

Week of November 22

Bible Story: Paul's Great Escape (Acts 9: 19-31)

BIG Idea: The Holy Spirit gives us the power to boldly tell others about the good news of Jesus.

Bible Story Video: https://youtu.be/E_IsmzsFU5Y

THE BIG BIBLE STORY

Now that Paul knew who Jesus was, he couldn't help himself—he had to tell everyone in Damascus who would listen. He would run to one place and tell everyone, "Jesus is the Son of God!" (*Prompt your child to run to one side of the room and yell, "Jesus is the Son of God!" back and forth a few times.*) Then he would run to another place and tell everyone, "Jesus is the Son of God!" (*Prompt again.*) Then he would run to a third place and shout, "Jesus is the Son of God!" (*Prompt again.*) Everyone who heard Paul was amazed. They couldn't believe that Paul was the same guy who had once arrested and killed people for following Jesus.

Not everyone was so amazed, though. The Jewish leaders didn't believe that Jesus was the Son of God and didn't like what Paul was saying. So they came up with an evil plan. The town of Damascus was surrounded by a tall wall. The Jewish leaders snuck along the wall and hid near the city gates. They watched the gates day and night, waiting for Paul to walk through one of them so they could jump out and grab him. Their evil plan was to have Paul killed for telling people about Jesus. Let's do our best maniacal laughter together—muahahaha. (*Lead your child in a few rounds of "maniacal laughter."*)

Fortunately, Paul found out about the plan ahead of time. He knew he had to get out of Damascus before he got caught, but how? The town was surrounded by a wall. The only way out was through the city gates and they were being watched. In the dark of the night, Paul's friends took him to the top of the wall. They tied ropes to a big basket, placed Paul inside, and carefully lowered him to the ground on the other side of the wall.

You might think that almost being killed would discourage Paul from telling more people about Jesus, but no way, uh-uh, not Paul! As soon as he escaped Damascus, he headed straight for Jerusalem. When he got there, the believers in Jerusalem freaked out. Show me your best freak-out face. (*Make face with your child.*) That's probably what the believers looked like. They thought Paul was there to arrest and kill them. They hadn't heard how his life had been changed by Jesus. Thankfully, Paul had a friend who was able to help.

Have your child open in their Bible to Acts 9:27. Assist as needed. When they have found it, have them read it aloud, or do it yourself. The verses say, "But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. He told them how Saul on his journey had seen the Lord and that the Lord had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had preached fearlessly in the name of Jesus."

(Close Bible.) The believers trusted Barnabas, so they let Paul stay with them. The Holy Spirit continued to encourage Paul and fill him with the courage and power to boldly tell others about Jesus. And because of that, the number of believers who loved and followed Jesus grew more and more.

BIG BIBLE STORY QUESTIONS

- What do you think this story teaches us about God?
- Why do you think Paul was willing to risk his life to tell others about Jesus?

BIG BIBLE STORY ACTIVITIES

Journal: Write down the name of someone you would like to tell about Jesus. Write down what you would say to them.

Art: Think of someone who doesn't go to church or know about Jesus. Draw a picture of yourself telling that person about Jesus.