

TREK: Don't Stop, Don't Give Up—God's with You!—May 2026, Wk 3

Bible Story: Paul Becomes a Believer | Ananias Helps Paul • Acts 9:1-31

Bottom Line: God can help you see things in a new way.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Let us not become tired of doing good. At the right time we will gather a crop if we don't give up.* • Galatians 6:9 NIV

1. Countdown

2. Announcements

3. CG: Transition Slide then Host Opener (5 minutes)

- Host
- 2 tables
- 2 backpacks
- 6 blindfolds
- 2 sets of helpful hiking supplies
 - *Examples: Water bottle, flashlight, compass, snack bars, hat, first-aid kit, etc.*
- 2 sets of silly supplies
 - *Examples: Rubber chicken, fuzzy slippers, large pasta scooping spoon, snow globe, can of silly string, package of sequins, small cactus plant, party hats, etc.*
- 6 kid volunteers for each round (Ask for new volunteers at the start of each round!)
- *Optional: 1-2 leaders to help secure blindfolds*
- Set up two tables at the front of the game area.
- Place one empty hiking backpack on each table.
- Place the six blindfolds, two identical sets of helpful hiking supplies, and two identical sets of silly supplies for the backpacks in a covered bin. Place the covered bin to the side of the game area.
- If needed, ask one or two leaders to be prepared to help kids secure the blindfolds during the game.

Media

- Upbeat music to use as kids enter the room
- Upbeat music to use for the game
- Theme Slide
- "Sorting Challenge: TREK Edition! Title" Slide
- Bottom Line Slide

4. Praise and Worship (10 Minutes) – End with CG: Transition Slide

5. CG: Word Video and CG: Transition Slide

6. Bible Story (15 Minutes)

- Storyteller
- Host
- Table
- Bible
- Powerful flashlight
- Dark glasses
- 4 kid volunteers
- Place the flashlight and dark glasses on the table at the front of the teaching area.

Media

- Calm music to use as kids exit the room
- Theme Background Slide
- Theme Slide
- Bottom Line Slide

At the end the Storyteller should pray for the group and dismiss kids to Small Group

7. Small Group (20-30 Minutes)

Bible Story Outline Week 3

Paul Becomes a Believer / Ananias Helps Paul • Acts 9:1-31

SETTING UP THE STORY

- We are continuing our journey through the Bible, learning about the guidance and strength given by the Holy Spirit.
- Today's story is about a man named Saul, who was a Jewish religious leader and a very strict rule-follower.
- Saul actually hated people who followed Jesus because he thought they were breaking God's laws.
- He even got permission to travel to other places specifically to arrest Jesus-followers.
- (Volunteers: Four kids—one to play Saul, two as traveling companions, and one as Ananias).
- Saul thought he was doing exactly what God wanted, until something very unexpected changed his perspective.

JOURNEY TO DAMASCUS

- Saul set off from Jerusalem to a city called Damascus to arrest any believers he found there.
- As he and his friends neared the city, a brilliant light from heaven suddenly shone all around him.
- (Shine the flashlight on the volunteer playing Saul and have them fall to the ground).
- Out of the light, Saul heard the voice of Jesus asking why he was opposing Him.
- Read: Acts 9:4b-6 (NirV).
- When Saul got up, he realized he was completely blind and couldn't see a single thing.
- (Place the dark glasses on Saul and have his companions lead him into Damascus).
- For three days, Saul stayed in the city, blind, and he didn't eat or drink anything while he prayed.

GOD SPEAKS TO ANANIAS

- Across town, the Lord spoke in a vision to a Jesus-follower named Ananias.
- Read: Acts 9:11-12 (NirV).
- Ananias was terrified because he knew Saul had come to Damascus to arrest people like him.
- Read: Acts 9:13-16 (NirV).
- Even though he was scared, Ananias listened to God and went to find Saul.
- (Have Ananias walk to Saul and place his hands on Saul's shoulders).
- Read: Acts 9:17b (NirV).
- Immediately, something like scales fell off Saul's eyes, and he could see again!
- Saul was filled with the Holy Spirit and his whole life was turned around.

PREACHING ABOUT JESUS

- Meeting Jesus made Saul see everything in a whole new way.
- Instead of arresting believers, he went straight to the synagogue and started preaching that Jesus is the Son of God!
- This was very confusing for the people who knew his past, and some leaders even plotted to kill him.
- Jesus-followers helped Saul escape from Damascus and Jerusalem so he could continue telling everyone about God's love.
- Saul eventually became known as Paul and wrote many books of the New Testament to help us know Jesus today.

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

- Saul thought he knew the truth, but meeting Jesus changed his heart and his eyes.
- God can help you see your life in a new way, helping you understand that the point of your life is to show and tell people about Jesus.
- He can also help you see other people differently, showing you how to be kind even to those who seem difficult.
- When things feel scary or overwhelming, we can trust God to help us see the truth.
- **BL: God can help you see things in a new way.**

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Bible Story: Paul Becomes a Believer | Ananias Helps Paul • Acts 9:1-31

Bottom Line: God can help you see things in a new way.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Let us not become tired of doing good. At the right time we will gather a crop if we don't give up.* • Galatians 6:9 NIV

1. Countdown

2. Announcements

3. CG: Transition Slide then Host Opener (5 minutes)

AUDIO: Play high-energy music as kids enter.

SLIDE: Theme

(Host enters with energy and excitement.)

(Things to have ready: Two tables at the front of the game area. One empty hiking backpack on each table. Covered bin to the side of the game area containing six blindfolds, two identical sets of helpful supplies, and two identical sets of silly supplies for the backpacks. Timer—or smartphone or watch or countdown. Optional: One or two pre-determined leaders to help kids secure the blindfolds. Game slide. Bottom Line slide.)

HOST: “Hi, friends! Welcome to [Name of Environment]! I'm so happy you're here today. Our theme this month is called 'TREK,' and the full name of the series is 'TREK: Don't Stop, Don't Give Up—God's with You!'”

“Everybody say it with me: 'TREK!'”

“A trek is a long hike. And sometimes those long hikes can be haaaaaard! Life can be hard too! All month long, we're talking about how we can keep going because God loves us and because God is with us!”

“But let's be real: when the trek of life gets tough, it's hard to see clearly. And when that happens, sometimes we can make not-so-great choices. In today's Bible Story, we're going to meet someone who didn't see clearly at all ... until he lost his sight! So to warm us up and get us ready, we're going to play a game called 'Sorting Challenge: TREK Edition!'”

SLIDE: *Sorting Challenge: TREK Edition! Title*

“Okay, I need six volunteers. Who would like to play?”

(Choose six kids from the ones that have their hands raised and invite them to the game area. Split them into two teams of three and place one team behind each of the two tables.)

“All right. I'm going to give you some supplies and gear that you might need for a hike. And I need each team to sort out what should go in the backpack and what should be left at home! Easy, right? Unless, like the man in today's Bible Story, you can't see! So before we start, I need each of you to put on one of these blindfolds.”

(Pull out the blindfolds and hand one to each kid. You may want to recruit small group leaders to help secure the blindfolds. Then begin setting out the identical sets of helpful supplies and silly supplies on each table.)

“Very good! Now, I'm going to lay out your hiking supplies on the table. Each team will get the exact same supplies. When I say, 'PACK IT UP!' your job will be to work together to sort through the supplies and decide which items would be helpful on a hike—and which ones would be of no use at all!”

“Place the good supplies in your backpack. You get one point for every helpful item and MINUS one point for every silly item that ends up in your backpack! You’ve got 90 seconds, and remember—no peeking!

(Address audience.)

“Now, all of you out there have a job too! You can cheer, but don’t tell our friends up here what’s on the table! They need to figure it out on their own. Okay, teams ready? Audience ready? On your mark ... Get set ... PACK IT UP!

AUDIO: Upbeat music

Optional Video: 90-second countdown

(Start your timer, smartphone, watch, or countdown, and play the game. Help guide teams if they need assistance during the game or if items get dropped. Encourage the audience to cheer, but remind them not to shout out the item names.)

(When the 90-seconds is up ...)

“Wow! That got a little wild, didn’t it? You can all remove your blindfolds now, and let’s take a look at how you did!

(Sort through and score the contents of each pack—add one point for each necessary item and subtract one point for any silly items.)

“It looks like we have a winner! Great job! Let’s get a round of applause for both of our sorting and packing teams!

(Lead applause and send volunteers back to their seats.)

(As time allows, continue with more rounds. Ask for six new volunteers, unpack the backpacks, and lay out the supplies on the tables at the start of each round.)

“Packing supplies seems like a simple job, right? But when you can’t see with your eyes, it’s suddenly much more difficult! You have to use your other senses—like touching with your hands and hearing with your ears, and other ways of knowing. Most of us can see okay with our physical eyes ... but often, we don’t see so well with our hearts. We misunderstand what’s true. And that’s why we need the truth in today’s Bottom Line. Let’s see what it says.

SLIDE: Bottom Line

HOST: [Bottom Line] “God can help you see things in a new way. Say that with me, everyone!”

KIDS AND HOST: [Bottom Line] “God can help you see things in a new way.”

HOST: “Great job, friends! We’ve got an awesome Bible Story today that will teach us more about that—let’s get ready to check it out!”

SLIDE: Theme Background

(Things to have ready: Set up the table at the front of the teaching area so the Storyteller can place their Bible on it and read from it. Flashlight and dark glasses on the table.)

INTRODUCTION

STORYTELLER: “Hi, friends! It’s time to learn more about God together! Let’s do this! This whole month, we’re talking about how we can keep going because God is with us. Our series is called, ‘TREK: Don’t Stop, Don’t Give Up—God’s with You!’ And today, we’re going to meet a man who thought He was doing exactly what God wanted ... then he learned to see in a TOTALLY different way!

Before we start today’s true Bible story, let’s remember where we are in God’s Big Story. Since August, we’ve been traveling through the Bible to learn who God is and how much He wants to be close to us. God created people to be His friends, but sin broke that closeness. Still, God had a rescue plan. He chose a family, rescued His people, sent prophets, and promised a Rescuer. Then Jesus came, lived perfectly, died for our sins, and rose again so we could be close to God. After Jesus went back to heaven, He sent the Holy Spirit to live in His followers. They began telling people everywhere about Jesus—but one dangerous man wanted to stop them. And that’s where today’s story begins.”

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “Jesus had gone back to heaven, but His followers had the Holy Spirit with them. They were telling people everywhere about Jesus and God’s great love. But there was a dangerous man who wanted to stop them. His name was Saul. Saul was also known as Paul. He was a Jewish religious leader who thought he was doing the right thing by stopping Jesus-followers. He thought he had everything figured out—until something very unexpected happened.

“Okay, I’m going to need four volunteers to help me tell today’s Bible Story. Raise your hand if you want to jump in!

(Choose four volunteers from the kids who have their hands raised and invite them to the front of the teaching area. Pick one to be Saul.)

“Okay, you’re going to be Saul-slash-Paul. And you think you’re super important. Can you show us a super important, know-it-all pose?

(Encourage the kid to pose.)

“Now, (address next two kids) you two are going to be Saul’s friends and traveling companions. So, I want all three of you to travel to the back of the room, right there. (Point out the spot.) That’s Jerusalem. And when it’s time, I’ll tell you to come on up here to Damascus! And speaking of Damascus ...

(Point to fourth volunteer.)

“You’re an ordinary guy named Ananias who follows Jesus—and you happen to live in Damascus, right over here.

(Direct volunteer playing Ananias to stand to the side of the teaching area.)

“Great! I think we’re ready. Now I need to tell you that because Paul was such a rule follower, he hated people who followed Jesus. He thought they were breaking God’s laws! In fact, when some of the other leaders killed a Jesus-follower named Stephen, Saul stood by and thought what they were doing was right.

“Saul believed the teachings about Jesus were so dangerous that finally, Saul got permission to travel to other places and arrest the Jesus-followers there! Whew.”

JOURNEY TO DAMASCUS

STORYTELLER: “So Saul was in Jerusalem, back there. (Point to the back of the room.) But when he heard there were Jesus followers in a city called Damascus (point to the side of the teaching area), he got permission from the high priest and set off at once to arrest the believers there!

"All right, Saul and friends, you can start your journey to Damascus. Look as important as you can. You're on a big mission, and you're convinced you're doing God's work! That's right. March on up.

(Pause while the kids head to Damascus. But before they get there, say:)

"At last, Saul and his friends neared Damascus. But before they reached the city ...

(As the volunteers near the stage, shine the flashlight on the volunteer playing Saul.)

"... a brilliant light from heaven suddenly shone around Saul. Okay, Saul, you're so shocked you fall to the ground! And Saul's friends, step back, because you are SUPER confused! Out of this light, Saul heard a voice, which said:

(Open the Bible and read Acts 9:4b-6 NIV.)

"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."

"Everything changed. Saul had thought Jesus-followers were wrong. But now Saul had actually met Jesus.

"Okay, Saul, you can get up. But there's just one thing. When Saul got up, he couldn't see! Not a single thing! He was blind. So close your eyes, Saul.

(Give the dark glasses to the volunteer playing Saul and direct them to put the glasses on.)

"Saul couldn't go anywhere by himself. His friends had to lead him into the city. Okay, Saul's friends, can you each take an arm and lead Saul up here?"

(Point to the other side of the teaching area directly across from where Ananias is standing.)

"Saul's companions led him into the city, where he stayed with a man named Judas. And for three whole days, Saul didn't eat or drink anything! Okay, Saul and friends, you can all kneel down and fold your hands like you're praying to God.

GOD SPEAKS TO ANANIAS

STORYTELLER: "But the story wasn't over. Remember Ananias, who lived in Damascus? (Point to volunteer.) While Saul was praying, Ananias was also talking to God. Then the Lord spoke to Ananias in a vision.

(Open the Bible and read Acts 9:11-12 NIV.)

The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street. Ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul. He is praying. In a vision Saul has seen a man come and place his hands on him. That man's name is Ananias. In the vision, Ananias placed his hands on Saul so he could see again."

"Okay, Ananias ... would you be excited about going to visit Saul when you knew that he came to town to throw you in jail?"

(Pause for a response from the volunteer playing Ananias.)

"Yeah, I didn't think so! Ananias knew Saul was dangerous. So he talked to God about it.

(Open the Bible and read Acts 9:13-16 NIV.)

"Lord," Ananias answered, "I've heard many reports about this man. They say he has done great harm to your holy people in Jerusalem. Now he has come here to arrest all those who worship you. The chief priests have given him authority to do this."

But the Lord said to Ananias, “Go! I have chosen this man to work for me. He will announce my name to the Gentiles and to their kings. He will also announce my name to the people of Israel. I will show him how much he must suffer for me.”

“Ananias was afraid, but he listened to God. God helped him see Saul in a new way—not just as an enemy, but as someone God had chosen. Okay, Ananias, go ahead and walk over to visit Saul!

(Encourage the volunteer playing Ananias to walk over to the volunteer playing Saul.)

“Okay, good job, Ananias. Now, I want you to put your hands on Saul’s shoulders. And let’s hear what Ananias said!

(Open the Bible and read Acts 9:17b NIV.)

“Brother Saul,” he said, “you saw the Lord Jesus. He appeared to you on the road as you were coming here. He has sent me so that you will be able to see again. You will be filled with the Holy Spirit.”

“Immediately, something like scales fell off Saul’s eyes, and he could see again! Okay, let’s take off those glasses. You can see again, Saul! Everyone celebrate!

(Encourage all the volunteers to dance and celebrate.)

“You all did a fantastic job! You can stand right over here while we finish our story. (Gesture to one side of the teaching area.)

PREACHING ABOUT JESUS

STORYTELLER: “Meeting Jesus changed Saul completely. Instead of arresting believers, Saul began preaching that Jesus is the Son of God. People were shocked. Saul had come to stop Jesus-followers, but now he was one of them! Some leaders were so angry they wanted to kill him, so the believers helped Saul escape. Saul kept telling people about Jesus. And the church kept growing as more people learned the truth about Jesus and God’s great love.”

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “Wow, friends ... what an amazing story. Let’s remember what happened.

(Point to the different volunteers as you explain what each one did in the story.)

“Saul thought he had everything figured out. He went to Damascus to arrest Jesus-followers. On the way, he met Jesus and became blind. Then God spoke to Ananias. Ananias prayed for Saul, and Saul could see again! Saul became a follower of Jesus and started telling others about Him. Saul learned to see Jesus in a new way. Ananias learned to see Saul in a new way. And because of that, many more people heard about Jesus.

Okay, let’s get a big round of applause for our volunteers. Thank you for helping today! You guys can take your seats.

(Lead applause and send volunteers back to their seats.)

“Now let’s take a look at our Bottom Line for today.

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] “God can help you see things in a new way. Say that with me.”

KIDS and STORYTELLER: **[Bottom Line]** “God can help you see things in a new way.”

This week, we’re here on the path of God’s Big Story in this picture of Paul. We’re not sure if Paul rode a horse, but Jesus did speak to him through a blinding light! (Gesture to timeline.)

SLIDE: Week 3 Timeline Image

We learned that Jesus appeared to Paul because God wanted more people to hear about His great love. After Jesus changed Paul's life, Paul traveled and told many people, 'Jesus loves you. Follow Him!'

"Paul also wrote many books in the New Testament. A lot of what we know about following Jesus comes from Paul's writings. God used Paul's voice and his writing to help the good news about Jesus spread to more and more people.

So what does this mean for us? Before Saul met Jesus, he thought the message about Jesus was wrong. But after meeting Jesus, everything changed. He became one of Jesus' followers. And Ananias thought Saul was only dangerous, but God helped him see that Saul could change.

"God can help you see things in a new way too! God can help you see Jesus in a new way. He can help you trust that Jesus is always with you, especially when things feel scary or uncertain.

"God can help you see your life in a new way. Paul learned that his life was about telling people about Jesus. We can show people Jesus too—by being kind, trustworthy, joyful, and loving.

"God can also help you see other people in a new way. Someone who seems annoying might just want your attention. Someone who acts mean might be lonely or hurting. Whatever is happening in your life, God can help you see it in a new way.

At the end the Storyteller should pray for the group and dismiss kids to Small Group

7. Small Group (20-30 Minutes)

AUDIO: Play calm music as the kids exit.

SLIDE: Theme