



Suddenly I See

Bible Story: Suddenly I See (Paul Becomes a Believer) • Acts 9:1-9

Bottom Line: Knowing Jesus changes the way you see everything.

Memory Verse: *Faith is being sure of what we hope for. It is being sure of what we do not see.*
Hebrews 11:1, (NIRV)

Life App: Faith—Trusting in what you can't see because of what you can see

Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what.

Story: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways (Large Group, 35 minutes)

Engage kids' hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible story, worship, and prayer experience in a Large Group setting.

SFX: Play high-energy music as kids enter.

CG: Theme Slide

Host enters.

Opener

HOST: “Hi, friends! I’m *(your name)*, and I’m so glad you’re here at *(your environment’s name)*, today.

“Each week this summer, we’re taking a closer look to find out what it means to have faith.

CG: Faith Slide

“Faith is trusting in what you can’t see because of what you can see.

CG: Theme Slide

“Even though we can’t SEE God, we can still put our faith in Him. **[Basic Truth] We can trust Him no matter what!** We can FOCUS on all of the things God has done for us in the past, and we can also see what He’s done in the lives of others. That helps us trust Him.

“Speaking of faith and trust, I’ve got a great way for us to kick things off today: a trust relay! First, let me choose two small groups who want to participate.

Choose two small groups and have them stand at the start of the two tape lines, single file.

Have the Small Group Leaders stand at the other end of the tape lines, near the laundry baskets.

“All right, groups, here’s how we play the trust relay. In just a minute, each of you will put on a pair of these silly glasses and complete the relay activities. If you already wear glasses, you can just put the silly glasses over them.

Pass out the shutter glasses. Put a pair on yourself.

“Whoa—it’s tough to see in these things! You’ve really got to stay focused. You’ll need your leader and your teammates to tell you which way to go, too. Teammates, it’s up to you to cheer for your friends and make sure they stay on track.

Demonstrate as you explain the rules.

“When it’s your turn, try your best to walk a straight line on the tape. When you get to the end of the line, you’ll pick up a ball and toss it into the basket. Then high-five your leader and power-walk along the line to the beginning. When you reach your teammates, shout, ‘Woo-hoo!’ then it’s the next person’s turn. We’ll play some fun music and go until the music stops.

“I think we’re ready! Contestants, you may put your silly glasses on. Audience, cheer for our teams. Let’s count it down. Three . . . two . . . one . . . GO!

SFX: Play high-energy music as kids run the relay

Let the music play until all players have had a turn. Comment on the action and help any kids who are having trouble. Once everyone has had a turn, stop the music. You don’t need to declare a winning team; just congratulate everyone and collect their glasses as you send them back to their seats.

“Great job, everyone! That was fun! It’s not easy to move around when you’re wearing these. *(Hold up the glasses.)* Good thing you had your friends to cheer for you and help you FOCUS!

“When we have faith, it can change the way we see things, too—in the BEST possible way. We’ll talk about that in our story. But first, let’s get the music going in here. Stand up. It’s time for us to sing and worship God!”

Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.

Worship

CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “Our story today begins with a man named Saul. Throughout his life, he was known by two different names: Saul or Paul.

“As a young man, Saul was sent to Jerusalem to study with the famous Rabbi Gamaliel. He learned about God, and faith was very important to him.

“But Saul was like a lot of religious leaders at the time who didn’t know what to do about Jesus. Jesus was changing the way EVERYONE thought about God, and Saul and the other religious leaders were angry about it. They thought it was wrong for Jesus to claim that He was the Son of God. After all, how could anyone say such a thing . . . unless it were actually true?

“So at the beginning of our story, Saul made it his mission to stop the Jesus-followers.”

Put on the construction vest and hold up the STOP sign.

SAUL AND STEPHEN

STORYTELLER: “Saul was upset, because the number of Jesus-followers began to grow. People were saying that Jesus had come back to life. Some even said that they had SEEN Him!

“Saul was like, ‘STOP! STOP! STOOOOOOOP!’

Hold up the STOP sign dramatically.

“He and the other religious leaders did everything they could to squash the new movement. They even arrested a leader of the church named Stephen. You might remember the really sad story we talked about last month, when the men threw stones at Stephen until he died. Well, Saul was there that day. He stood by and held the coats of the men who threw stones at Stephen.”

SAUL GOES TO CAIAPHAS

STORYTELLER: “Saul became known for hunting down people who believed in Jesus. He was constantly finding things wrong with people. It was kind of like he wanted to be a referee.

Take off the construction vest. Put on the referee shirt and pick up the whistle.

As you blow the whistle, point into the distance and not at any specific kids.

“He was like, *(Blow the whistle.)* ‘You stop doing that!’ *(Blow the whistle.)* ‘You’re going to jail!’ *(Blow the whistle.)* ‘I told you to stop that!’ He tried as hard as he could to scare people and stop the new church from growing.

“When Saul discovered that some Jewish people in the town of Damascus were following Jesus, he went to the high priest, Caiaphas. Saul asked Caiaphas for letters to the synagogues in the city of Damascus; that way he would have permission to arrest the believers and take them back to Jerusalem. He was ready to stop these Jesus-believers, once and for all! *(Blow the whistle.)*”

“He traveled with a group of men to arrest the believers they found. After days on the road, they were close to Damascus.”

I SAW THE LIGHT

STORYTELLER: “Suddenly, a light from heaven flashed around Saul!

Hold up the flashlight and shine it at yourself. Cower dramatically in the light.

“Saul fell to the ground. He heard a voice, saying this:

Open the Bible to Acts 9:4-6 (NIRV) and read.

“Saul! Saul! Why are you opposing me?” “Who are you, Lord?” Saul asked. “I am Jesus,” he replied. “I am the one you are opposing. Now get up and go into the city. There you will be told what you must do.”

“WHOA. Can you even imagine what this must have been like for Saul? He had been traveling to Damascus for one reason: to arrest the Jesus-followers. Now Jesus HIMSELF spoke to Saul, right there on the road!

“The men who traveled with Saul were amazed, too. They stood there, unable to speak. Saul got up . . . and he couldn’t see. He was blind.

Cover your eyes with your hand and reach out with your other hand, walking blindly across the stage.

“The men led him by the hand into Damascus, where he stayed at the home of a man named Judas on Straight Street. For three days, Saul was blind. He didn’t eat or drink anything.”

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “Saul had come face to face with Jesus—a man he thought for sure was dead. This meant Jesus was very much alive. It meant Jesus really was who He said He was: the Son of God!

“This moment changed EVERYTHING for Saul. He was forced to see and understand God in a brand-new way. It was like he changed teams.

Take off the referee shirt and put on the “Jesus Follower” jersey.

“Until now, Saul wanted to stop the Jesus-followers. But now, Saul had become a Jesus-follower.

Point to the words on the back of the jersey.

“He realized that he had been wrong before. He had a NEW mission in life. Instead of trying to keep people from following Jesus, he wanted to join them.

“What was true for Saul is also true for us today.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] “Knowing Jesus changes the way you see everything.

“Let’s pray.”

CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide

Pray

STORYTELLER: “Dear God, wow—You changed everything for Saul that day on the road to Damascus. He went from wanting to stop people from believing in Jesus to believing in Jesus himself! We know that when we put our faith in You, You change the way we see everything. Please help us to trust You and remember that You’re with us through whatever we might be facing right now. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name, amen.”

Host enters as Storyteller exits.

Closer

HOST: “God opened Saul’s eyes in a pretty big way, didn’t He? I mean Saul couldn’t actually see after he met Jesus. Not right away, anyway. But what was most important was that God helped Saul understand.

CG: Today’s Story Image

Optional: Place Today’s Story Image on your timeline.

“When Jesus appeared to Saul on the road, Saul saw things in a completely new way. He understood that Jesus really is the Son of God!

CG: Timeline

“All throughout history and throughout the Bible, God has revealed Himself to people and helped them understand what He’s like. That was especially true when He sent Jesus. While Jesus was here, He **SHOWED** people what God is like. He showed us how much God loves us by dying on the cross for our sins. He also showed how powerful He is by coming back to life!

CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide

“God used a blinding light to get Saul’s attention. God can get our attention, too, in lots of different ways. He can help us see things in a completely new way. When you know Jesus, you can trust that He is working in your life—when everything’s going great, or even when things aren’t going the way you expected.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] “Knowing Jesus changes the way you see everything.

“It all starts with us taking time to FOCUS on Jesus. When we take a closer look, we can see what He’s doing in our lives, and what He’s doing in other people’s lives, too.

“I bet you can think of some things that He’s done in your life. Why don’t you talk about that back in Small Group? I’ll see you later!”

Dismiss kids to their small groups.

SFX: Play high-energy music as the kids exit.

CG: Theme Slide