



## 8. Paul's journey – seeing another way



**Age range:** Primary

**Theme:** We gather as a community for collective worship that is **inspiring, invitational and inclusive**, reflecting the fact that we are a part of a diverse school family and the wider church community. *This is part of our new series (and with apologies for the split infinitive!) 'To boldly go....'. You may need to tailor this script to suit the needs, age range & levels of concerns of your school community, which of course includes adults as well as children. Following on from last week we continue on the journey of the Early Church through the eyes of St. Paul – who started off as a fierce opponent to this new religion and through an encounter on a journey along the road to Damascus, made a spectacular 180° turnaround.*



### How does this link to your school's Christian vision & values?

Use this section to reference your school's values and the things that are a part of your school's unique vision. This week, the focus is on trying to see the world, and potentially others, differently – for some, maybe as God does – even when others may have very different views than our own. We see how Saul/Paul does this on the physical and spiritual journeys he travels on in this part of the story, which will continue into next week.

### Resources:

- The PowerPoint slides are numbered with a point in the script so you can find your way, and the parts in **bold** show you where to click on to activate the next slide or animation.
- Rucksack object this week: a pair of sunglasses.**
- You will also need some other optical equipment e.g. other glasses (safety goggles / spectacles / spectrum glasses etc.), microscope, telescope, magnifying glass etc.
- The story in this session is a reflective one, so you will need to gather some props to help you, as listed on p.5.
- If preferred, as an alternative to the reflective story on p.3-4, you could use Paul's story from '**The Jesus Storybook Bible**' (ISBN978-0-310-72994-5) which is brilliant! (p.334-338)
- There are two sections of 'wondering' questions, one set (slide 9) recalling the questions asked during the story, the other as part of the normal 'words for worship' section.
- For your reflective area this week**, you will need as many different pairs of glasses as you can find – novelty ones will work just as well as real ones!

### Gathering:

**Slide 1 or 2 [choose whichever image you prefer, or use them in rotation]:**

Use the greeting for this term

**Leader:** We are on this journey together...

**Children:** We are friends along the way...

**ALL:** May God go with us.

### BSL interpretation:

Sign for 'way' (nearest to the idea of 'journey'): [British Sign Language BSL Video Dictionary - way](#)

Sign for 'friends': [British Sign Language: friends](#)

Sign for 'God': [British Sign Language BSL Video Dictionary - God](#)



Sign for 'go with us' – we have invented this! After you've signed 'God', bring your finger down alongside your other finger and make them 'journey together' in front of you.

### Engaging:

- Slide 3: To boldly go.....** Today we are going on another journey, with someone who had witnessed the start of the Church as we heard last week, in the **Pentecost story**.
- Slide 4: What's in the rucksack today?** Open your rucksack and show the sunglasses, talking about what they are for and how they might help on a journey. Talk about how they help to change what we see – so that our eyes can cope better with bright sunshine! Then introduce each of your other optical objects, and ask them to spot the connection, which should be that 'they help you to see things' (or similar).
- Slides 5&6:** Ask a child (who doesn't wear glasses) to put on the dress-up glasses, cover one eye and do a mock 'eye test' – don't make too big a deal of what they can or can't read as this is not the point. Repeat



*with the other eye, then try it again with both working together: the child should find that it's easier to read the chart with both eyes open.*

**Slide 7:** Being able to see properly is really important – and wearing glasses can help! In today's story, we hear a lot about seeing.....so watch out, and see if you can spot a connection between the story and our rucksack object....

The story carries on from the one we heard last time, when God sent his Holy Spirit upon the disciples and the first Church began. It is about a man named Saul, and what happened when he met Jesus... As we tell the story together, there will be some things for you to wonder....Keep thinking about these and we'll talk later on *[use story & props listed on p3-4]*

- **Slide 8: Paul's Journey**
- **Slide 9:** At the end of our story, let's have a time to talk together. In our story, we asked quite a lot of questions! *[go back to some of the wondering questions posed in the story. Children could talk in pairs, or you could have an open discussion, or find another way that fits your context. You may wish to focus on just one question, or leave this for children to ponder in their classrooms later]*

....I wonder what made Saul such an unkind person at the start?....

....I wonder how Saul felt when he couldn't see?.....

....I wonder how Ananias felt, knowing who he was to visit?....

....I wonder why Saul changed his name?....

**Responding (and words for worship):** *\*we use both names here, you may want to use either Saul or Paul, reflecting what's easiest for your children.*



**Slide 10:** Let's be still and quiet together now....

...We've been thinking today about how Paul met Jesus on the road to Damascus....

....we've heard how this event changed his life, and helped him to see everything in a different kind of way....

....I wonder how being blind made Saul\* see things in a new way?....

...I wonder how this experience changed things for Saul\*, and for others?.....

....I wonder what others saw when they looked at Paul\*?....

....I wonder what this story might teach us?.....

...think quietly to yourself about these things..... and bring them before God now if you'd like to...

**Prayer: [choose from the two options]**

**Slide 11, Option 1:** I'm going to turn my thoughts into a prayer now. Make the prayer your own if you'd like to...or if you'd prefer not to pray, then just sit quietly with your own thoughts.

Dear God

Thank you for this story of how Saul became Paul and learned to see the world differently. Thank you for how Ananias also heard your voice and chose to do what you asked him to. Help us to 'see' other people or situations that we face as you do. Amen.

**Slide 12, Option 2:** I'm going to turn my thoughts into a prayer now. There's a part for you to join in with if you'd like to make the prayer your own – or you can just continue to be still and quiet with your own thoughts. Here are the words for us to join together with:

**Help us to see as you see, God....**

**Slide 13:** When we are faced with difficult challenges

**Help us to see as you see, God....**and see the solution, not the problem.

**Slide 14:** When we are faced with difficult people

**Help us to see as you see, God....**and treat them with love and compassion.

**Slide 15:** When life causes us to question,



Help us to see as you see, God....and turn to you.

Slide 16: Amen

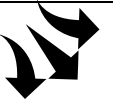
**Sending:**

**Slide 17: Use this term's leaving words**

**Leader:** We have journeyed together today.

As we leave this place and time and go into the day ahead...

**ALL: ...May God go with us.**



Sign for 'God': [British Sign Language BSL Video Dictionary - God](#)



Sign for 'go with us' – we have invented this! After you've signed 'God', bring your finger down alongside your other finger and make them 'journey together' in front of you.

**To sing / listen to:**

[Let's be kind](#) (NBD)



**Ideas for classroom reflection: a variety of glasses**

Put on the different glasses and think about how they change how you see things.

Are there people or situations you might need to 'see' differently?

Talk about how this might change your school for the better.

If you'd like to, bring these before God and ask Him to help you to see things as He does.



'To boldly go.....!'

**8. Paul's journey - seeing another way**



## Slide 8: Paul's Journey

You will need a long strip of brown cloth that you can use as a pathway for this story; a table-runner is ideal. Also collect the following props, which you will lay along the cloth as you tell the story. There are some wondering questions scattered throughout the script – pause each time you get to one before continuing the narrative.

### Props:

Three wooden figures, or figures selected from your small world; one to represent <b>Saul/Paul</b> , the second a traveller and the third, <b>Ananias</b> .	Small card label, with the name <b>Saul</b> on one side and <b>Paul</b> on the other (printed from p6)	A small wooden cross, such as a holding cross
A small scroll, made from paper.	A set of keys, the larger the better	Jagged speech bubble (printed from p6)
Small heart confetti, or a battery tealight	A plate of play food	Two card hearts, the same size – one grey, the other red. Glue these together to make one heart – with 2 sides of different colours (printed from p6)

*[Lay down the 'road' as you speak]*

Our story takes place in the middle of a journey; a dry and dusty journey along a dry and dusty road. The traveller on this road is a man named **Saul** *[place one figure and the name card at the 'start' of the road]* .....**I wonder where he's going?.....**

Saul was on his way to Damascus to gather up any **Christians** he could find. *[place cross]* The early Church called themselves 'Followers of the Way' and they were very frightened of Saul. He had a reputation of being very cruel and unkind.....**I wonder why he was like this?....**

On this day, he was travelling from Jerusalem to Damascus with **letters of authority** *[lay small scroll]* giving him permission to find these Christians and throw them into **prison**. *[lay down keys]* Saul hated them, and everything they stood for and made it his life's work to try to get rid of them.

But there was someone else on the road to Damascus too, someone who had seen all that Saul done. As Saul was travelling *[move Saul*



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*along to the middle of the road]* he saw a bright, bright light and heard a voice speaking to him *[lay down 'speech bubble' as you speak]* **'Saul, Saul! Why are you trying to hurt me?'** .....**I wonder whose voice it was?....**

Now it was Saul's turn to be terrified and he fell to his face *[lie figure down]*, trembling: 'Who are you, Lord?'  
'I am Jesus, who you are trying to hurt. Go into the city and wait for the man I will send to you.'

When Saul got up, he found that he couldn't see at all, but a **kind traveller** helped him to the city and found him a place to stay *[bring in 2<sup>nd</sup> figure and 'walk' them to the other end of the cloth. Remove 2<sup>nd</sup> figure leaving Saul alone]* where he'd been told to wait ....**I wonder how Saul felt now?.....**

Three days later, a man named **Ananias** *[place 3<sup>rd</sup> figure]* had a dream. He was follower of the Way and in his dream, Jesus told him to find Saul, who was staying in Straight Street....**I wonder how Ananias felt, knowing who he was to visit?....**

But Ananias went to Saul *[move figure]*, telling him 'Jesus has sent me to you' and put his hands on Saul's eyes. At once, Saul was able to see again and was filled with the **Holy Spirit** *[scatter small heart confetti around the figure / place tealight]* Then Saul got up, was baptised....and had **something to eat!!** *[place food]*

And from then, he changed his name from **Saul** *[replace name label]* to **Paul** *[turn label over]* .....**I wonder why he did this?....**

But even more importantly, his **hard heart** *[place grey heart next to Saul]* was changed, **forever**. *[turn heart over]* A new life and a new journey had begun!....



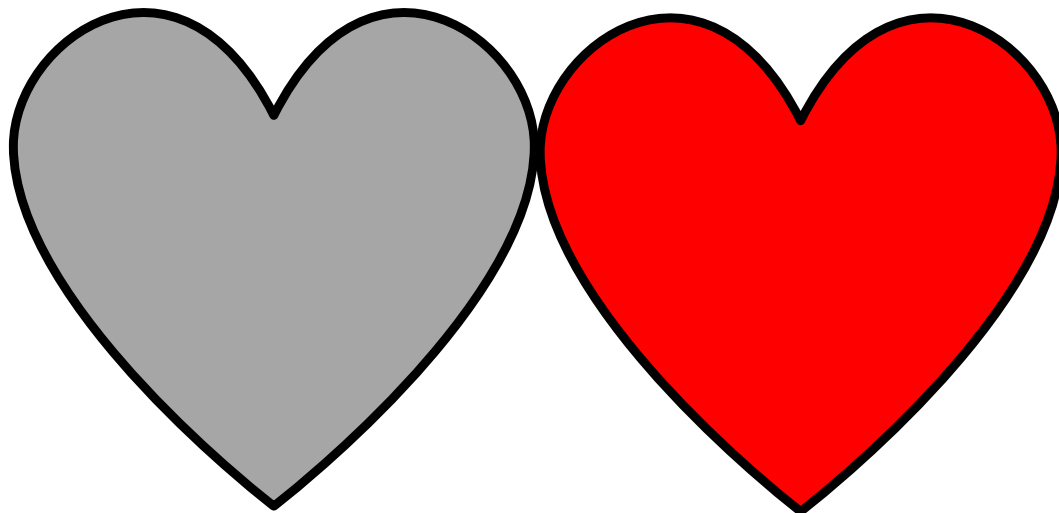
*Print out, cut and fold so the names are double-sided*

**Saul**

**Paul**

**Saul, Saul! Why  
are you trying to  
hurt me?**

*Print out, cut and fold so the hearts are double-sided:*



**'To boldly go.....!'**

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***When Paul met Jesus on the road to Damascus, his life was changed forever. He learned how to see his life and other people in God's way.***



**Put on the different glasses and think about how they change how you see things.**



**Are there people or situations you might need to 'see' differently?**



**Talk about how this might change our school for the better.**

**If you'd like to, bring these things before God and ask Him to help you to see things as He does.**

