



WEEK TWO – JUNE 2020 – PRETEEN

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

Key Question: *How does God try to get your attention?*

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*

Summary: In Week Two, we head to Acts 9:1–9 and meet a man named Saul, also known as Paul. Paul was on his way to arrest and persecute followers of Jesus. But Jesus had other plans for Him. Jesus stopped Paul on his journey and told him about his new mission. In a moment, Paul went from believing that Jesus was a false-teacher to believing that Jesus was the Son of God and Savior of the world.

OPENING DISCUSSION

1. Icebreakers / Zoom SetUp

What to ask:

- 2 people share: What has been the best thing you have done this week?
- 2 people share: What's one thing you miss being able to do right now?
- Leader share: What is one thing you look forward to during this Zoom call?
- Ask kids to describe how they might see things differently if their life changed in the following ways:
 - Dogs could talk.
 - The floor in our room was made of chocolate cake.
 - The Bible didn't exist.
 - You were blind. (Omit this if you have someone in your group who is visually impaired.)
 - You actually saw Jesus as you walked down the street.
 - You were a millionaire.
 - You were homeless. (Again, omit if this is insensitive to any kids in your group.)
 - You could turn yourself invisible.

What to expect:

- Leader: Set healthy standards for what this group time will look like, how much time you'll spend just catching up, and how much time you'll be engaged with the discussion questions -- NOTE: you want to prompt them to watch the weekend message BEFORE this call so they understand what is being talked about.

Recap the Weekend:

- Leader: Recap the story
- ***Consider having one of your the kids retell the story, then you can fill in the gaps

WEEKLY OVERVIEW

OVERVIEW:

Key Question: *How does God try to get your attention? God might not use a blinding light on the*

road to get our attention, but God does try to help us know He still has a plan for us. We hope through this question, preteens will realize the ways that God tries to get our attention. From the people God has put in our lives to the passages we read in our Bible, God uses all sorts of ways to help us have faith.

SMALL GROUP

1. Bible Story Extension

[Application Activity]

Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

What You Need: Bibles; coloring utensils; paper

What You Do:

- Have preteens grab coloring utensils and paper
- Explain that as you read Acts 9:1–9 you'd like partners to draw words or pictures in the top frame of their paper that illustrate what Saul was like before he encountered Jesus. ("BC": Before Christ)
 - Without discussing what they are going to write or draw, direct kids to grip the marker together and then work silently as you read.
 - Tell kids they must try to work together and not just hold the marker while one partner writes.
- Share drawings and let groups tell about what they wrote or drew.
- Ask:
 - Describe the struggle you felt as you tried to work with your partner.
 - In what ways did Saul struggle with God before he met Jesus?
 - God got Saul's attention in a very dramatic way. What do you think God uses or does to get someone's attention today?
- Explain that several years after Saul put his faith in Jesus, he wrote a letter to the church in a town called Corinth then read 1 Corinthians 15:1–11 in which he described himself.
- Invite kids to repeat the drawing activity by drawing or writing in the second frame ("AD": After Damascus).
 - This time, let them communicate with one another in a quiet voice about what they want to draw or write as you read.
- Share drawings, and let partners talk about what they wrote or drew.
- Ask:
 - Describe how this drawing experience was different from the previous one.
 - How is faith, in a way, sort of like us cooperating with God?

- Based on the words Saul (same guy as Paul) wrote to the Corinthians, how did his faith in Jesus change the way he viewed his life and others?
- Remind the group that God gets our attention and speaks to us through the Bible, through His amazing creation as we appreciate the world He has made, beautiful music that gives Him praise, the wisdom of friends and family, and even our life circumstances—both good and bad.
- Challenge kids to share ways God might be trying to get their attention (or a story of someone they know).

2. Discussion Questions

[Application Activity]

Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Ask:
 - If God tries to get someone's attention but they continue to ignore Him, does He ever give up? Explain.
 - In what ways might a follower of Jesus view the following areas of life differently than those who don't follow Him?
 - Money
 - People
 - Sickness or death
 - Time
 - Creation
 - Happiness
 - Bible
 - If you could meet Jesus the way Saul did, how do you think it would impact your faith?
 - We probably won't have a "Damascus" experience like Saul did, but what are some ways God might get our attention?