

## Forgiving others

You can do this session with your children any time you like. The story is taken from Acts 9:1-19. If you want to read it online just go to this link: <https://www.biblegateway.com> and type the passage in the search engine.

### Start

Have you ever been caught doing something you knew was wrong? How did you feel?

**In our story today, we see someone who did lots of things wrong, but Jesus forgave them and gave them a special job to do.**

### Bible story

Jesus' friends were very busy going around and telling lots of people about him. Many people decided they would become Jesus' friend too and follow him. But not everyone was happy about this. Some people tried to stop Jesus' friends from talking about him. One of these people was a man called, Saul. Saul was one of Israel's teachers and he knew the stories about how God had given his people, the Israelites the special land they had and all the promises God had made to them. But Saul didn't believe that Jesus was really God's special king. So one day, Saul went to the head priest in charge of all the teachers in Israel and asked him for some special permission. Saul knew that Jesus' friends were now not just in Jerusalem. They had spread out and gone to different places. So Saul asked for permission to go to a place called Damascus so he could find any friends of Jesus and punish them. The head priest gave Saul permission and so Saul left on a journey with some other people to go there. On they way, something amazing was going to happen...

As Saul came near Damascus, suddenly a bright light flashed in his eyes and he fell over. Saul couldn't see because of the light. Then he heard a voice. It said, "Saul, Saul. Why are you hurting me so much?" Saul asked, "Who are you?" The voice said, "I am Jesus, the person you are hurting so much. Stand up and go into Damascus, I will show you what I want you to do." Saul stood up and the people with him had to guide him into the city because he couldn't see. He stayed in a house for 3 days, and couldn't see anything.

Meanwhile, there was a man called Ananias who lived in Damascus and was one of Jesus' friends. Jesus went to see him and called his name. "I'm listening Jesus," Ananias replied. Jesus said, "I want you to go and see a man called Saul. He's staying in a house and can't see. I will give you the power to heal his eyes." Ananias felt scared. He told Jesus he knew all about Saul and how he had hurt Jesus' friends, but Jesus said, "Don't be frightened, I have a special job for Saul, he won't hurt us anymore." So Ananias went to see Saul. He placed his hands on him and said, "Brother Saul, Jesus has sent me to heal your eyes." Saul was now able to see again and he was given the Holy Spirit which is Jesus with us in our hearts to guide us. Saul felt very happy to be

able to see again. Now his adventure was just beginning, because Jesus was going to send Saul to lots of different places to tell people about him.

**How do you think Saul felt when he met Jesus?**

**Do you think Ananias was brave to do what he did?**

### **What to do next**

Below are some suggestions:

- You could chat about your favourite part of the story.
- You could re-create the story with lego/plasticine.
- You could act out the story.

You could pray together. Below are some ideas for prayer:

- Thank Jesus that he always loves us and forgives us when we are sorry.
- Think of anyone who upsets you. Ask Jesus to help you be like Ananias was in this story, always ready to do the right thing even if it's to someone who we don't like.
- Think of any people you know who are upset with each other. Ask Jesus to help them be kind to each other.



Saul met Jesus on his way to Damascus in a blinding light.



Jesus sent Ananias to visit Saul so he could see again and have Jesus' special gift of the Holy Spirit which is Jesus with us in our hearts.

# WORD SEARCH

PEWJFBWJEFVEFVJFVJFVJVRGJGVRJLVRJVGJVVWGJLVJVJVJVVJVLV  
AWEFJEFBVJHVEFJFVJVVCYCKBRHEBGKJERBIRGBKLBIRGWLJEHBF  
UJWJHBHBJLHBJHBJHBJLBJLBJVJVLINDJEFBJRBJRBGLBLJBLJBP  
LJBHBJHBJLBJLJBLJBLJBJKJKERGBKJRGBKJGBKJBKBJPJJNRKJBRG  
LJBHBJHBJLBJLJBLJBLJBJKJKERGBKJRGBKJGBKJBKBJPJJNRKJBRG  
LJBHBJHBJLBJLJBLJBLJBLJBJKJKERGBKJRGLEADERJBJBJBBBLJBBLBLBP  
UJWJHBHBJLHBJHBJHBJLBJLBJVJVPJURPJEFBJRBJRBGLBLJBLJBP  
KSNKJWEFNKJWRNKJPWRNKJPRISONKBJHBJBBBEWBPKWEFJKEW  
BEFJLBEWFLBBJLEKBJRBGJRGBJHBWJEFBJRBGJRBGJHBBJLJBLJHB  
BEFJLBEWFLBBJLEKBJRBGJRGBJHBWJEFBJRBGJRBGJHBBJLJBLJHB  
WEKFBWFEFBJHBGRKBLIGHTJEWBFJRBGJRBGJBJLBGRLJBRGJLBGP  
BEFJLBEWFLBBJLEKBJRBGJRGBJHBWJEFBJRBGJRBGJHBBJLJBLJHB  
WKEFWJEFBJRBGJHRFRIENDERBRGBJHRBGJRGBJRBGLJBHJBLBOP  
BEFJLBEWFLBBJLEKBJRBGJRGBJHBWJEFBJRBGJRBGJHBBJLJBLJHB  
BEFJLBEWFLBBJLEKBJRBGJRGBJHBWJEFBJRBGJRBGJHBBJLJBLJHB  
WEKFBFJRBBGRJLGROADBVKJRBGKRBBGRBGRKRKEKJRGKJRPOIP  
BEFJLBEWFLBBJLEKBJRBGJRGBJHBWJEFBJRBGJRBGJHBBJLJBLJHB  
JESUSKBJHBBJRBBRGKKBGKJBRGKPBKGPRJDAMASCUSKKBKJBJBBLB

PAUL  
LIGHT  
ROAD

JESUS  
BLIND  
LEADER

DAMASCUS  
FRIEND  
PRISON