

This week we are learning about  
Saul becoming Paul!

# Saul to Paul

Acts 9:1-20

God helps me grow.



A New Life

God helped Saul change his life and gave him a new job:  
tell everyone about Jesus.

**SPARK**  
ACTIVATE FAITH

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## READ IT

This week's Bible story is  
**Saul to Paul**  
from Acts 9:1-20.

**God chose Saul, an enemy of Christians, to become Paul, one of our church's greatest leaders.**

Ask each other what you remember about:

- Saul
- Paul
- Ananias
- Jesus
- Saul's eyes

The "Way" was one of the earliest names for Christianity. Followers of Jesus were called "People of the Way" during Saul's time.

**Read the whole story together in the Bible!**

*Spark Story Bible* pages 514-519

*Spark Bible* page 1214

## Family Prayer

Say this prayer around a globe or world map.

Thank you, God, for using all kinds of people to help you spread the word about Jesus.

Give us a time and place and way to talk about Jesus, too. **AMEN.**

## TALK ABOUT IT



### Family Conversations

- 1 What is a bully? Have you ever known one?
- 2 Who else in the Bible had a name change as her/his job for God changed?
- 3 Saul's name changed when he was baptized — what name was used when you were baptized?
- 4 Using the numbered cards from a deck, flip over a card and see if you can list that many people who tell others about Jesus. Work together if you need to and see if you can make a list with no repeats.



### Eye Spark

Next time you see a baptism, know that God loves each and every one of us and has a job for everyone!



### Ear Spark

When you hear the name *Saul* or *Paul*, remember this story from the Bible.

## For families to do together

Pray for bullies — specific ones — together. Work into your mealtime or bedtime prayers a prayer for the people in your life/lives who are mean, causing problems, and bullying. Far from being a negative exercise, this will give you all opportunities to hear about troubles in your individual lives and you will learn from each other how to handle such instances. You will also be following Jesus' command to "pray for your enemies."

## For younger kids

Saul had to depend on his friends when he suddenly could not see. Have someone blind-fold you and try some everyday tasks like eating and getting dressed. What gets harder when you can't see? Is anything easier when you can't see?

## For older kids

Find out where Damascus is on a map or globe. Check the maps in your Bible for starters.



# Animal Matching

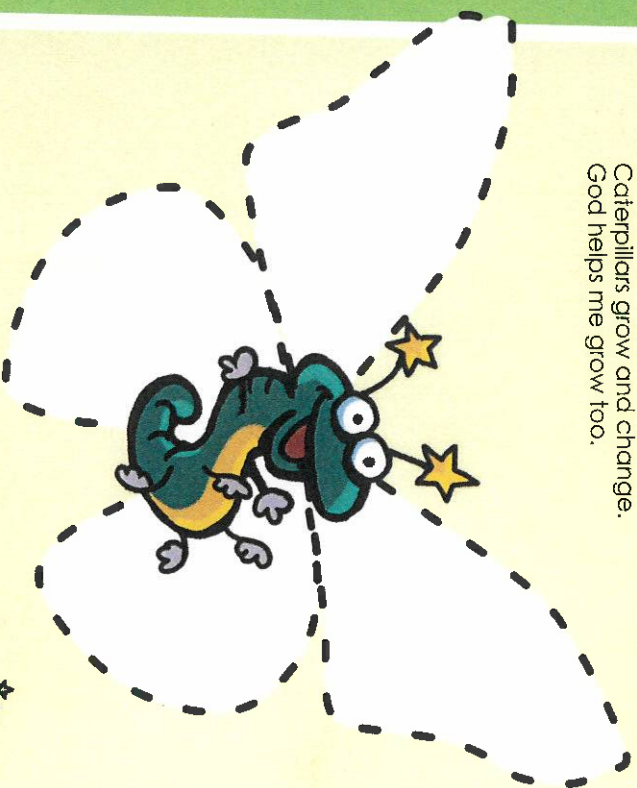
God's love helps us change and grow. Baby animals change and grow too.



Ages: 2-3, Classroom, Saul to Paul, Leahla, Spark™, Sunday School  
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V81872; PRJ014850; DEC2010

# Caterpillar to Butterfly

Caterpillars grow and change.  
God helps me grow too.



## FAITH on the GO!

Plants change and grow just like people and animals. Plant some seeds in a pot or in the ground and watch them grow together. God helps everything grow!



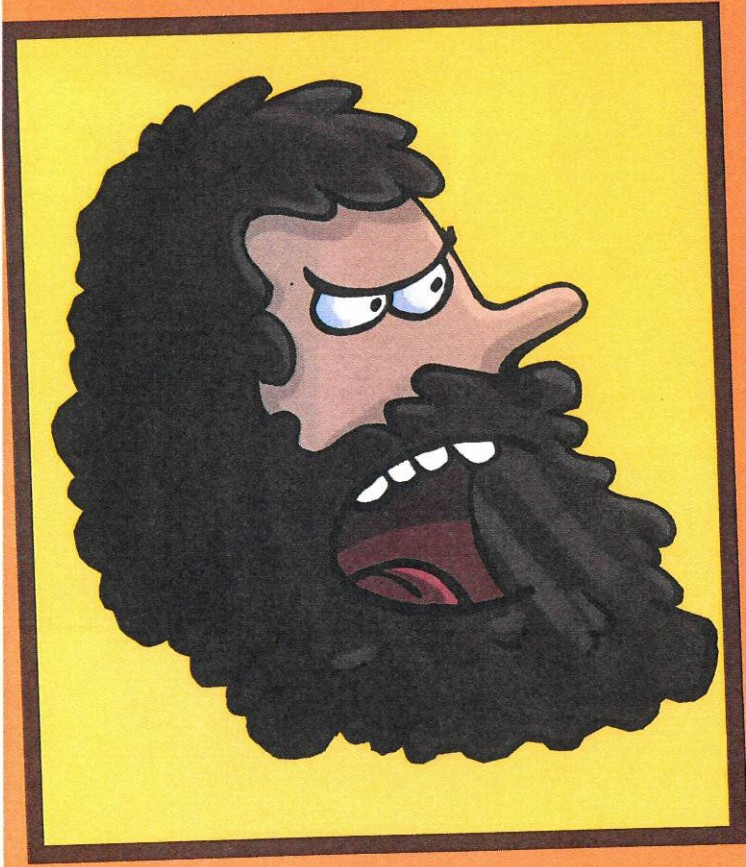
# Saul to Paul

Acts 9:1-20

God changed mean Saul to kind Paul, Jesus' friend.

Circle the changes God made to Saul.  
Place and trace a play dough S and P  
under the pictures. Saul is Paul!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

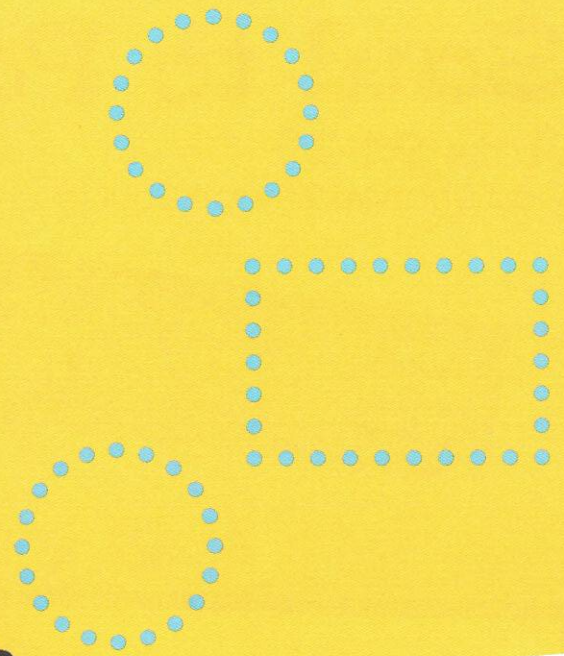


**AUL**

**AUL**

# Turn That Frown Upside Down

Use play dough to make a frown on the face.  
Change it into a smile each time you add a sticker.

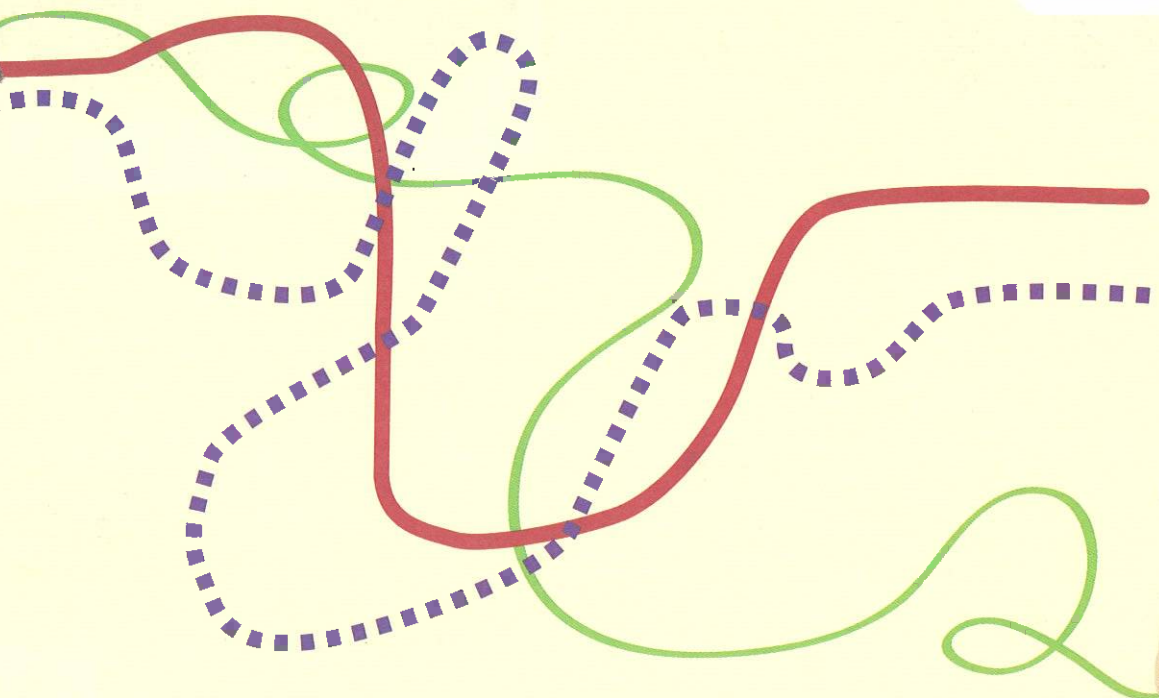


**FAITH**ontheGO!

Take your family for a nature walk. Look for changes in the plant and animal life in your neighborhood. God is changing the world around you!

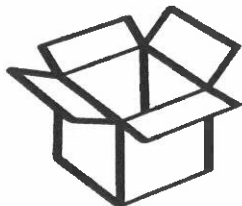
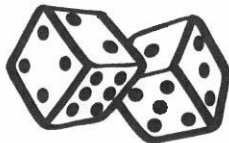
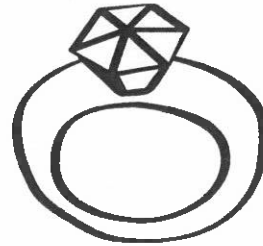
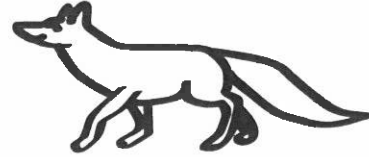
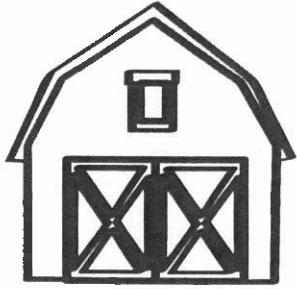
# Find a Friend

Jesus found a friend in Paul. How do you find friends?  
Help the friends find the path that leads them to each other.



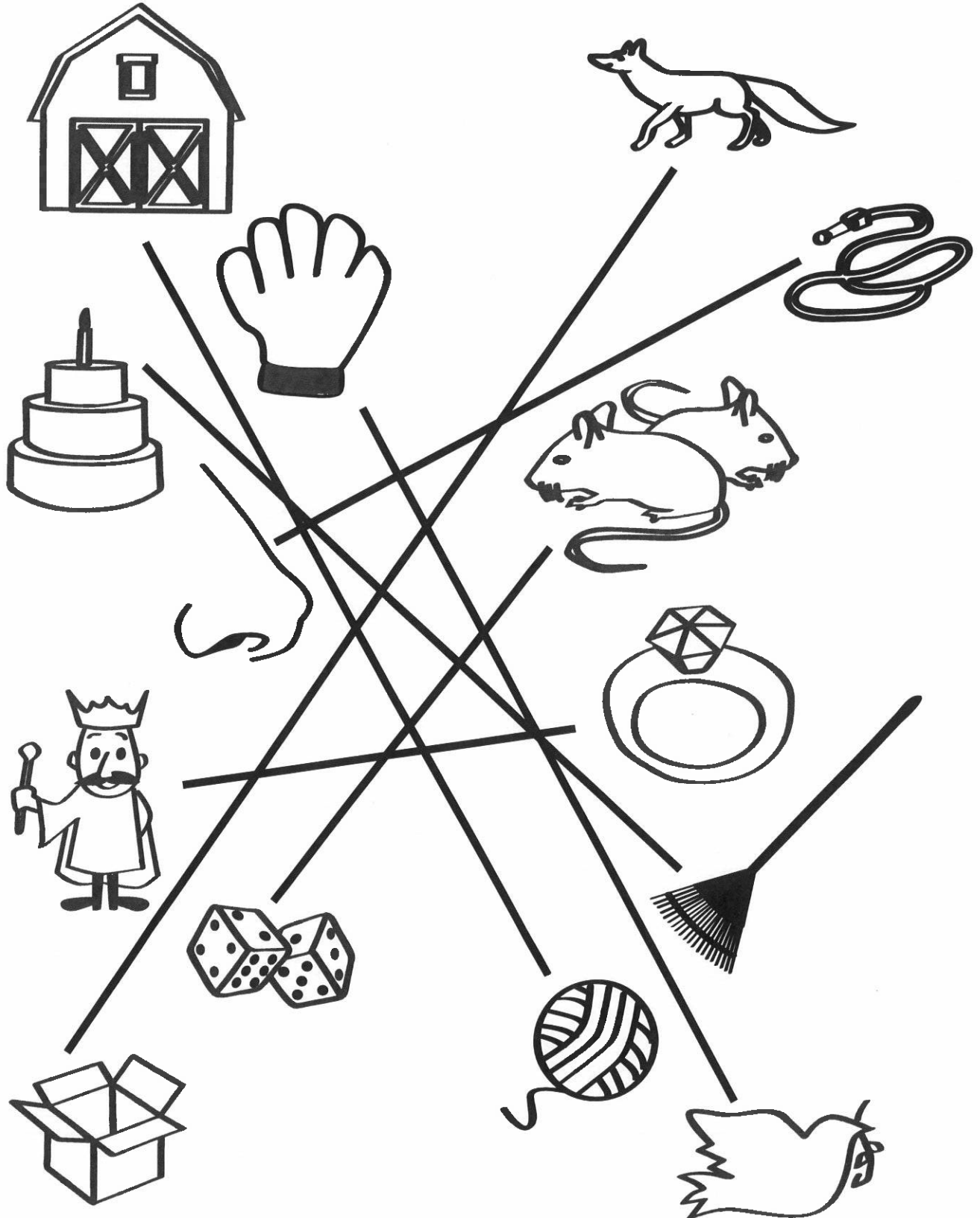
# One Letter = Big Difference

When Saul became Paul, things changed! See if you can match up these pictures of things that are only one letter different.



# One Letter = Big Difference Solution

When Saul became Paul, things changed! See if you can match up these pictures of things that are only one letter different.



Acts 9:1-20

God can make **enemies** into **friends**.

## I wonder...

- How Paul felt when Jesus began talking to him.
- How Paul felt after Jesus changed his heart.
- How God wants to change me.

## Rounding the Bases

As she rounded first base, the ball was still in the air. Sally ran faster, thinking triple. Rounding second, she saw the left fielder misplay the ball. It bounced off the wall and shot toward the infield. At third, the coach waved Sally home. She glimpsed the outfielder already winding up to throw.

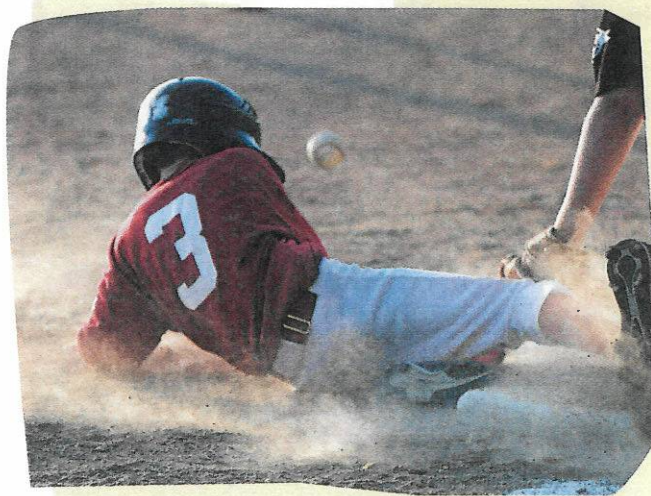
Sally dug in and ran for all she was worth. The catcher crouched directly in her path. Sally sensed the ball coming. She could slide or slam into the girl. If she scored, they'd win the championship. If not—extra innings, and then, who knows.

"Slide!" her teammate yelled. "Cream her!" some parent hollered. The catcher closed her eyes. She's scared, Sally thought. Then she remembered the catcher

who dislocated her shoulder in a play just like this one last year. That time Sally was the catcher.

At the last second, Sally zigged and fell into a perfect slide. Her body just missed the catcher's leg. Her left arm trailed behind, and her fingertips just touched the edge of home plate. The catcher's glove arrived at the same time, knocking Sally's hand off the bag.

The crowd stood stunned, waiting for the umpire's call.





## Adding It Up

Here's the story of Saul, but many of the key words are numbers instead! Read the story with the numbers first. Then figure out which words go in the place of each number. (Hint: the number tells how many letters are in the correct word.)

When \_\_\_\_\_  
four traveled on the \_\_\_\_\_  
four to \_\_\_\_\_  
eight,

he saw a \_\_\_\_\_  
five of \_\_\_\_\_  
five and heard the voice of  
\_\_\_\_\_  
five. He could not see and did not eat any \_\_\_\_\_  
four for  
\_\_\_\_\_  
five \_\_\_\_\_  
four. The \_\_\_\_\_  
four spoke to  
\_\_\_\_\_  
seven and told him to go to \_\_\_\_\_  
eight.

\_\_\_\_\_  
six. When he found him in the \_\_\_\_\_  
five, he laid his  
\_\_\_\_\_  
five on him. Then \_\_\_\_\_  
six fell from his \_\_\_\_\_  
four.

He was \_\_\_\_\_  
eight and ate to regain his \_\_\_\_\_  
eight.

Saul  
Eyes  
Food  
Days

Road  
Lord  
Jesus  
Light

Flash  
House  
Three  
Hands

Street  
Scales  
Ananias  
Damascus

Straight  
Baptized  
Strength



### Look It Up!

Read more about Saul being an enemy of early Christians in **Acts 8:3**.



### Memory Verse

But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel."  
**Acts 9:15**

## Fun Facts

It would have taken about a week to **walk** from Jerusalem to Damascus.

**Damascus** is one of the oldest continuously-lived-in cities in the world.

**Ananias** is believed to be one of Jesus' 70 disciples from Luke 10.

The city of **Tarsus** is located in present-day Turkey.

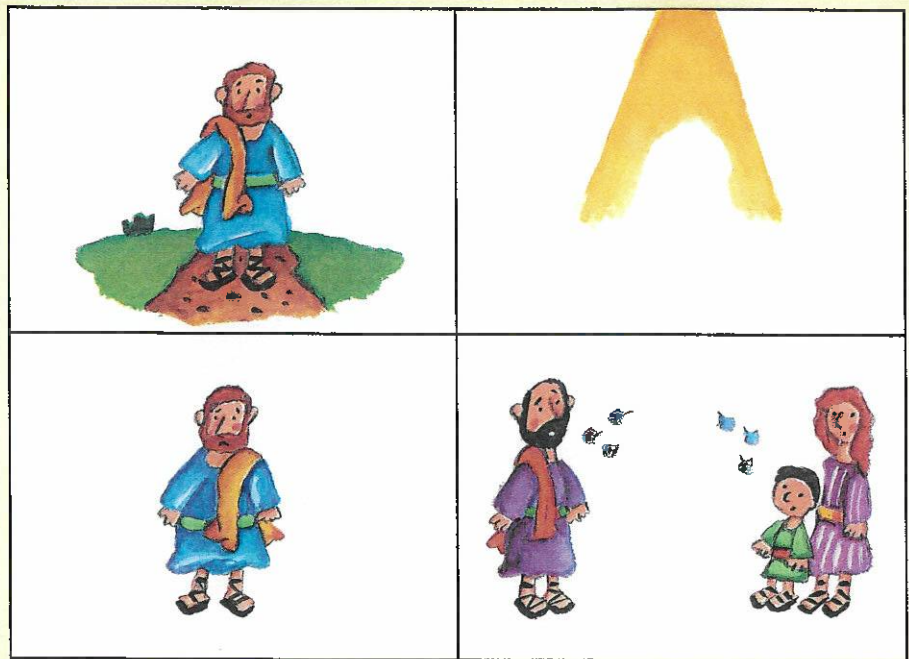
The city of **Tarsus** was an important learning center at the time of Paul.

A **growing number** of Christians were meeting in Damascus's synagogues during Paul's time.

## Wonder Turner

A thaumatrope is an optical illusion. *Thaumatrope* means "wonder turner" in Greek. Two images are shown quickly so that our eyes see them as one picture.

Saul was an enemy of the early Christians who turned into one of Christianity's strongest voices! That's a pretty wonderful turn of events! Make a thaumatrope of Paul. You have two scenes—Saul on the road to Damascus or Saul in a house regaining his sight. Cut out the two panels for the scene, tape a pencil to the back of one of the scenes, and then tape the scenes together. Hold the pencil between your palms and rub together quickly. What do you see?





**Find** a neighborhood space where your family and friends can plant flowers and shrubs to change it into a beautiful area.

**Write** a friendly letter or email to someone who is difficult to be around.

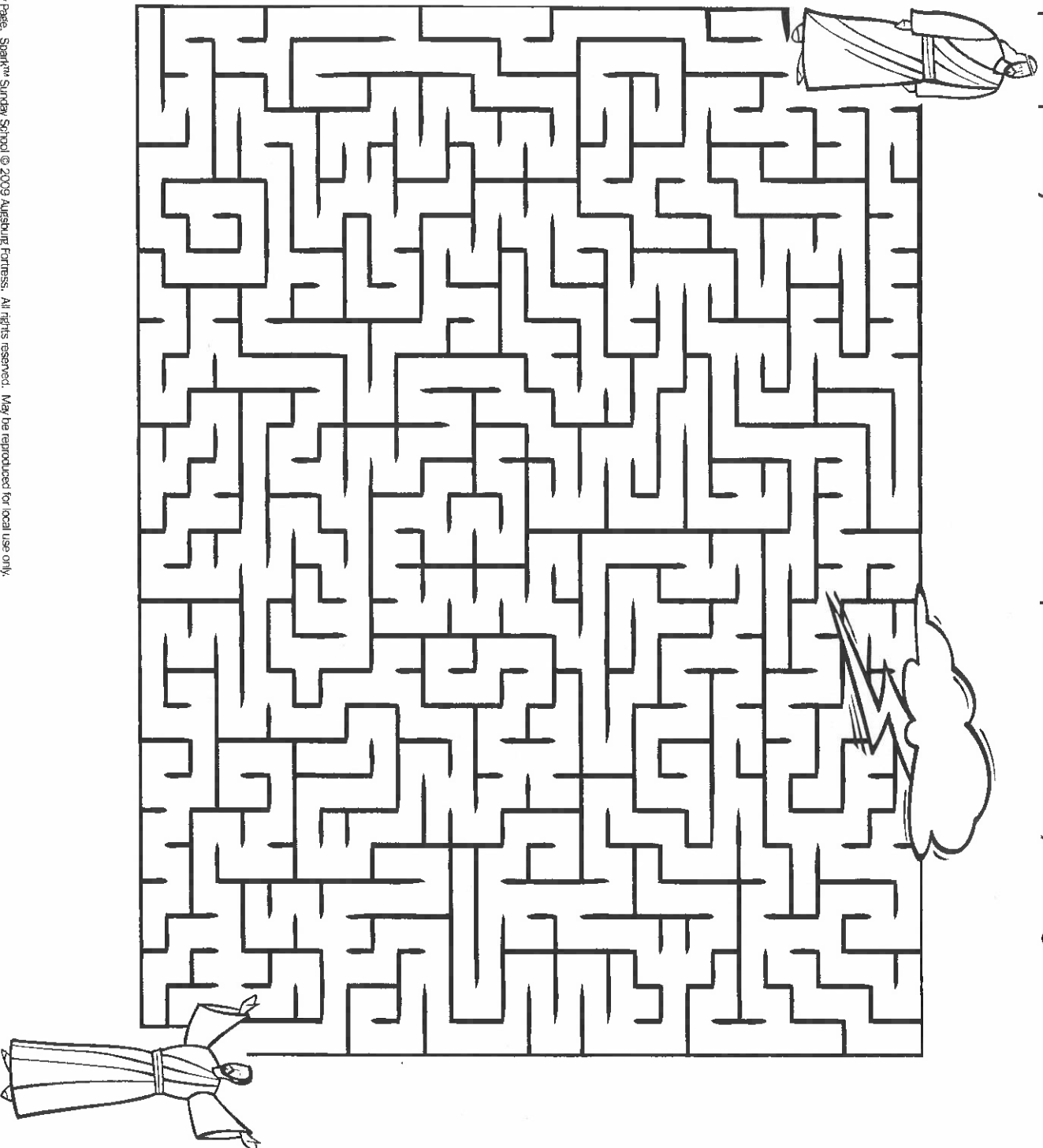
**Use** parts of Psalm 30 to create a song of thanks for God's help and protection.

**Take** photos of people you want to help know Jesus.

**Pray** by changing body positions as you ask Jesus to change you so you can be more like him.

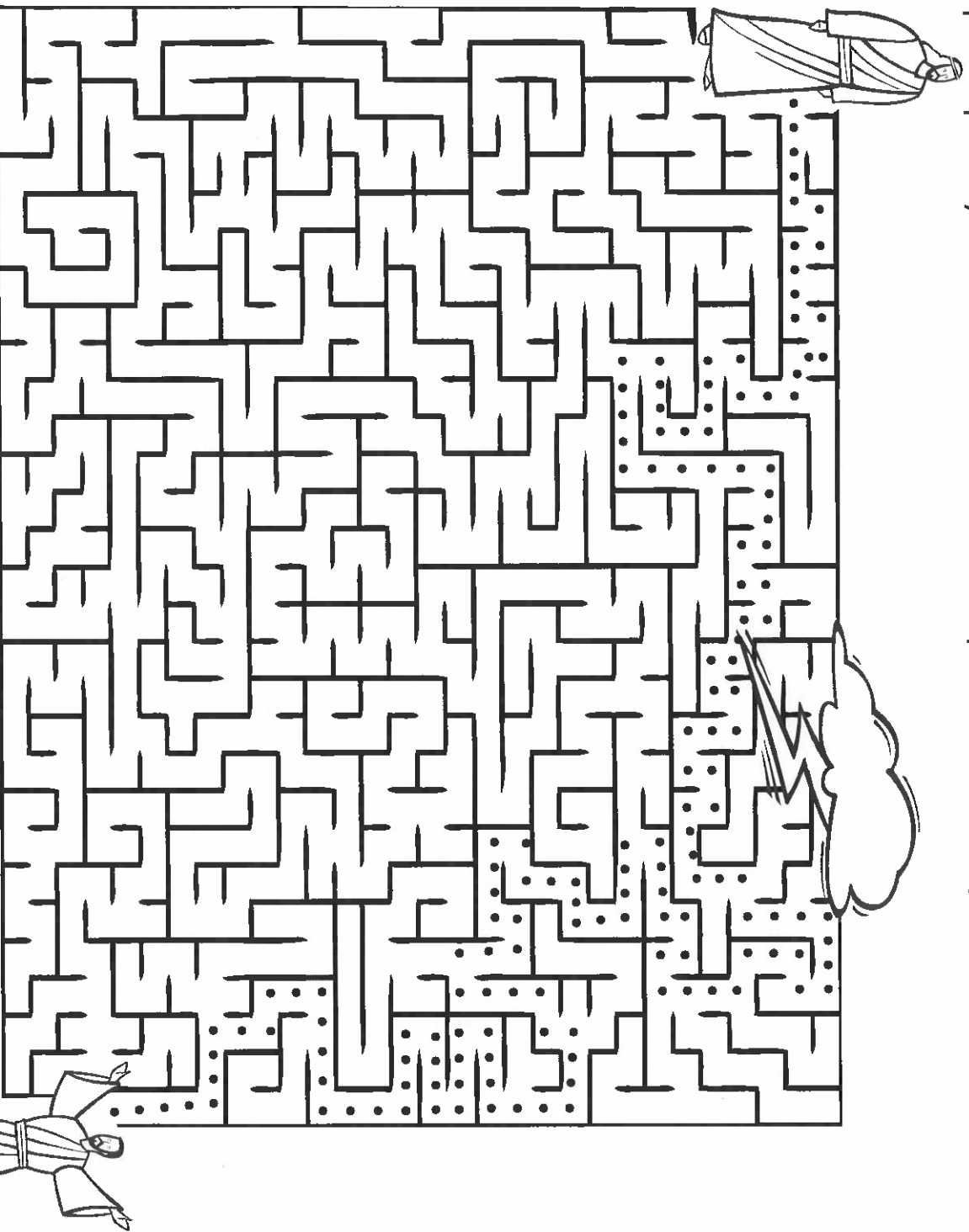
# Saul's Journey

Saul made quite a journey before he became Paul! Help him find his way through this maze.



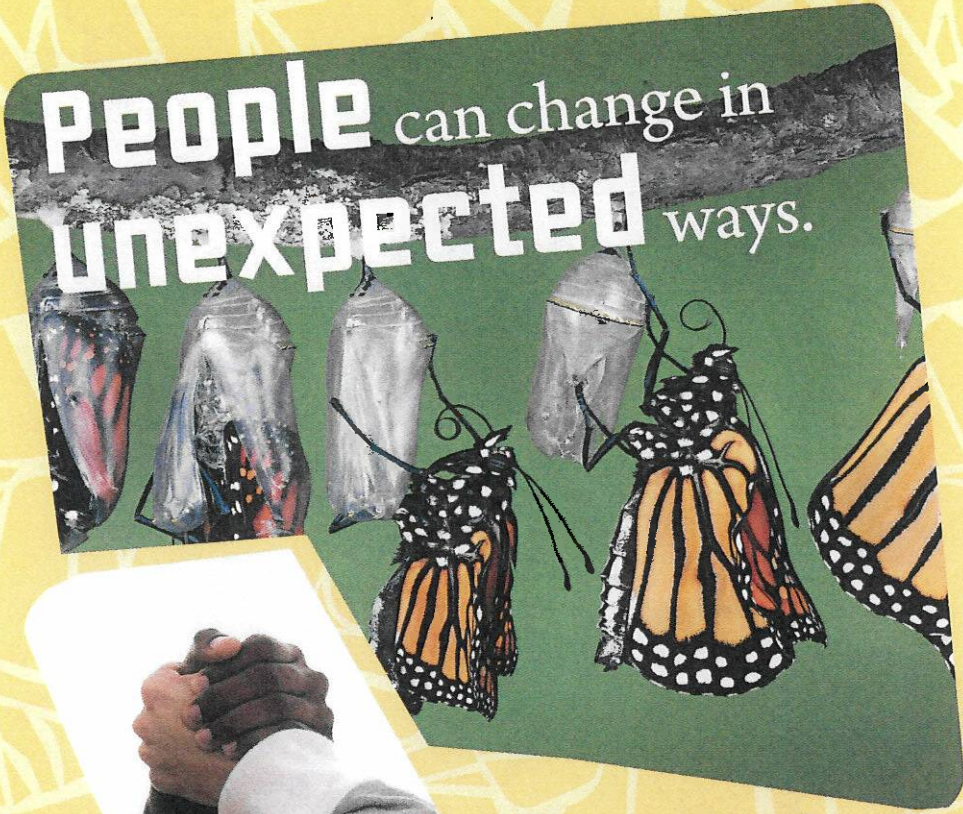
# Saul's Journey Solution

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# Saul to Paul

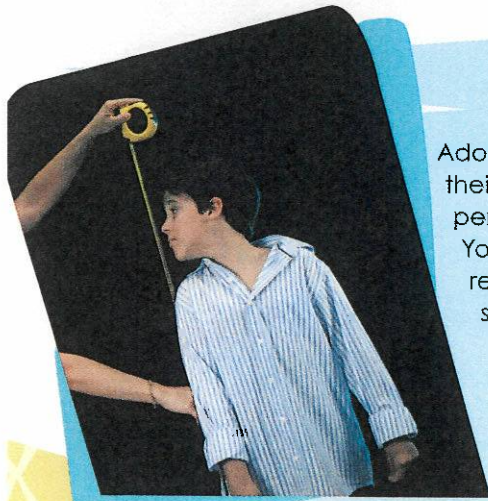
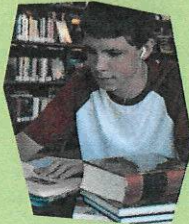
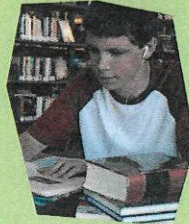
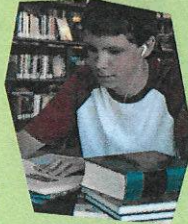
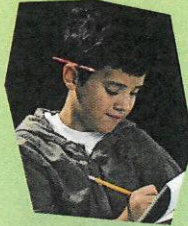
Acts 9:1-20



Can you **trust** someone who's had an **unexpected** change?

# What changed?

Take a look at each row. Find the pictures that isn't like the others. What is changed in the picture?



## Did You Know?

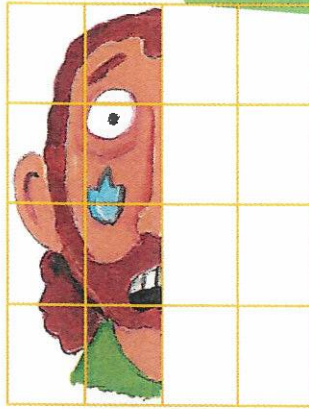
Adolescence is a time of great change! During their tween and early teen years, all kids experience growth and change in many ways. Your body, your mind, your feelings, and your relationships will all change. These changes start earlier for some kids and later for other kids. Some may seem to happen really fast, while others are slow. Even though these changes may feel stressful, they are part of normal human development!



## Look It Up!

Almost half of the books in the New Testament are letters that Bible scholars think were written by Paul.

## Here's Looking at You, Saul



The Bible Memory Verse gives an interesting description of Saul. In the grid, draw the other half of Saul's face after the scales fell from his eyes and his sight was restored.

## Three's a Charm

Acts 9:9 says that for "three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank." The number three is considered a holy number. Find some other times the number three is mentioned in the Bible. Write the missing words in the blanks.

**Genesis 15:9** Abram brought a three-year-old \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.

**Exodus 23:14** Three times in the \_\_\_\_\_ you shall hold a \_\_\_\_\_ for me.

**Numbers 35:14** Three \_\_\_\_\_ beyond the Jordan and three \_\_\_\_\_ in Canaan were \_\_\_\_\_ of refuge.

**2 Chronicles 4:4** Three \_\_\_\_\_ facing \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.

made up the altar of bronze.

**Jonah 1:17** Jonah was in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the big \_\_\_\_\_ for three \_\_\_\_\_ and three \_\_\_\_\_.

**John 2:19** \_\_\_\_\_ said, "Destroy this \_\_\_\_\_, and in three days I will raise it up."



## In or Out?

**Imagine** being members of the early Christian church. You constantly fear for your life because people like Saul are imprisoning or even killing your friends. Divide your class into two groups. Debate whether or not you, as first-century Christians, should welcome Saul into your church.



What do you have to lose by including him?

What do you have to gain?

## Faith on the Go!

Every school has kids who have a reputation for being bullies. Saul was a bully to the early Christians, and yet they welcomed him and made him one of their leaders. Consider reaching out to one of these kids at school this week. Say "hi" to them in the hallway. Sit by them at lunch. Write them a note. You never know how your unexpected act of kindness might change their attitude!



## Memory Verse



And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized. Acts 9:18

# From Saul to Paul

Saul's name changed to Paul. These names may rhyme, but there is a big difference between Saul's actions and Paul's actions. Can you figure out these other words that rhyme with Saul and Paul?

## Saul became Paul

You can throw a \_\_\_\_\_

Before babies walk, they \_\_\_\_\_

Go to the shopping \_\_\_\_\_

Short and \_\_\_\_\_

Big and \_\_\_\_\_

Close the door in the bathroom \_\_\_\_\_

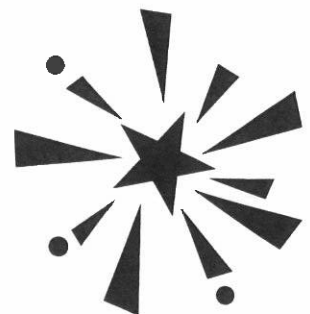
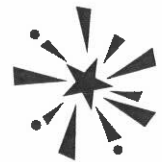
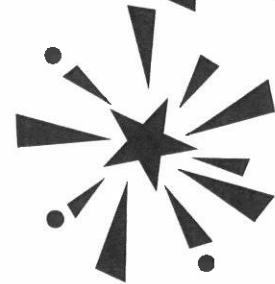
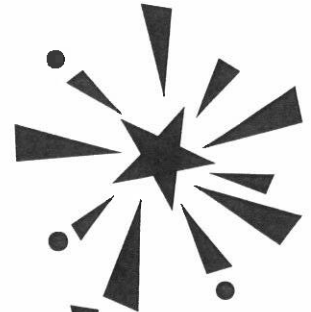
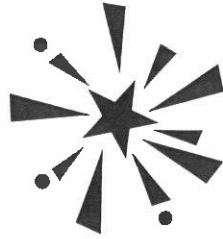
Messy handwriting looks like a \_\_\_\_\_

I need to make a phone \_\_\_\_\_

Teachers say, "No running in the \_\_\_\_\_!"

Software is something you \_\_\_\_\_

**Can you think of any other ALL rhymes?**



# From Saul to Paul Solution

Saul's name changed to Paul. These names may rhyme, but there is a big difference between Saul's actions and Paul's actions. Can you figure out these other words that rhyme with Saul and Paul?

## Saul became Paul

You can throw a ball

Before babies walk, they crawl

Go to the shopping mall

Short and tall

Big and small

Close the door in the bathroom stall

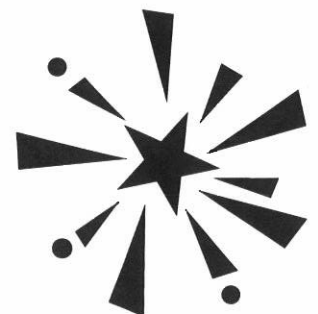
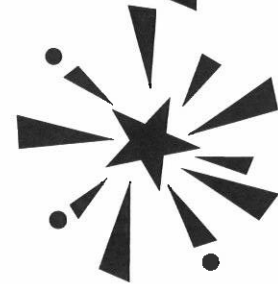
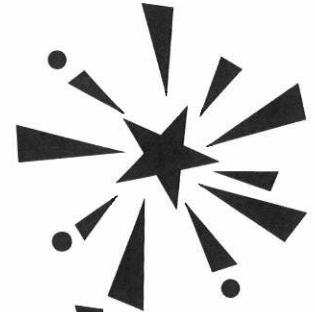
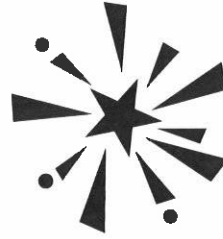
Messy handwriting looks like a scrawl

I need to make a phone call

Teachers say, "No running in the hall!"

Software is something you install

**Can you think of any other ALL rhymes?**

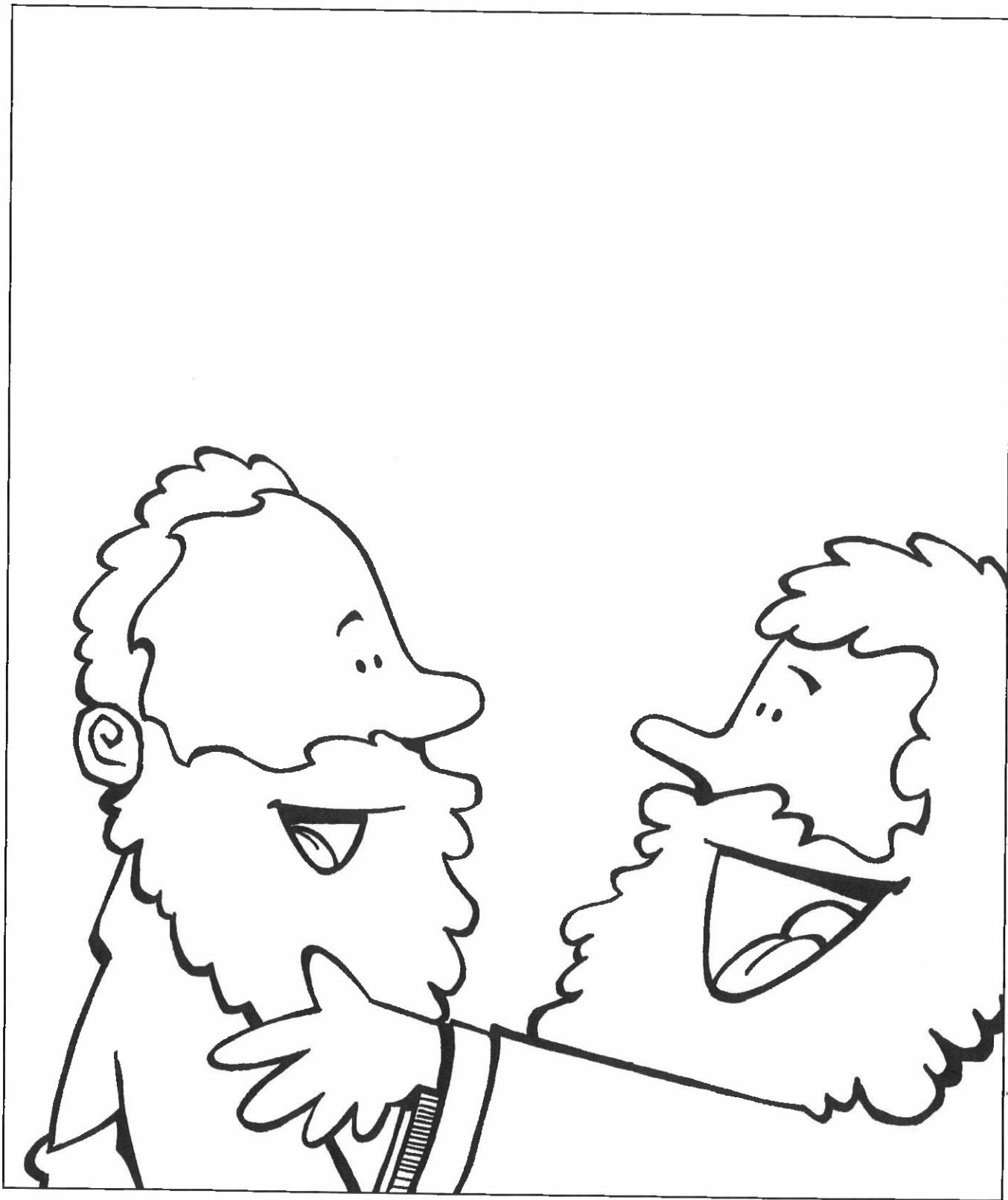


# Saul to Paul



Because he could not see, Saul's men led him by the hand into Damascus. He wasn't mean or bad any more.

# Saul to Paul



Ananias told Saul that God had a job for him.  
Saul was to tell people about Jesus.