! Athletes work hard to win a crown that cannot last, but we do it for a crown that will last forever. Remind them that Paul was training to one day live with Jesus in a perfect world that Jesus will recreate for all God's family)**

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7. What's hard about following Jesus today? (*Let kids share as desired; bring it back to the verse about how we are working for a crown that will last*)

ACTIVITY

Because Paul followed Jesus—even when it was hard—he got to be a part of God's Story! And guess what? God wants you to be a part of his story, too! We can practice following Jesus, just like Paul did!

8. Let's brainstorm ways we can **practice** following Jesus, like Paul. Spread the **sheet of paper** out in the middle of the group. Let kids write ideas as they share them.
 - a. Ideas to get you started: read the Bible, pray, sing, listen to God, help a friend, obey your parents, be kind to somebody, share with somebody in need, tell people about Jesus' Rescue, write a nice note to brighten somebody's day, etc.)
9. Hand each kid a **strip of paper with today's verse** on it. Have them look at all the ideas on the group poster. On the back of the strip of paper, they can write down one way they want to start "training" this week.

Then pray with the kids, asking God to help you and each of them learn how to follow Jesus, just like Paul. Make sure you collect the ball, so the next small group can use it.

Extra time? Use the ball to play catch or hot potato, play telephone, or grab a group game you can all play together.

special notes

***If kids wonder why Paul went to jail for following Jesus, address their concerns. Tell them that back then, people *could* go to jail for following Jesus. Then remind them how exciting it is that we live in a place where we are free to follow Jesus!**

presenter tips

Be dynamic! Use tone, gestures, and volume deliberately to help you communicate the story to kids. You might even want to use your mic to give your voice a little extra “boom” when you talk about God calling out to Paul audibly!

script

WELCOME AND INTRO TO PAUL

Hi everybody! Welcome to Kids' Club! It's great to see you guys. Today, we're going to talk about a guy who was a bully. ...A BIG TIME bully.

So first, I need you to close your eyes and think of the meanest bully you can imagine. It can be a bully at your school, a villain from TV, or somebody else...like maybe Goliath (***show picture of Goliath***). Goliath was more than *nine* feet tall and wanted to *destroy* God's whole family. Think of someone like Goliath or even worse! (Let kids think. If they want to share movie villains, that's great! Just keep it light and kid-friendly, respecting kids who haven't seen as many movies—and don't assume that all kids know who Goliath is. Explain him, just like you'd explain a brand new character)

The guy we're going to talk about today was THAT mean. And his name was Paul.

PAUL MEETS JESUS

(***Show picture of Paul traveling.***) So, one day, Paul was traveling down a road. He was actually headed to find people who followed Jesus and put them in jail! He believed that people who followed Jesus should go to jail. Aren't you glad we don't live in a place like that?

Well, as Paul was traveling, all of a sudden, God called to him! God actually spoke out loud and said (speak loudly—use the mic): “Paul, Paul! Why are you acting like this?”

Then God shined a bright light right into Paul's eyes. It was bright—SO bright that Paul couldn't see *anything*! It completely blinded him. Some men had to lead him by hand to a town called Damascus.



script continued

GOD PREPARES ANANIAS

Now, in Damascus, there was a guy named Ananias who followed Jesus. And God told Ananias to go to Paul and pray for Paul's sight to come back. Ananias knew exactly who Paul was—and how he treated followers of Jesus! How do you think he felt when God asked him to go *help* the guy who was trying to throw him in jail? (Let kids respond.)

Yeah, he might have been scared or mad. All we know is that he obeyed. And when Ananias got to Paul, he placed his hands on Paul. Not only was Paul filled with God's special helper, the Holy Spirit...but right then, something like *scales* fell off of Paul's eyes. He could see again and was ready to start showing others how to follow Jesus with the help of the Holy Spirit!

PAUL COUNTS THE COST

When Paul met Jesus on the road to Damascus, he had to decide if he would follow him. And Paul wanted to follow Jesus, even though he knew it would be hard...kind of like running a big long race. Everybody stand up for a second. (Let kids stand.) Stay standing if you've ever played a sport. Any kind of sport—that includes cheerleading, dancing, kickball in your backyard, maybe ping pong. (Let kids sit, but hopefully nobody does.)

Alright, if you were going to be the BEST at that sport, the VERY best in the world, do you think you might practice? Sit down if you think you would. (Let kids sit—hopefully, everybody does.)

Yeah, you would have to practice, right? And practice can be hard work, especially if you're practicing to be the best. Paul knew following Jesus would be hard sometimes. He knew there were other guys out there trying to get followers of Jesus thrown in jail, just like he had been. He knew sometimes he'd have to make good choices when he didn't feel like it at all.

But Paul decided he wanted to follow Jesus anyway, no matter how hard it was. He tells us why in I Corinthians 9:24-25:

SLIDE: I Corinthians 9:24-25: You know that many runners enter a race, and only one of them wins the prize. So run to win! Athletes work hard to win a crown that cannot last, but we do it for a crown that will last forever.

Paul knew that he was working toward something WAY better than winning. He was training to one day live with Jesus forever in a perfect world that Jesus recreates. It's going to be so great that we won't even remember hard times we've had here!

PAUL CHANGES

Now we're going to watch a video about Paul. As you watch, see if you can figure out ONE thing Paul did to train or "practice" following Jesus.

Video: God's Story: Paul

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Wow, Paul was quite a guy, wasn't he? Alright, hold up one finger when you figure out ONE way Paul trained to follow Jesus. (Let kids respond.)

Okay, what are some things Paul did? (**Let kids share:** *they may say 1. Told people about Jesus, 2. Learned about God, 3. Wanted to know God, 4. Studied the Bible, 5. Talked to God, 6. Listened to God, 7. Was willing to do anything for God—in all these, you can use both God and Jesus. Make sure to guide kids to how Paul trained, not just how he went to jail, etc.*)

Yes! Paul was constantly (1) learning how to follow Jesus and (2) teaching others how to follow Jesus. He trained or “practiced” by doing things like reading his Bible, praying, listening to God, and telling new people about Jesus. He viewed following Jesus like training for a BIG race, which takes a lot of practice.

Even when following Jesus was hard—like when Paul went to jail or got shipwrecked or even had to make good choices when he didn't feel like it (Romans 7:15-Pg. 1246)—he still did it! He knew that he was just training to one day live with Jesus forever!

WORSHIP

Now let's sing to God to tell him we love him! Our first song reminds us that we can be brave when we follow Jesus, just like Paul! Then we'll sing a song about acting like Jesus.

Song: Bravery (lyrics with person doing hand motions on screen)

Song: Grow Up Like Jesus (lyrics with person doing hand motions on screen)

PRAY

Ask somebody to come and ask God to help us follow him this week.



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PREP needs



small group supplies

1. Coloring pages
2. Markers
3. **Per small group:** 1 large sheet of paper (can be butcher paper, poster-sized paper, 11x17 computer paper, etc.)- paper from site
4. **Per small group:** 1 sports-related ball (something akin to OT: IN-12/1861)
5. **Per kid:** 1 strip of paper with 1 Cor. 9:24-25 printed on it (template PDF in curric. folder—please print on brightly colored paper and cut into strips: 1 verse per strip)

large group supplies

Adventure Bible (Acts 9, Pg. 1209-1211)
1 flashlight

a/v needs

1. Image: picture of Goliath (jpeg in curriculum folder)
2. Image: picture of Paul traveling (jpeg in curriculum folder)
3. SLIDE: I Corinthians 9:24-25: You know that many runners enter a race, and only one of them wins the prize. So run to win! Athletes work hard to win a crown that cannot last, but we do it for a crown that will last forever.
4. Video: God's Story / Paul (please remove the "train" intro from the Strong Journey)
5. Song: Bravery (live lyrics with person doing motions)
6. Song: Grow Up Like Jesus (live lyrics with person doing motions)

special room set-up

None

connect questions

Tell me about Paul.
How did Paul follow Jesus?

parent page

Paul was a guy who started following Jesus. But he knew firsthand that following Jesus isn't always easy. So he viewed it like training to run a big race. Ask your kid about it. You can also read part of Paul's story in Acts 9 and I Corinthians 9:24-25, or watch a video about Paul on CrossroadsKidsClub.net.