



## Family Lesson 79

**Principle:** God changes the direction of our lives.

**Bible Character(s):** Saul

**Scripture Reference:** Acts 9:1-19

**1. Worship** - Choose your favorite songs from the [Spotify playlist](#) found on the curriculum resource page. Have fun, sing loudly, and follow along with the motions!

**2. Bible Lesson** - Read through the lesson with your family. The bold font is meant to be read aloud along with the Scripture references.

### Bible Lesson

Ask your child if they remember going on a road trip. Did you use a map or GPS? Did you get lost? Have your child tell a story about a time they have not followed directions and have gotten lost or have had to do something to correct mistakes.

Last week, we studied about a man named Philip. **How did God use Philip?** (God told Philip to speak to an Ethiopian man, a complete stranger.) **Did Philip obey God?** (Yes, he did exactly what God told him to do.) **What did Philip tell the Ethiopian?** (Philip helped him understand what the Bible said about Jesus.) **He shared the good news of the gospel, and the Ethiopian man came to faith and was baptized. God wants to use us to spread his kingdom. We can share our faith with others and help others come to know Jesus.**

Can you remember a few weeks ago when we talked about Stephen? What happened to him, and why? (Allow responses.) **He was stoned to death for telling others about Jesus. Can you remember who was present, watching Stephen be stoned by the leaders of the High Council? (See Acts 8:3) Saul was there. He wanted Stephen to be killed because he was a follower of Christ. Saul persecuted people who believed in Jesus**

**by putting them in jail. He made Christians suffer.**

**Today, we are going to read more about Saul. Let's begin in Acts 9 [NLT].**

### Acts 9:1-2

*<sup>1</sup> Meanwhile, Saul was uttering threats with every breath and was eager to kill the Lord's followers. So he went to the high priest. <sup>2</sup> He requested letters addressed to the synagogues in Damascus, asking for their cooperation in the arrest of any followers of the Way he found there. He wanted to bring them—both men and women—back to Jerusalem in chains.*

**Saul believes in God. He follows Moses' commands, but he does not believe that Jesus is the Son of God. He thinks his beliefs are right. His plan is to persecute the people who believe in and follow Jesus. This is the direction he has chosen for his life. We can be like Saul in thinking we know the best way to live our life. When we choose to live life our own way—like Saul did—it can ruin our life and others' lives.**

**Sometimes we want to follow our own plan for our life, or we think the world can show us how to live our life. We think we know what is best for ourselves, but we end up empty. Our plan is not the best way. God has a better plan for us and desires for us to follow him. He knows what is right for us because he created us. God can and will change the direction of our lives.**

**Let's keep reading to see what happens to Saul.**

### Acts 9:3-9

*<sup>3</sup> As he was approaching Damascus on this mission, a light from heaven suddenly shone down around him. <sup>4</sup> He fell to the ground and*

*heard a voice saying to him, "Saul! Saul! Why are you persecuting me?"<sup>5</sup> "Who are you, lord?" Saul asked. And the voice replied, "I am Jesus, the one you are persecuting!"<sup>6</sup> Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."<sup>7</sup> The men with Saul stood speechless, for they heard the sound of someone's voice but saw no one!<sup>8</sup> Saul picked himself up off the ground, but when he opened his eyes he was blind. So his companions led him by the hand to Damascus.<sup>9</sup> He remained there blind for three days and did not eat or drink.*

**Jesus appears to Saul, blinding him, and gives him clear directions. What do you think is going through Saul's mind during this time? (Allow responses.) How does the Lord respond when Saul asks, "Who are you, Lord?" (Allow responses.)**

**Let's continue to see how Saul responds to his blindness. Your family can act out this part of the story using the Acts 9 passage found on the [GCK Resource page](#). One person can be Saul, two can be the people with Saul, and one can be Ananias. A parent can narrate and be the voice of the Lord. You can use a blindfold on Saul to "blind" him if you would like.**

**God speaks to Saul and blinds him with a bright light. For the three days he is blind, Saul fasts and prays. After he understands who Jesus is, Saul chooses to believe in Jesus and trusts him with his life. God sends Ananias to place his hands on Saul because God has a plan for Saul. He has a specific purpose for Saul's life. God also has a purpose for each one of us. God reveals himself to Saul in a dramatic way on the road to Damascus. After Saul's encounter with a Holy God, he recognizes that he is a sinner. He needs Christ to save him. His blindness makes him dependent on God. Saul repents. His life changes. God dramatically changes the direction of Saul's life.**

**God intervenes in our lives as well. When we put our faith in Jesus as Savior, we have the Holy Spirit living inside us. Through the Holy Spirit, God makes himself known to us and changes the direction of our lives because he has a plan for each one of us. He wants us to know him and depend on him. We can trust him with all of our heart and worship him daily.**

Read each character statement and decide if it is Stephen or Saul.

- **Full of faith and the Holy Spirit.**
- **Looked for followers of Jesus to put them in prison.**
- **Full of God's grace and power.**
- **Chosen by the twelve apostles.**
- **Taught that Jesus is the Son of God after being blinded for three days.**
- **Encountered Jesus through a blinding light.**
- **Performed great wonders and miraculous signs.**
- **Persecuted the early church.**

After this is done, talk through Stephen and Saul's responses to their experiences with Jesus. Ask your child how they have experienced Jesus in their life. How can they respond to what he has done in their life?

**Stephen and Saul saw God in two different ways. Stephen participated in the early church and probably heard about Jesus through the apostles. Saul persecuted the early church. He encountered Jesus through a blinding light on a road. Their experiences were different, but both chose to believe and trust in Jesus. They responded by worshiping him as they lived their lives. God changed their hearts, and they became new people because their sins were forgiven.**

**God changes the direction of our lives. He loves us and desires for us to love him and worship him. He wants us to turn away from our sin and trust in him. We can come to know God through reading his Word, the Bible. The Bible teaches**

us to trust Christ with our lives. Stephen and Saul both chose to follow him, and both men suffered a great deal. We also have a choice to follow him. We can put our belief and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Our lives will not always be easy, but we can know that Jesus loves us and he has an amazing purpose and plan for our lives. We can have hope in living forever with him. God created us and loves us. We can trust our good and loving God.

## Prayer

Spend a few minutes in prayer to close your family time. Thank God for loving us and sending his Son to die for us. Ask him to help us trust in his plan and to help us live in a way that glorifies his name.

## Activity

“God Wants Your Heart and Your Passion” -the purpose of this activity is to examine how God desires our heart and passion and for your child to examine how God has changed the direction in their life.

### Supplies:

Worksheet – “Wanted” (found on [GCK Resource Page](#))

On the “Wanted” poster, have your child draw a self-portrait. As they draw, talk to them about how much God loves them and wants them to trust in him with all of their heart.

Do you feel wanted by God? Do you see his desire for your love? (Allow responses.) God created us. He loves us so much that he sent his own son to die for us even as we rejected him. God desires for our hearts to be centered on him. Saul was a sinner, just like we are sinners. He killed and persecuted people who believed in Jesus. What if someone hurt your parents or other people that you love? (Allow responses.) You would probably be upset at that person. Saul was killing people that Jesus loved, yet Jesus loved Saul and wanted Saul to believe in him. He forgave Saul of his sins. God loves us as well, even though we are sinners. He loves us so much that he wants to change the direction of our lives. He wants us to pursue him with our whole heart and mind. He wants us to follow him. He wants you!

