

Paul Meets Jesus

Lesson 35

Bible Story

Acts 9:1-20

Teacher Challenge

Before Paul gave His life to Jesus, he persecuted and killed people who believed in Jesus. Why would Jesus want to use him? But to God, Paul's past didn't matter. God's love covers a multitude of sins, and God specializes in transformation. The old Saul was gone. Paul was new. And He had a new purpose in life—a purpose he had been created to fulfill. But first he needed some help, so God provided him with Ananias.

- ➔ What in your past haunts you? How can you let God transform you?
- ➔ What do you recognize as your purpose in life? Who has God sent to help you?

No matter what is in your past, God's love covers it all. He wants to do a new thing in your life. And He will not leave you alone. He will be with you, and He will send others your way to help you grow and fulfill your purpose. You in turn will be sent by God to help others grow and fulfill their purpose. God has sent you to play a significant role in the lives of the young children you teach!

(Note: To reduce confusion for children, the name Paul [instead of Saul] is used throughout this lesson.)

God's Word
"God's love for us is great."
(See 1 John 3:1.)

God's Word and Me
God shows His love for me in many ways.

Teacher's Planning

1. Choose which centers you will provide and the order in which children will participate in them. For tips on schedule planning, see page 9.
2. Plan who will lead each center, making sure to have one adult for approximately every six children. For staffing tips and ideas, see page 12.



Play to Learn

Lesson 35

Active Game Center: All Fall Down!

Collect

Bible; optional—*Preschool Music #1* CD and player.

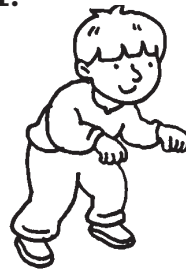
Do

1. Children walk around the room while you clap your hands. (Optional: Play “In a Very Big Way” [track 10 on CD].)
2. After 10 to 12 seconds stop clapping. (Optional: After 10 to 12 seconds stop the music.) When you stop, call out one of the following three actions for children to do: (1) Ride a donkey; (2) Fall to ground as light shines; (3) Hands to ears listening to Jesus. Repeat several times with different actions each round.

Talk About

- ➔ **In today’s Bible story, a man named Paul rode a donkey on a trip. On his trip he saw a bright light. He was so surprised! He fell to the ground. He heard Jesus talk to him. Let’s play a game and pretend to be Paul.**
- ➔ **Paul learned that God loved him and that Jesus is God’s Son.**
- ➔ **The Bible says, “God’s love for us is so great.” What has God given us to show how great His love is? Pray briefly, **Thank You, God, for showing Your love for us in so many ways.****

1.



2.



3.



For Younger Children

Simply have children act out the story with you.

For Older Children

Let a volunteer call out the action.

Play to Learn

Lesson 35

Art Center: Happy Hearts

Collect

Bible, construction paper, scissors, butcher paper, markers, masking tape, glue or tape; optional—Lesson 35 Heart Pattern from *Discovering God's Love* CD-ROM.

Prepare

Cut out at least one large heart from construction paper for each child. On butcher paper, print "God's love for us is great!" at the top. Tape butcher paper to table. (Optional: Make copies of Heart Pattern from CD-ROM and cut out hearts.)

Do

1. Using markers, children decorate construction-paper hearts and glue or tape them to butcher paper.
2. Post completed project on bulletin board, classroom wall or hallway.

Talk About

➔ **The Bible says, "God's love for us is great." God shows His love for us in many ways. Let's make pictures with lots of hearts to remind us of God's love.**

➔ **Brandon, who helps you get ready for bed? God made your daddy to help. God loves you!**

➔ **One way God shows His love is by giving us moms and dads to take us places. Tyson, where do you go with your mom or dad? (Church. School. Preschool. Store. A friend's house.)**

➔ **Pray briefly, Thank You, God, for loving us.**



For Younger Children

Before class, cut out magazine pictures of people to represent moms, dads, grandparents, brothers, sisters, etc. Draw a large heart on butcher paper. Children glue pictures of people inside heart outline.

For Older Children

Children draw a happy face and/or write their names by the hearts.

Play to Learn

Lesson 35

Block Center: Loving Homes

Collect

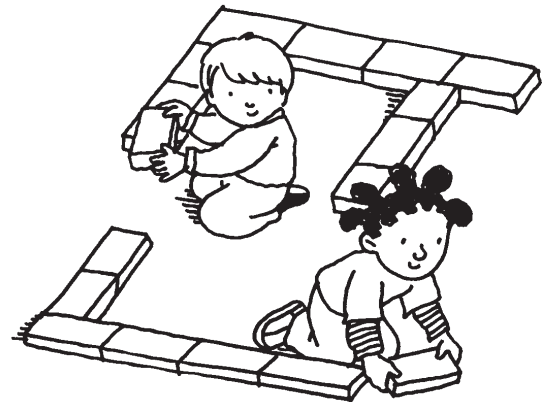
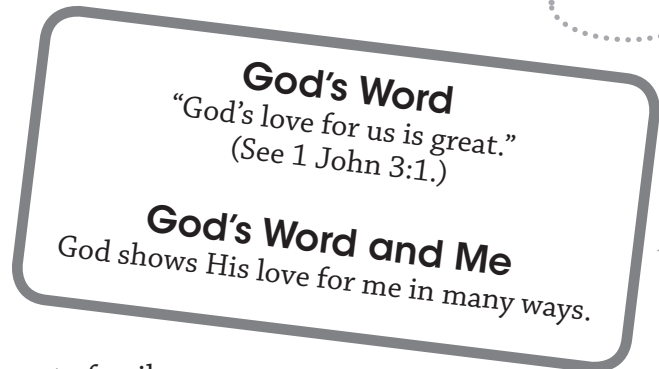
Bible, blocks, toy people.

Do

1. Children make the outline of a house with blocks. Children make walls to form rooms.
2. Children use toy people to act out ways to show love to family members.

Talk About

- ➔ **The Bible says, “God’s love for us is great.” God shows His love for us in many ways. He has given us people to love and care for us. Let’s use our blocks to make a house. We can act out ways to show love to the people in our families.**
- ➔ **Braden, how can you show love to your friend when on the playground? Yes, you can let your friend have a turn on the swings.**
- ➔ **Cade, how can you show love at home? You must be glad that you can help your family by setting the table! You are a good helper, Cade!**
- ➔ **God loves us very much. One way God shows His love for us is by giving us families. Pray briefly, Dear God, thank You for Your great love.**



For Younger Children

Your involvement in the activity is so important. Do not simply sit as a spectator on the side. Join in playing with the children. This will allow you to model God’s love and kindness to children.

For Older Children

Invite children to use blocks to add furniture to their house. Provide a green towel or construction paper for children to use as the yard.

Play to Learn

Lesson 35

Science Center: Sense of Touch

Collect

Bible, large shoe box or shallow box of similar size, familiar small objects (spoon, cotton ball, coin, candy in wrapper, paper clip, etc.), towel or cloth large enough to cover box.

God's Word
"God's love for us is great."
(See 1 John 3:1.)

God's Word and Me
God shows His love for me in many ways.

Do

1. Children name the familiar objects as you place them in the box. Put the towel or cloth over the box to cover objects.
2. Children take turns sliding a hand under the towel or cloth to pick up an object from the box. The child feels the object and guesses what the object is. Child pulls the object from under the towel or cloth to see if he or she guessed correctly. Replace object in box and repeat for each child.

Talk About

- ➔ **We can be glad that God shows His love for us by making us able to touch things and feel them. The Bible says, "God's love for us is great."**
- ➔ **Even though you could not see the objects in the box, you could tell what they were by feeling them. This is called sense of touch. What is something that feels soft? Rough?**
- ➔ **I'm going to name something and you tell me how it would feel if you ran your fingers over it: kitten's fur (soft, smooth), glass (smooth, hard), gum (sticky), driveway (rough).**



For Younger Children

Use only two items at a time. Allow children to feel the objects before putting them in the box.

For Older Children

After first round, children play a memory game. Cover box with towel. Children name as many of the items in the box as they can.

Listen to Learn

Acts 9:1-20

Lesson 35

Collect

Bible, Bible Story 48 pictures from *God's Story for Me Poster Pack #1*, *Preschool Music #1* CD and player, flashlight.

Greet Each Other

Insert different clothing items into the following rhyme until all children are standing by you:

Use your eyes, use your eyes,

You can look and see.

If you're wearing (brown shoes),

Come and stand by me.

I'm glad God gave us eyes to see. God shows His love for us in many ways.

Tell the Story

Open your Bible to Acts 9. Tell the story using the pictured motions (keywords in bold) or show Bible Story 48 pictures.

When have you seen a bright light? Listen to hear about a man who saw a very bright light.



The Bible tells us that many people loved Jesus. But one man, whose name was Paul, did NOT love Jesus. Paul was **angry** so many people loved Jesus! Paul heard that many of the people who loved Jesus lived in a faraway city. "I will go to that city," Paul said. "I'll stop them from talking about Jesus. When I find people who love Jesus, I'll put them in jail!" So Paul and his friends traveled to the city.



On the road near the city, Paul and his friends saw a very **bright light**. Paul was so surprised! He fell to the ground. The light was so bright Paul could not see ANYTHING! Then Paul heard a voice! "Paul, why are you hurting Me?" the voice asked.



"Who are You, Lord?" Paul asked.

The voice said, "I am Jesus, the One you are hurting." Paul must have been surprised! Then Jesus told Paul to go to the city. With his friends' help, Paul did what Jesus said. For three days in the city, he didn't eat or drink anything. Paul still couldn't see, but he **prayed** to God. While Paul was praying, Jesus spoke to another man in the city. The man's name was Ananias. "Ananias, go to Paul and pray for him," Jesus said.



Ananias was afraid of Paul, but he trusted God. So Ananias obeyed and went to Paul. Ananias prayed for Paul and suddenly, Paul **could see** again! Now Paul loved Jesus and wanted to obey Him. Paul told others that Jesus is God's Son.



Talk About the Story

What happened when Paul met Jesus? (Paul was blind for a while. Paul became Jesus' friend.) **Even though Paul used to be mean to Jesus' friends, God still loved Paul! And God loves us, too. God shows His love in many ways. God gives us many good things that show His love. What are some of the good things God has given you?** (Parents who love me. Food to eat. A home.)

Sing to God

Let's sing a song about God's love. Lead children in singing "In a Very Big Way" (track 10 on CD). **God's love is very, very big! All around us, we can see ways God shows His love to us.**

Hear and Say God's Word

Holding your Bible open to 1 John 3:1, say verse aloud. **When we say that God's love is great, we mean that God's love is bigger than anything! God shows His love for us in many ways.** Lead the children in saying the words of the verse softly until they come to the word "great." Children say the word "great" loudly and at the same time thrust hands upward. Repeat several times.

Pray to God

As you say the following prayer, point to a child and pause for the child to say his or her name, thereby completing the phrase: **Dear God, thank You for Your great love for _____.** Repeat once for each child in your class. If you have a large class, point to more than one child each time you repeat the phrase.

Praise to God

Children sit in a circle on the floor. Turn on the flashlight and place it on the floor in the center of the circle. Spin the flashlight. Child on whom the light shines tells of a way God shows love to him or her. Continue until all children have had a turn. **God shows His love for us in many ways. We can thank God for His love.**

Talk to Learn

Lesson 35

Bible Story Activity Pages Center

Collect

A copy of Activity 48 from *The Big Book of Bible Story Activity Pages #1* for yourself and each child, crayons or markers.

Do

Lead children to complete pages following the instructions. Use the conversation suggestions as children complete their pages and retell the story.

Preschool Puzzle Center

Collect

Copies of Puzzles 69 and 70 (p. 145 and p. 147 from *The Big Book of Kindergarten Puzzles*) for each child; pencils, crayons or markers.

Do

Children complete the puzzles and color pages. Use the conversation suggestions on the pages.

Read-Aloud Story Center

Collect

A copy of Story Picture 35 from *The Big Book of Read-Aloud Stories #1* for yourself and each child, crayons or markers.

Do

Read the story and distribute pictures. Use the conversation suggestions as children complete their pages.

