Saul's conversion

This week, you will need...

- Card or a paper plate
- Colouring pens
- Scissors
- A stick
- Paper
- Dressing-up clothes
- A stopwatch (maybe on a smartphone)

What's in the Box?

See if you can guess what we are doing today from these pictures...

Photos: swift, Stacy Brumley, Guido Rooks (freeimages.com)

What's happening today?

Last time, we learnt more about how the Holy Spirit helps the good news about Jesus spread to new people. This week, we will learn about a most unlikely convert to Christianity...

Bible Time

In today's true story from the Bible, we will learn that Jesus can change anyone's heart, no matter what they have done wrong.

The story can be found in **Acts 9: 1-22**. You can read it from a Bible or find it here on **BibleGateway.com.**

You could act it out as a drama, or maybe draw two people (stick people even!) to illustrate the differences in Saul before and after his conversion.

You may also like to watch **this video on YouTube** that tells the story.

Explore

The questions are split by age groups – although you might want to answer them all!

Climbers Who did Saul not like?

Explorers How did Saul change, and who brought about the changes in him?

Pathfinders
If Jesus changes us to be more like him, what will we eventually be like? What kind of characteristics will we have?

Everyone Of all the people in the world, why did God choose Saul to change?

Explorers & Pathfinders – there is a worksheet for you with more questions on page 4.

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Reflection

Here are some questions to ponder now, and throughout the week. Could you write them on sticky notes, and put them up around the house?

- How has Jesus changed you?
- Can you think of someone whose heart you would like Jesus to change?
- What stops you from talking to that person about Jesus? Can you think of anything in your life that might be holding back Jesus' power?

Prayer

Draw a heart on a piece of paper and write the wold **HEART** in the middle. Use the following to help you pray:

H **Hope** – thank God for the hope we have when we follow Jesus.

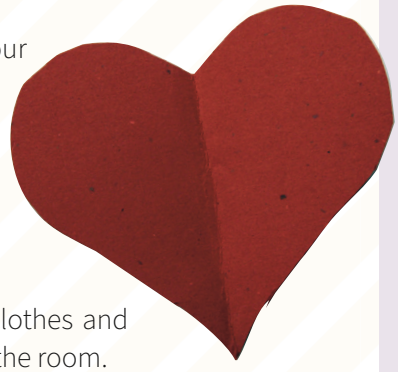
E **Everyone** – anyone's heart can be changed. You may want to think of people you know here.

A **Act** – ask God to give you words and opportunities to share the gospel.

R **Repent** – ask for forgiveness for the times we live our own way.

T **Trust** – ask God to help you and others you know to trust in Jesus.

You might want to make your hands into a heart shape whilst you are praying.



Games

All change!

Place some dressing-up clothes and accessories at one end of the room.

When you shout "GO!", everyone races to dress up.

When you shout "ALL CHANGE!", everyone has to swap dressing-up clothes as quickly as possible.

Can you do it in 30 seconds or less? Use a stopwatch and try to beat your best time!

Remember! Saul was actually changed from the inside (unlike in this game!) when he trusted Jesus, and God changed his heart.

Changing direction

Run around the room (or outside) in one direction only. When someone shouts "all change!", everyone must change direction – taking care not to bump into anyone!

Today's passage has helped me see some:

- ☐ **Sin** I need to turn from
- ☐ **Promises** I can trust in
- ☐ **Examples** I can follow
- ☐ **Commands** I need to obey
- ☐ **Surprises** – things that surprised me or things I didn't understand

Activity

Changing faces

Cut out a circle from cardboard (or use a paper plate). Draw a face on both sides – make or draw an angry (or sad) face on one side, and make a happy face on the other side. If you like, draw open eyes on the happy face and closed eyes on the angry/sad face – or cut out eye holes so you can use your own eyes to show Saul before and after he encountered Jesus!

Add a stick to the mask so it's easy to flip between the two sides (although once you switch to the happy side, there's really no reason to switch back!)...

Songs

See if you can make up some actions, or learn some Makaton or British Sign Language words to worship along with your family! Click the title to view these songs on YouTube.

My Lighthouse Rend Collective
(Makaton version performed by Jamie Gillham & Gemma, Thea and Hope)

It's a New New Day Awesome Cutlery

Not Ashamed Sean W Smith

Brand New Day Big Ministries

Hope Allstars Kids Club
(Simon Parry, Sarah Parry & Pete Sheath)

Photo: djean911 (freeimages.com

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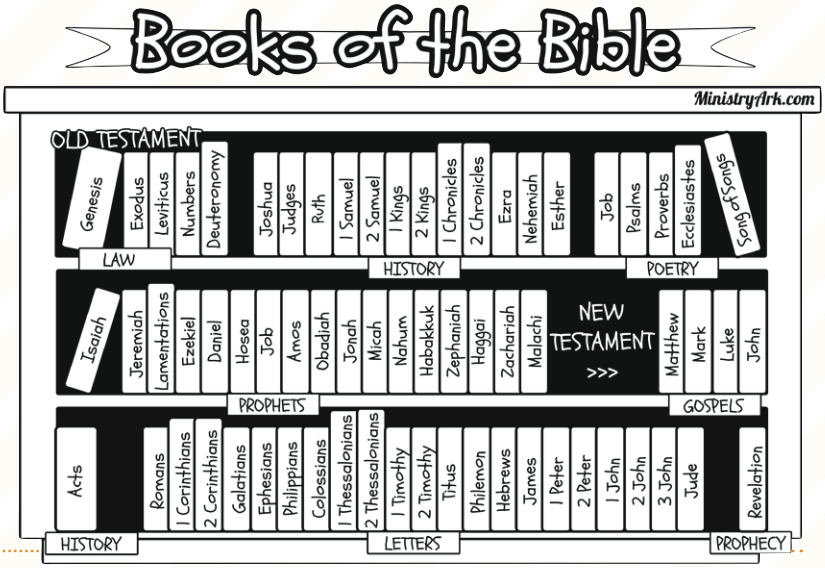
Challenge

Why not use this time at home to learn the books of the Bible? How are you doing so far?



Which book of the Bible are we looking at this week?

♫ *Books of the Bible* North Point Kids ♫

(click to view the song on Youtube!)

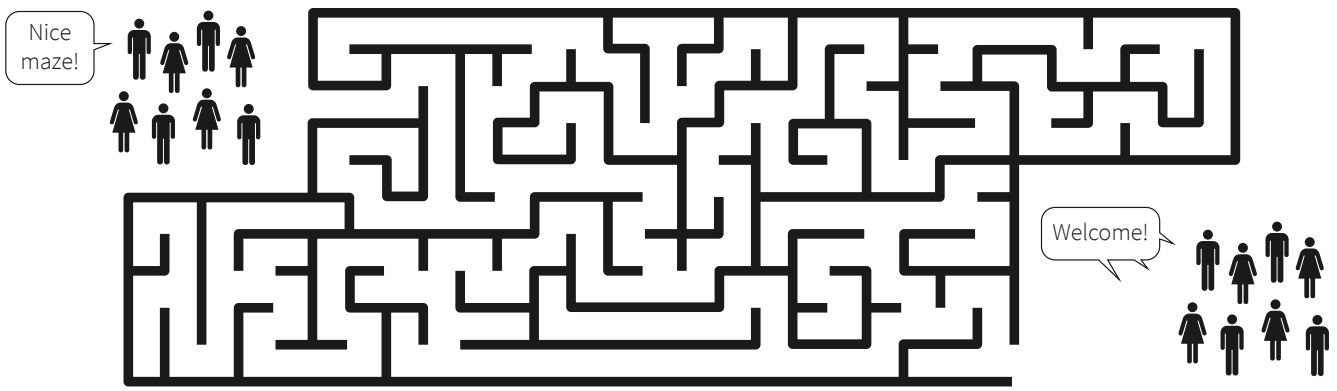
Mini Challenges

Draw pictures of **five of your friends** and **pray for each one of them**, that they might one day want to come to church and find out more about God.

Pray too that you'll **be bold** talking to them!

Write your friends' names here too.

Can you guide your friends to church through the maze?



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Mission Unstoppable – Week 6
Worksheet D

Saul's Conversion

This true story can be found in Acts 9:1-22

Discover

What had Saul been planning to do? (9:1-2) _____

What happened to Saul as he was going to Damascus?

- He saw _____ (9:3)
- He heard _____ (9:4)
- He met and spoke with _____ (9:5)

Think Spot

In verse 5 Jesus says that Saul is persecuting him. In what way is Saul's persecution of Jesus' friends, a persecution of Jesus?

Why was Ananias nervous about going to see Saul? (9:13-14)

_____

What did Saul do after he regained his sight?

1. He was _____ (9:18)
2. Spent time with other _____ (9:19)
3. Preached that _____ is the Son of _____ (9:20)

Why were all the people so amazed in verse 21? _____

How was Saul different now?

Draw/List the changes in the boxes below:

Old Saul	New Saul

Discuss

People were surprised by how Saul had changed because they knew his past? Are there people you know who you think could never become Christians? What can we learn from Saul's conversion about this?

How does this true story
- comfort you when you are persecuted for trusting in Jesus?
- help you to know what to pray for those who persecute Christians?

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