

# Paul Escapes Over a City Wall in a Basket

Acts 9:20-31



New Testament 6  
Part 1: The Apostle Paul

## SUNDAY MORNING

New Testament 6 [Class Attendance Sheet](#) provided in activity sheets (NOTE: The document is interactive, allowing the teacher to type in the Class, Teacher, and the children's names.)

### SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

Acts 9:20-31; 2 Corinthians 11:32-33; Galatians 1:11-24

### MEMORY WORK:

“Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature” (Mark 16:15b).

### SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS (SEE END OF LESSON FOR WORDS):

A [song book](#) and [audio recordings](#) of many of the curriculum songs are available on the curriculum Web site.

- [“How Did Paul Escape?”](#)
- [“I Tell Everyone about Jesus”](#)
- [“I Can be a Missionary”](#)
- [“Into Our Hands”](#)

### LESSON VISUALS AND TEACHING AIDS (NOTE ANY DISCLAIMERS):

- See [AP's Pinterest page](#) for ideas on bulletin boards, visuals, crafts, etc. [DISCLAIMER: Pins may sometimes need to be adjusted to be Scriptural.]
- [Paul & the Fruit of the Spirit](#) Bible fact cards (provided under “N.T. 6 Bible Facts” on curriculum Web site)
- “Summary of the Bible” from [“Kids Prep”](#) CD by Jeff Miller
- Pictures/drawings from the books listed under 3rd-4th Grader Pre-Class Activities/Learning Centers
- Betty Lukens' felt pieces
- Life of Paul (Series 1) A Beka picture set (DISCLAIMER: use the cards, *not the lesson book*; note that only the apostles received the Holy Spirit baptism in Acts 2—skip card 1.2 or remove girl)
- [“Map of New Testament World”](#) (provided in map section of curriculum Web site)

### PERSONAL APPLICATION:

I can tell others about Jesus, like Saul (Paul) did.



## LESSON STARTS HERE

### INTRODUCTION: (YOUNGER CHILDREN)

Review last week's lesson.

After Saul became a Christian, he wanted to tell others about Jesus so they could become Christians, too. He traveled to different cities preaching about Jesus. Some Jews wanted to kill Saul, but he was very brave, and he kept on preaching.

### INTRODUCTION: (OLDER CHILDREN)

Review last week's lesson.

What does it mean to truly repent? (Stop doing the wrong behavior and start doing the right one; turn completely away from sin; make right the things you have done wrong; etc.) When Saul repented and became a Christian, he completely changed his life. Instead of trying to hurt Christians, he tried to bring people to Christ. Many people didn't believe he could change, and many people became angry that he was preaching about Christ. Some became so angry they wanted to hurt him.

### POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. After Saul of Tarsus became a Christian, his life was completely changed. He chose to use his energy and enthusiasm to tell others about Jesus, instead of trying to kill them for believing in Him. He spent some time in Damascus preaching and then went to Arabia (Galatians 1:15-18). He returned to Damascus "after many days" (Acts 9:23) to continue preaching.



**RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS:** See the article "[When Did Paul Go To Jerusalem?](#)" by Eric Lyons on the Apologetics Press Web site for a response to an alleged biblical discrepancy regarding the sequence of events surrounding Saul's conversion.

2. Some of the Christians there were still afraid of Saul; they were not sure if he had really changed or was just trying to trick them so he could put them in prison. His fame spread because of the powerful way he presented the Gospel (the good news about Jesus). He "**proved** that this Jesus is the Christ" (Acts 9:22). Because of his education and training, he was an expert in the Old Testament and knew how to use it to show that Jesus was the long-awaited Messiah (Philippians 3:5,6).



The Greek word for "**proved/proving**" means "to put all the pieces together to draw a conclusion."

3. Saul immediately began teaching in the synagogues and "increased all the more in strength" (Acts 9:22). He taught the same message, in much the same way as Stephen whom he watched being stoned. The Jews in Damascus who wanted to get rid of Christians now wanted to get rid of Saul. They began to plot a way to kill him (assassinate—not a legal execution); they

watched the city gates of Damascus night and day. Saul’s followers found out about the plan and lowered him over the city wall in a huge basket one night so that he could escape to Jerusalem.



**NOTE:** The practice of building homes into the city walls was common in both Old and New Testament times. Recall the spies that escaped from Jericho from Rahab’s house, which built into the city walls.

4. Saul went to Jerusalem, but the Christians there were afraid of him and did not trust him. So Barnabas (whose name means “Son of Encouragement”—Acts 4:36) took Saul to the apostles and described how Saul became a Christian. Saul gained their acceptance and began to teach boldly without fear throughout Jerusalem. He stayed with the apostle Peter for two weeks (Galatians 1:18).
5. The Jews in Jerusalem were afraid of Saul and wanted to kill him, but “the brethren” (the Christians) found out about the plot and sent him to Caesarea. God also warned Saul about the danger in a dream (Acts 22:17-21). From Caesarea, Saul went on to his hometown of Tarsus. He probably stayed there for four or five years, until Barnabas went after him to help with the work in Antioch, a Gentile city (Acts 11:19-26). Sometime later, **Saul** became known as **Paul** (Acts 13:9).

**NOTE:** “Saul” was a Hebrew name, and “Paul” was a Roman name.



Persecution against Christians subsided some, no doubt because Saul, the Great Persecutor himself, had been converted to Christ! In addition, the Jews had other problems. In A.D. 39, Emperor Caligula tried to put up an image of himself in the Temple for the Jews to worship.

6. Jesus wants us to teach others about Him, just as Saul (Paul) did. We can invite friends to come to Bible class and to worship with us. We can tell others the Good News about Jesus. We can help buy Bibles for people who don’t have them. We can pray for our missionaries. We can be good examples, too.

### PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—**BEFORE** CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

- Click here for complete [Activity Book](#).

#### Ages 2-5:

- “[Paul Escapes in a Basket Coloring Sheet](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- Help the children write/draw cards to invite family members and/or friends and neighbors to worship services/Bible class.
- Help the children to write/draw cards of thanks to your preachers, elders, deacons, and/or missionaries.
- Bring a large laundry basket to class. Let the children get into the basket and pretend to be Paul, being lowered down over the city wall. If the children aren’t frightened of the dark, turn the lights off, giving flashlights to the child in the basket and one to the teacher. The teacher with the flashlight can stand at the other end of the room at “Jerusalem,” encouraging “Paul” to get out of the basket and run to safety.
- “Paul Escapes” review game: Write “Paul Escapes” on top of a sheet of posterboard. Make or

find six to eight basket cutouts, and write review questions on them. Glue them to the poster board. Laminate the posterboard; then cut a slit in the top of each basket so you can slide a Paul cutout into each basket. Make or find a Bible character cutout that can be Paul. Make several copies (color them or copy them on colored paper), and write the answers on the backs or fronts of each “Paul.” Laminate these figures and cut them out. Give each child a Paul cutout; then read each question and help the children place the correct Paul figure (answer) into the matching basket. ([“Paul Cutouts”](#) and [“Basket Cutouts”](#) provided in activity sheets)

- Craft: On cardstock or construction paper, write or type the memory verse. Provide a line drawing of the world that the children can color. Provide enough girl and boy cutouts for each child to have the appropriate one. Let each child decorate his or her cutout to look like him/her. Help the children glue their “worlds” onto their papers and the cutout boy or girl onto the world. ([“World Cutout,”](#) [“Boy Cutouts,”](#) and [“Girl Cutouts”](#) provided in activity sheets)

### **1st-2nd Graders:**

- Provide cardstock or construction paper and other materials so that the children can make cards to invite family, friends, and neighbors to Bible class/worship.
- Provide cardstock or construction paper and other materials so that the children can make cards of thanks for the preachers, elders, deacons, and/or missionaries.
- Play Hangman with key words/phrases from this and previous lessons.
- “Bible Alphabet Soup”: Divide the class into small groups. Provide a set of plastic letters for each group. Ask the children a question about this or previous lessons in this unit. They must spell the answers with their letters.

#### **Sample questions:**

Who was the first Christian martyr (the first person killed for being a Christian)?

Who killed him?

Who was holding the coats of those who killed Stephen?

In what New Testament book do we read about the work of some of the apostles?

Who went to Damascus to arrest Christians?

Who tried to kill Saul in Damascus?

At first, the other Christians were \_\_\_ of Saul.

- “Life of Paul” egg carton game: In each cradle of an egg carton, put places where important events happened in Paul’s life. Write statements or questions describing what happened to Paul in each place on small scrolls or small cardboard disks. Students match each question to its correct answer by putting the scroll/disk in the correct cradle of the carton.
- “Paul Escapes” review game: Write “Paul Escapes” on top of a sheet of posterboard. Make or find six to eight basket cutouts, and write review questions on them. Glue them to the poster board. Laminate the posterboard; then cut a slit in the top of each basket so you can slide a Paul cutout into each basket. Make or find a Bible character cutout that can be Paul. Make several copies (color them or copy them on colored paper), and write the answers on the backs or fronts of each “Paul.” Laminate these figures and cut them out. Give each child a Paul cutout; then read each question and help the children place the correct Paul figure (answer) into the matching basket. ([“Paul Cutouts”](#) and [“Basket Cutouts”](#) provided in activity sheets)

### 3rd-4th Graders:

- Play Hangman with key words/phrases from this and previous lessons.
- “Bible Alphabet Soup”: Divide the class into small groups. Provide a set of plastic letters for each group. Ask the children a question about this or previous lessons in this unit. They must spell the answers with their letters.

#### Sample questions:

Who was the first Christian martyr (the first person killed for being a Christian)?

Who killed him?

Who was holding the coats of those who killed Stephen?

In what New Testament book do we read about the work of some of the apostles?

Who went to Damascus to arrest Christians?

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- Have the children read the following:
  - Galatians 1
  - *Paul’s Great Basket Caper*, by Larry Burgdorf, Arch books

### FINGERPLAYS:

#### “HOW DID PAUL ESCAPE?”

The walls of Damascus were very high, *(hold arms high)*

And very wide. *(spread arms wide)*

Paul’s friends let a big basket, *(make big circle with arms in front of you)*

Down, down, down, *(pretend to lower rope)*

With him inside! *(put fingers on one hand inside the other hand)*

### SONGS:

#### “I TELL EVERYONE ABOUT JESUS” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Unknown\*

(Tune: “Jesus Loves Me”)

Teach God's love to everyone.  
Tell them of His only Son.  
Tell them how He loves us so.  
For the Bible tells us so.

**“I CAN BE A MISSIONARY” ([Click to Hear](#))**

Author: Unknown\*

(Tune: “Battle Hymn of the Republic”)

I can go to North Dakota, I can go to Timbuktu,  
I can climb the highest mountain, I can cross the ocean blue.  
I can teach the Chinese people, I can teach the Indians, too.  
And save the souls of men.

CHORUS:

I can be a missionary. (3X)  
And save the souls of men.

**“INTO OUR HANDS” ([Click to Hear](#))**

Author: Lora Laycook

(Tune: “I Must Tell Jesus”)

Into our hands the gospel is given,  
We must be stewards of the great King.  
For all we have belongs to our Father,  
Of His great love we now want to sing.

CHORUS:

We must tell others, we must tell others,  
Of the great news of Jesus, our King;  
We must tell others, we must tell others,  
Jesus has died, salvation to bring.

\*Author Unknown: Please contact us through the feedback button for this lesson if you are aware of any copyright information for this song.

\*\*\* IF YOU HAVE SUGGESTIONS PERTAINING TO THIS LESSON, PLEASE CLICK THE “SUGGESTION” BUTTON BESIDE THE BUTTON FOR THIS LESSON ON THE CURRICULUM WEB SITE.



# Paul Escapes Over a City Wall

Acts 9:20-31



New Testament 6  
Part 1: The Apostle Paul

## WEDNESDAY EVENING

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### SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

Acts 9:20-31; 2 Corinthians 11:32-33; Galatians 1:11-24

### MEMORY WORK:

YOUNGER CHILDREN: "Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15b).

OLDER CHILDREN: "Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15b).

### SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS (SEE END OF SUNDAY'S LESSON FOR WORDS):

A [song book](#) and [audio recordings](#) of many of the curriculum songs are available on the curriculum Web site.

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## PERSONAL APPLICATION:

I can tell others about Jesus, like Saul (Paul) did.

## INTRODUCTION:

Review [N.T. 6 Bible Fact Flash Cards](#) (provided under “N.T. 6 Bible Facts” on curriculum Web site)

## POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

Review Sunday’s lesson (see [N.T. 6 Review Questions](#) for example questions)

AS AGE APPROPRIATE: Role-play talking with someone about Jesus and inviting them to worship service/Bible class. Challenge the students to tell someone about Jesus and/or invite someone to worship service/Bible class the next Sunday.

## PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—**BEFORE** CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

See Sunday morning’s lesson

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