



Leader's Guide: Saul sees the Light

To get the most out of your script, here are three things you can do:

1. Read the SCRIPT with as much drama as possible
2. Read the original STORY in your favorite Bible
3. DISCUSS the story



Good discussion requires preparation. This guide provides notes, questions, fun facts and illustrations to make your group discussion rich and enjoyable.

A word about questions: not all the discussion questions in this guide may be useful for your family or group. Pick and frame the questions to suit the ages of your members.

A word about illustrations: paintings and maps bring stories to life. You can use the links and search terms in this guide to make a slideshow to accompany your reading of the Bible story. You may want to put these illustrations on a tablet or cast them onto a big screen for maximum effect.

Before reading each script, ask the Lord to guide your family or group into a greater revelation of his love and grace. These are his stories based on his words. You can trust him to bring forth good fruit.

Feel free to [contact me](#) if you have questions, suggestions, or testimonies of what God has done as a result of reading the Jesus Scripts. And don't forget to [sign up](#) to be notified when new scripts are released.

Grace and peace,
Paul Ellis
JesusScripts.com

Script: [Saul Sees the Light](#)

Story: Read Acts 8:1–3, 9:1–31. See also 22:3–21, 26:4–20.

Leader's Notes

This is a terrific script for audience participation. From the baying mens of the Sanhedrin to the disciples hiding in terror from Saul, there are several opportunities for all to engage loudly and demonstratively.

This script has eleven characters, but can be read by as few as five or six readers:

Characters	5 actors	6 actors	7 actors	8 actors	9 actors	10 actors
1. Narrator	1	1	1	1	1	1
2. Saul	2	2	2	2	2	2
3. Caiaphas	3	3	3	3	3	3
4. Alexander	4	4	4	4	4	4
5. Jesus	5	5	5	5	5	5
6. Barnabas	3	6	6	6	6	6
7. Ananias	4	4	7	7	7	7
8. Zeek	3	3	3	8	8	8
9. Claudia	4	4	4	4	9	9
10. Joanna	3	3	3	8	8	10
11. Mark	4	4	4	4	9	8

Discussion Questions

1. What did you like about this story? Which bit stood out?
2. What does this story reveal about Jesus?
3. The Damascus Road conversion of Saul is one of the most dramatic scenes in the Bible, and the story is told no less than three times (Acts 9:3–6, 22:6–11, 26:13–18). If you were a movie maker, how would you shoot it?
4. Saul said he arrested both men *and women* (Acts 8:3, 9:2, 22:4). What is the significance of this statement?

Saul was an equal-opportunities persecutor responsible for the arrest and execution of Christian men and women. Why arrest women who as recently as the cross had gone largely unnoticed by the authorities? After Pentecost, women stepped up, and those who became partners in ministry became partners in martyrdom.

Christian men and women both were filled with the spirit, spoke in tongues, and proclaimed the word of God boldly (see Acts 2:17–18, 4:31). John Chrysostom, the Archbishop of Constantinople, said this about the women of the early church:

The women of those days were more spirited than lions, sharing with the Apostles their labors for the Gospel's sake. In this way they went travelling with them, and also performed all other ministries. Source: "Homily 31 on Romans"

5. Years later when telling the story of his conversion, Saul or Paul said the light he saw was brighter than the sun (Acts 26:13). This was not a metaphorical light but a light bright enough to blind him (Acts 22:11). What light source is brighter than the sun?

Although we can't prove it, it's possible that Paul was blinded by the face of Jesus. On a couple of occasions, Jesus shone like the sun. "He was transfigured before them; and his face shone like the sun, and his garments became as white as light" (Matt 17:2, see also Rev. 1:16). Barnabas told the disciples that Saul "had seen the Lord on the road" (Acts 9:27).

6. Why do you think the Lord revealed himself in such a dramatic fashion to Saul?

To leave a lasting impression! Saul never forgot what happened to him. Two thousand years later, we're still talking about it.

7. Imagine you were a Christian living in fear of being arrested by the religious authorities. The infamous Saul has come to your door. He says he is a changed man, and that he has met Jesus. Would you let him in? What questions might you ask to determine if he genuine?
8. The disciples in Jerusalem initially refused to believe that Saul had become a disciple (Acts 9:26). They all hid from him in fear, except Barnabas. The Bible doesn't explain why Barnabas alone received Saul. There is no mention of a vision such as the one the Lord gave to Ananias in Damascus (Acts 9:10), and it seems Saul travelled alone to Jerusalem. So how do you think Barnabas came to receive Saul as a fellow brother in the Lord?

We can only speculate, but it's possible that Barnabas and Saul already knew each other. The former was from Cyprus (Acts 4:36) while the latter was from Tarsus across the water. Barnabas was of the priestly Levite tribe, while Saul was a Pharisee. They were both devout Jews who had moved to Jerusalem. Perhaps they had met at the temple and become friends. Maybe they studied together.

When Barnabas became a Christian the friendship was strained. But after Saul met the Lord, the friendship was restored and Barnabas introduced Saul to the apostles. Who knows? What we cannot dispute is that the "son of encouragement" was quick to believe the best about Saul and we should all be glad he did.

Fun Facts

Who

Saul was an extremely dangerous religious terrorist who “persecuted the followers of this Way to their death, arresting both men and women and throwing them into prison” (Acts 22:4). In Biblical times, people did not go to prison for years but for a short period to await trial. After their trial they were either punished or released. Saul arrested Christians in the expectation that they would be executed (see Acts 9:1).

Saul did not change his name to Paul but was rather known by both names. “Saul, who was also known as Paul” (Acts 13:9). As a zealous Jew he went by his Hebrew name Saul; as an apostle to the Gentiles he went by his Roman name Paul.

Caiaphas was the high priest at the time of Christ’s death and in the period following. (Although the early chapters of Acts identify Annas as the high priest (see Acts 4:6), Annas was a *former* high priest who retained his title and considerable influence within the Sanhedrin.)

Alexander was a member of the Sanhedrin or Ruling Council. Like other influential members of that nepotistic assembly, he was related to Annas, the former high priest (Acts 4:6).

Ananias was a Christian living in Damascus and one of the bravest men in the Bible. While others were running and hiding from Saul, he went and prayed for him. (Note: There were two other men named Ananias in the New Testament. Neither of them was as good as this one.)

Barnabas was the first Christian in Jerusalem to recognize the hand of God on Saul’s life. Joseph Barnabas was a Levite from Cyprus who became one of Saul’s closest friends and most important coworkers.

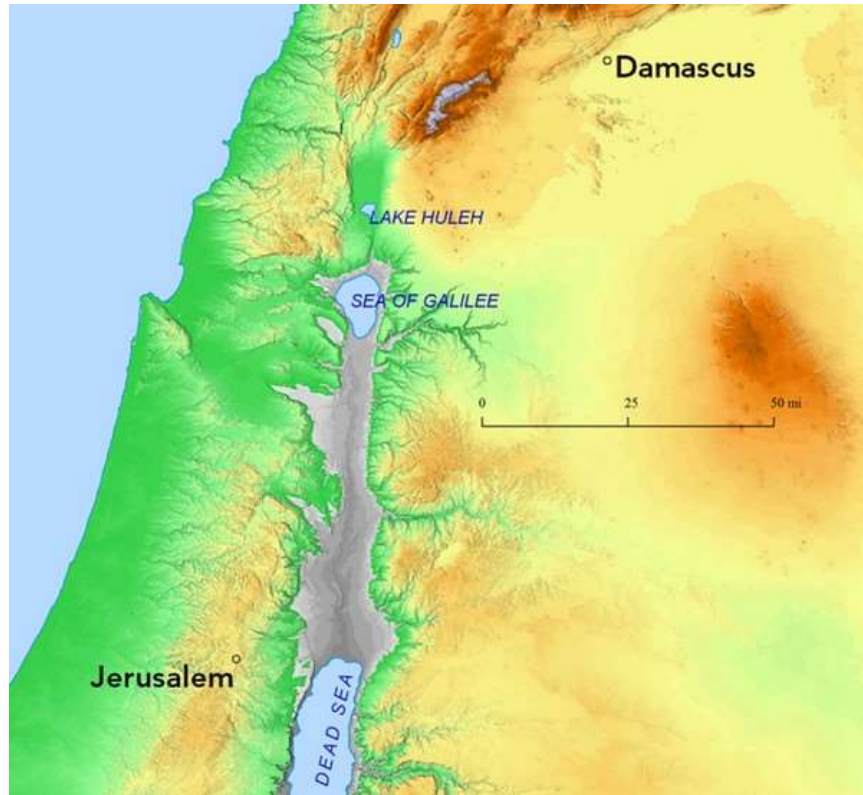
When

Saul traveled to Damascus a few years after the resurrection of Christ.

Where

The story takes place in Jerusalem, Damascus, and on the road in between. Damascus is about 150 miles from Jerusalem (see Map). If Saul had walked directly there, it would have taken close to two weeks.

Saul’s encounter with the Lord occurred near the end of that trip (Acts 9:3).



Source: [Bible Mapper](#)

What

At least 12 of the New Testament books are copies of Paul's letters. Paul and four other authors collectively wrote almost half of the entire Bible. (The others are Moses, Ezra, Luke, and Jeremiah.)

God told Ananias that Saul would carry his name to kings or rulers (Acts 9:15). This prophecy was fulfilled when Saul or Paul preached to kings such as Herod Agrippa (Acts 25:22), Roman governors and proconsuls (Acts 13:12, 24:24), and the emperor himself (Acts 27:24).

In the script, Claudia refers to Saul as "the man who hunts Christians." But the followers of Jesus or "the Way" were not known as Christians until a church was planted in Antioch (see Acts 11:19, 26).

Illustrations

A classic image to illustrate this story is "[Saint Paul Being Let Down in a Basket](#)", by the Providence Lithographic Company (see below). The British illustrator Clive Upton also has a [version](#) of this memorable scene. Upton also has a striking illustration of Saul being zapped by a bright light in his "[Road to Damascus](#)." For an illustration of Saul or Paul traveling abroad, check out "[Paul Starts on a Great Trip](#)," also from the Providence Lithographic Company:



"Saint Paul Being Let Down in a Basket", by the Providence Lithographic Company



"Paul Starts on a Great Trip," by the Providence Lithographic Company

Scripture for reflection

Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, "I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life."

— John 8:12

Closing Prayer

Lord, we praise you because you are in the business of turning enemies into friends. Just as you called Saul, you have called us to be your witnesses wherever we go. May we be your letters of grace and peace to all we meet.

Thank you, Jesus, for being the Light that shines in a dark world. May the light of your love shine through us, and may many hear the good news of grace because of our testimony. We give you all the praise and glory. Amen.

