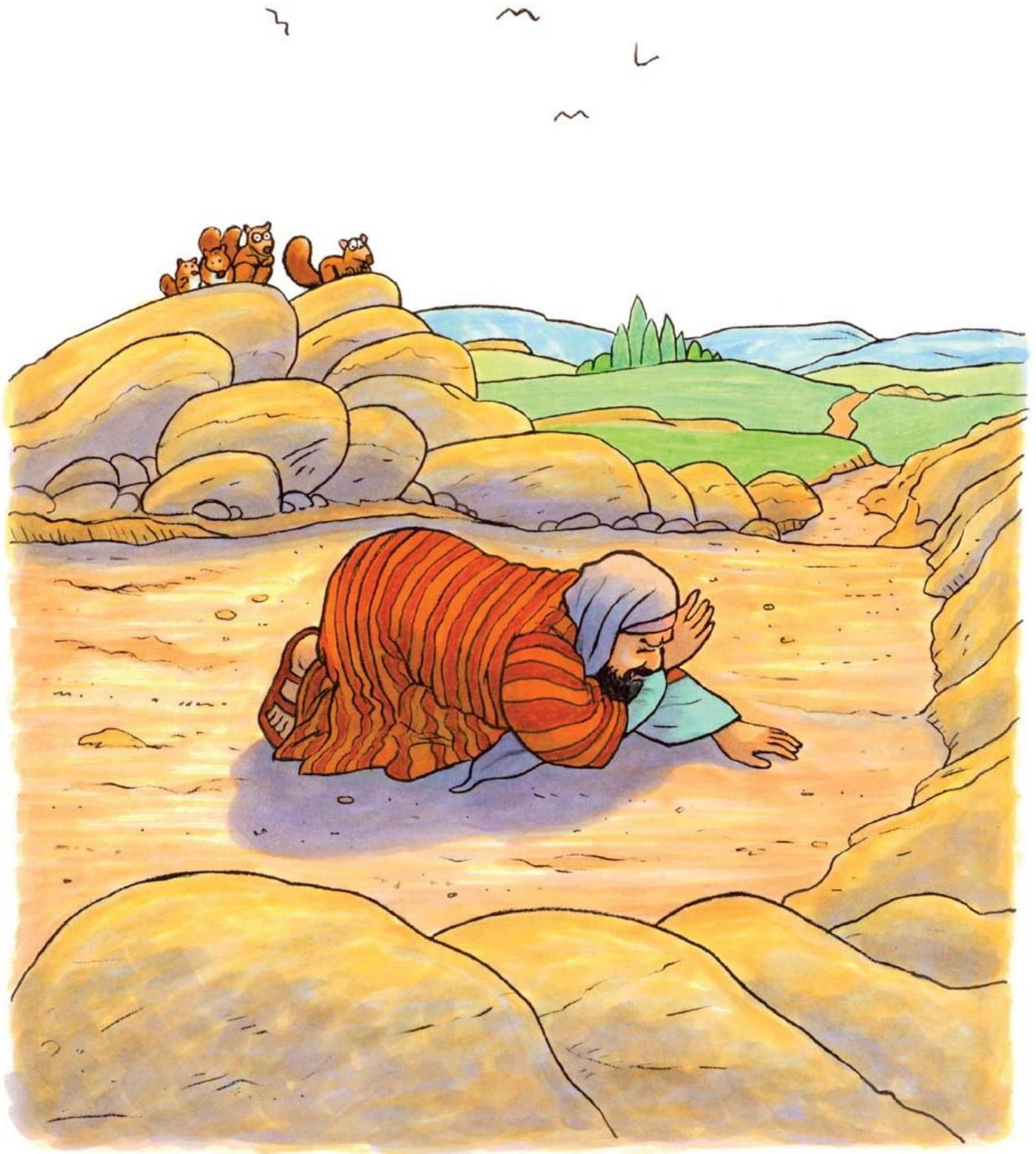


THE CONVERSION OF SAUL

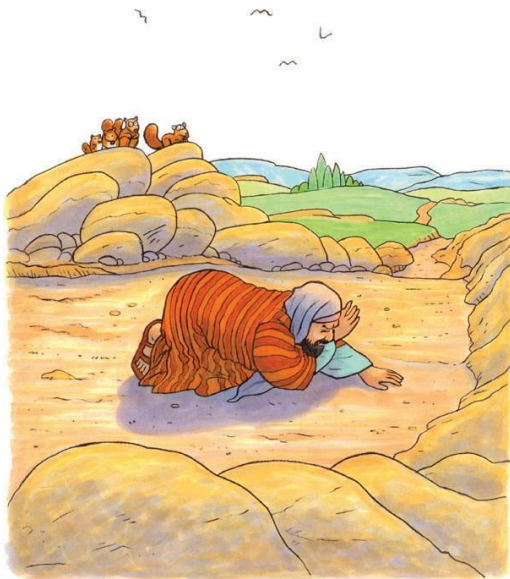
Acts 9:1–20



Contents

Message	God can help us to change our mind and to do the right thing.
Learning Objectives	The children will learn: <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Jesus appeared to Saul to change his heart and prepare him to be a great Apostle.■ Saul changed from a persecutor to a great missionary.■ With the Holy Spirit, God will guide us to do the right thing throughout our lives and further His work.
Bible Text	Acts 9:1–20

The Conversion of Saul



Saul threatened and attacked Jesus' disciples. One day, he went to the high priest and asked him for the authority to arrest the followers of the new religion in the synagogues in Damascus and bring them as prisoners back to Jerusalem.

Saul started out on his journey. As he approached Damascus he was suddenly surrounded by a light from heaven. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?"

Saul asked, "Who are You?"

Jesus replied, "I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. Stand up and go into the city. Someone there will tell you what you have to do." The men who were with Saul were speechless.

They could hear a voice, but could not see anyone. Saul got up. When he opened his eyes, he could not see anything. He was blind. The men took him by the hand and guided him to Damascus. For three days, Saul could not see anything at all. He did not eat or drink.

In Damascus, there was a disciple named Ananias. Jesus appeared to him and said, "Ananias!" Ananias, replied, "Here I am, Lord."

Jesus said, "Arise and go to the street called Straight and ask at the house of Judas for a man called Saul of Tarsus. There you will find him praying. In a vision, he saw that you will come to him and lay your hands on him so that he may see again."

Ananias replied, "Lord, I have heard a lot about this man. He has done many bad things to your followers in Jerusalem. He has also been given authority by the high priest to take as prisoner anyone in Damascus who calls on Your name." Jesus said to him, "Go and do as I say. I have chosen Saul to work with Me. He will tell the heathens and kings, as well as the people of Israel about Me. I will show him all he must go through for My name's sake."

Ananias went to the house, laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul. Jesus, who appeared to you on the road to Damascus, has sent me so that you can see again and can receive the Holy Spirit." Something like scales fell from Saul's eyes and from that moment on Saul could see again.

He stood up and was baptised. He started to eat again. A few days later, he began to tell everyone about Jesus.

The Conversion of Saul

Suggestions for the Teacher

Lead-In

Show the picture to the children. Discuss with them what they see. Ask what she/he may feel....

Explain the transformation of a caterpillar to a butterfly.

Ask the children, what is different about a caterpillar and a butterfly. (A caterpillar crawls on ground, is dirty, a butterfly flies, and is colourful, ...)



Lesson Instructions

Begin telling the story...

Discuss with the children...

- Who is speaking to Saul? (Jesus. He says: "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?")
- What happens to Saul afterwards? (He is blind. His fellowmen take him to Damascus.)
- Why do Ananias' feelings toward Saul change? (Jesus appears to him and explains everything.)

Have the children repeat...

- Jesus appeared to Saul to change his heart and to be a great Apostle.
- Saul changed from a persecutor to a great missionary.
- With the Holy Spirit, God guides us to do the right things throughout our lives.

Real-Life Application (explain the following)

- Jesus told Saul to stop what he was doing.
- Similarly, God moves our heart so that we make a change in our doing. (Collect examples.)

Repeat the Message
God can help us to change our mind
and to do the right thing.