

Now I See!

Acts 9:10-19; The Acts of the Apostles, pp. 115-122

I *magine not being able to see anything. Everything is dark. You only know it is day or night by what other people tell you. For three days Saul could not see anything. Read on to find out what happened at the end of the third day.*

Saul sat quietly in Judas's house. He did not look at all fearsome or masterful. He was not the take-charge person he had been only three days ago. He sat quietly, his head bowed. He spent all of his time praying.

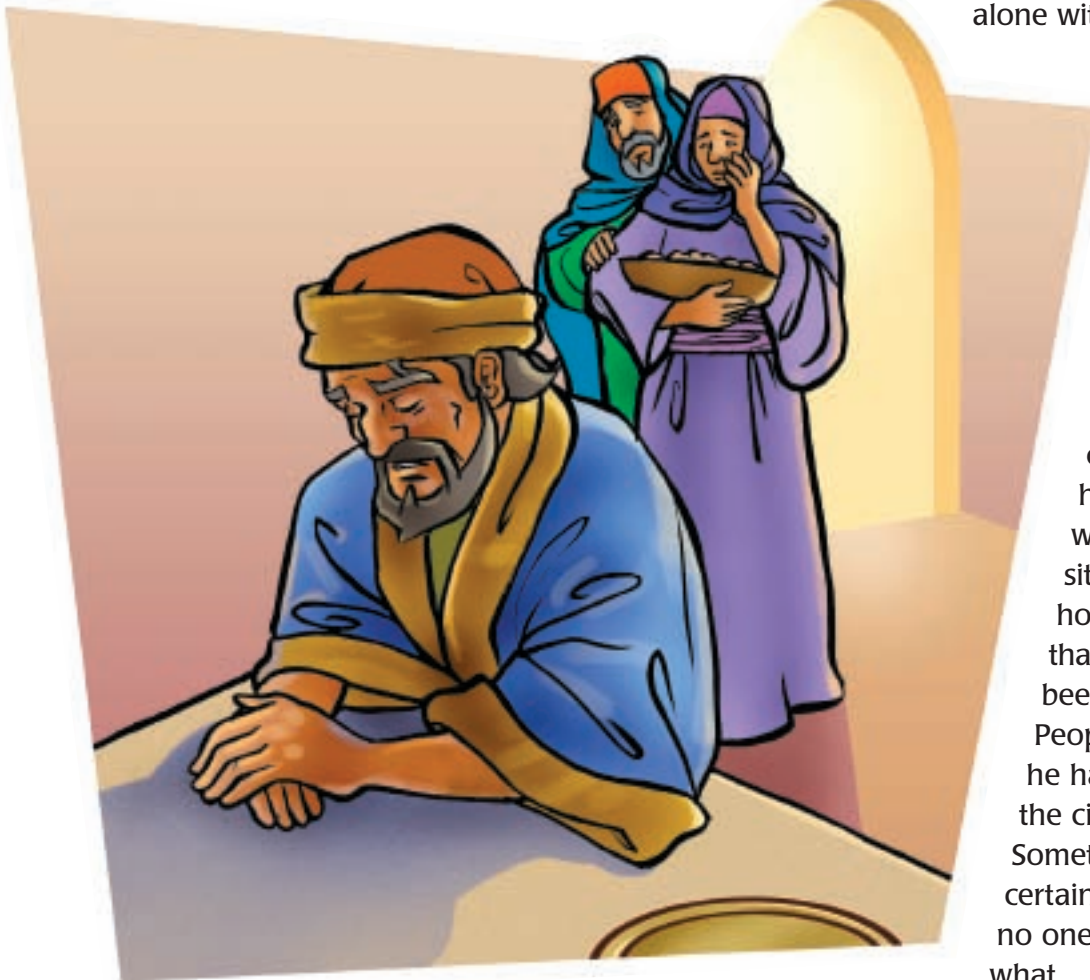
There was so much to pray for! Saul had certainly prayed for forgiveness. He was horrified when he thought of the Christians he had persecuted! And he had also thanked and praised the Lord again and again for his salvation. The memory of actually seeing Jesus on the road to Damascus still thrilled him. He lived the moment over and over in his mind.

Judas and his family offered Saul food to eat, but he would not take it. He would not even take anything to drink.

Finally, they just left him alone with his thoughts.

The news spread quickly through Damascus. Saul had arrived! Saul, the mighty hunter of Christians! The believers had heard he was coming, and now he was here. But it was said he was sitting in Judas's house. Rumor had it that he had somehow been struck blind.

People learned that he had been led into the city like a child! Something strange had certainly occurred! But no one was quite sure what.



The Message

God's love changes people.

Memory Verse

“This man is my chosen instrument”

(Act 9:15, NIV).

Three days had gone by since Saul's encounter with the Lord. Then Ananias, a follower of Jesus, had a vision. The Lord appeared to him and said, "Get up and go to the street called Straight. Find the house of Judas. Ask for a man named Saul who is from the city of Tarsus. He is there now, praying. Saul is blind. He has seen a vision, a dream. He has seen a man named Ananias who will come to him. Ananias will lay his hands on Saul. Then he will see again."

Ananias was understandably nervous. "Lord," he answered, "many people have told me about this man. He has done terrible things to Your people in Jerusalem. Now he has come here to Damascus. The leading priests have given him the power to arrest everyone who worships You!"

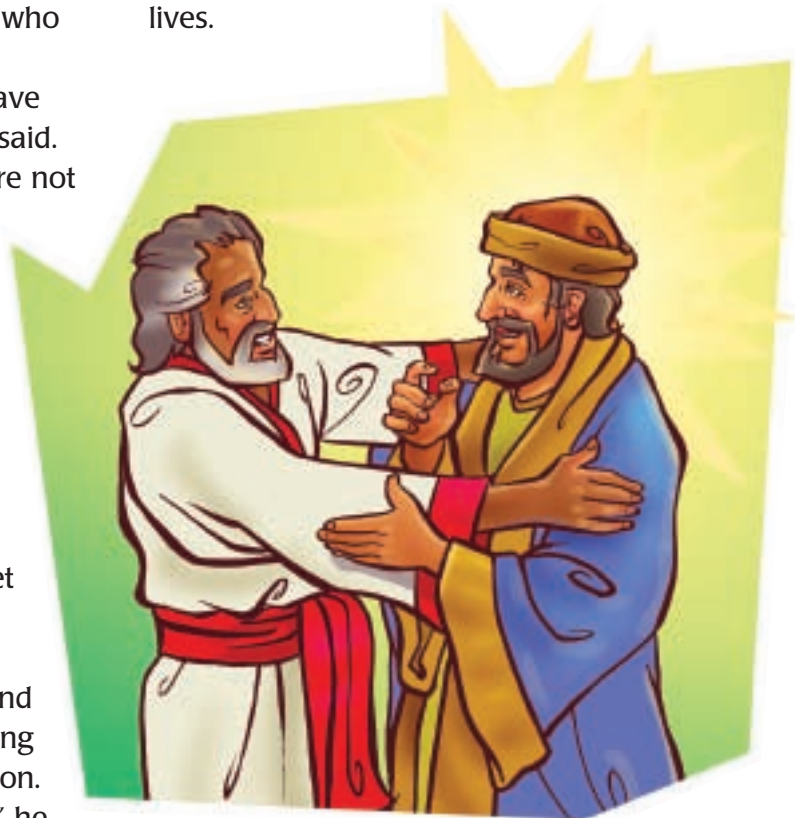
The Lord reassured Ananias. "Go! I have chosen Saul for an important work," He said. "He must tell about Me to people who are not Jews, to kings, and to the people of Israel."

Ananias obeyed the Lord. Slowly he walked down Straight Street. He looked up at the clouds and around at the busy neighborhood. Everything looked quite normal. Ananias shook his head. Everything was really far from normal. He had just had a vision from the Lord! And he was on his way to meet the dreaded Saul, whom the Lord said was now a believer!

Ananias found Judas's house. He found Saul sitting quietly and without sight, waiting for him. Ananias was filled with compassion. He laid his hands on Saul. "Brother Saul," he

said, "the Lord Jesus sent me. He is the One you saw on the road on your way here. He sent me so you can see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit."

Immediately something that felt like scales fell from Saul's eyes. He could see again! And Saul asked to be baptized at once. He did not even take time to eat or drink. Yes, God had called Saul. And he called Ananias too. They would both serve the Lord for the rest of their lives.



S A B B A T H

DO Plan to go for a walk this afternoon with your family. Imagine you are Ananias walking to where Saul is staying. How would you walk? Then imagine you are walking to meet Jesus. How would you walk? What made the difference?

PRAY Thank God that Jesus is coming soon.

S U N D A Y

READ With your family read and discuss Acts 9:10-19. What lesson can your family learn from these texts?

DO Draw six different lights. Write one word of your memory verse on each light. Cut out the lights and mix them up. Then put the words in the right order. Use this to teach the verse to your family. Ask God to make you an instrument of light to tell others of His grace.

DO Try this when in the dark. Turn out the lights and get dressed or undressed. How easy is it to put things away or find them?

M O N D A Y

READ Read and discuss Acts 22:11-21 during worship. What is the most important point in these verses? Put on a blindfold. Ask someone to hand you three different objects. Can you guess what they are?

DO Find out about the Braille alphabet for the blind. Using a Braille dictionary, a pin, and thick paper, try to "write" your name. Can you read it with your fingers?

PRAY Thank God for the wonderful things you can see.

Damascus is probably one of the oldest cities in the world. There may have been 30 or 40 synagogues there during Saul's time.



T U E S D A Y

READ Read 1 Peter 2:9 during family worship. What does it mean to be called into the light? Give everyone a candle and turn out the lights. Have Mom or Dad strike a match and light their candle. Look at the amount of light. Light each person's candle in turn. What difference does each make? Turn on the main light. How does this compare with the candles? How is this activity like spreading God's love?

SING Sing "This Little Light of Mine" (Sing for Joy, No. 134) before prayer.

W E D N E S D A Y

READ With your family, read Mark 4:21, 22. Light a candle and cover it completely with a jar. Let the candle burn and see what happens. How is the candle in the jar like people who do not share the gospel?

DO Review your memory verse before prayer.

ASK Ask your Mom if you can make some "traffic light cookies." Cover baked round cookies with green, yellow, or red icing.

THURSDAY

READ

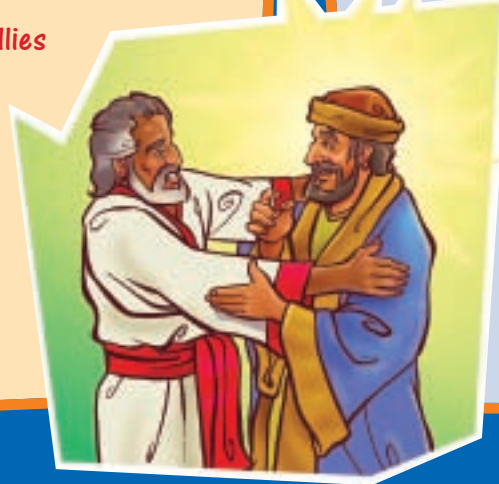
Read your lesson with your family during worship. Ananias was afraid to go to Saul, but he went. Why? Read a promise God makes to everyone in Joshua 1:9.

ASK

Sometimes we meet bullies in school. Talk about it during worship and think of a plan to deal with bullies. Ask two people how they have dealt with bullies.

PRAY

Pray for someone you know who is having a hard time.



FRIDAY

READ

During worship, read and discuss Acts 9:10-19 again. Act out the lesson story.

What important lesson have you and your family learned from these verses? Say your memory verse together. Are you one of God's chosen instruments? How can that be?

SING

Sing some favorite songs, then thank God for the gift of His Word, the Bible. Thank Him for the Sabbath too.

Now I See!

PUZZLE

Directions: The following sentence is missing the vowels in each word. Place a vowel from the list in red letters below to find the message of this week's lesson. Hint: a vowel can be used more than once or not at all.

a e i o u

G_d's l_v_ _s l_k_ _
l_ght _n d_rkn_ss