

Paul Trusts God's Strength!

Bible Lesson: Paul escapes over the wall in a basket – Acts 9:20-31

Main Teaching: God gives you His strength to be bold for Him.

Word Up: God is Strong!

Supplies:

- Word Up Booklet – Word Up (Resource Pack)
- Recording for “Jesus is the Good News” and “God Shows His Love” - Worship (Sing About the King 1 CD)
- Optional Song Visual for “Jesus is the Good News” – Worship (cefpress.com)
- Piece of paper, plastic cup and 2 books the same size – Object Lesson
- Flashcards for Bible Story “Paul Trusts God’s Strength” – Bible Lesson
- Basket or picture of a basket – Bible Lesson
- Basket and soft ball or stuffed animal – Review Game
- Quiet Time Sheet Lesson 5 – Dismissal (Resource Pack)

Schedule at a Glance (75 min club):

- 15 min – Small Group
- 10 min – Word Up / Worship
- 10 min – Object Lesson
- 15 min – Bible Lesson
- 10 min – Review Game
- 5 min – Missionary Story
- 10 min – Small Group

 **SMALL GROUP**

Say Memory Verse

Have kids say their memory verse from last week to their small group leader

Tens

Materials Needed: None

What You Do: Have all children in your group stand in a circle. Going clockwise around the circle, each member can say one, two, or three numbers in order. For example, I might start with the number 1, the next person might say, “2, 3” and the following person might say, “4, 5, 6.” Continue going around the circle until someone says 10. As soon as someone says 10, the next person in line is out. They must sit down. Continue playing, having the children sit down after 10, until there is one child standing. That child is the winner! Replay the game as time allows.

WORSHIP

“Jesus is the Good News”

“God Shows His Love”



WORD UP!

“God is strong!”

Have you ever wished you were stronger? God is strong! He is all-powerful! Today we are going to talk about the strength God gives those who believe in Him. This strength isn't stronger muscles or the ability to lift heavy objects but an even more important strength! Because God is strong, He can help you with every detail of your life. God can give you the strength to live for Him and be bold in telling others about Him! Say with me, **“God is strong!”** (*Say with children.*) God gives you His strength to be bold for Him!

RULES

Review club rules with the class

OBJECT LESSON

Faith Workout

Materials Needed: piece of paper, plastic cup, and 2 hardcover books of the same height

Demonstration video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P1DTMG4pUaE>

What You Do: Before the presentation, set up the two books on a table at the front of the room. Stand them upright with about 6 inches in between (so that the piece of paper can rest on top of the two books to create a “bridge”).

What You Say: “Do you ever feel like it’s hard to trust God? Like maybe you don’t understand what he’s doing or why life isn’t going the way you think it should? Maybe you feel like things are out of control and you wonder what God is doing? This paper here is going to represent the person who is trying to do everything alone. They don’t think they need any help from anyone else, because they are strong! But soon, too many things start to build up that are out of their control, and eventually, they can’t do it anymore...(Place cup on top of paper. It will weigh the paper down, and both the cup and the paper will fall.) The weight is too much and their own strength crumbles.”

“But what if this person decides to stop trying to be strong enough on their own? What if this person decides to trust God and rely on His perfect strength? I’m going to take this same piece of paper, but this time, I’m going to fold it (begin to fold the paper “accordion” style). This time, the paper is representing the same person who now trusts in God’s strength and power. They live with courage, because they believe that God is stronger than any problems they face in this world! (Unfold the paper so that it is now shaped in a “zig-zag” pattern, and place it on top of the books to create another bridge) And now, when I place the cup on the bridge, do you think it will fall? It’s the same exact piece of paper. The only difference is that now this person isn’t alone - they have a new strength within them that comes only from God. Let’s find out what happens... (Place the cup on the paper. It will not fall - the paper will support the weight of the cup.) What happened? Well, when we choose to trust God, He is able to shape us and mold us into a person that is courageous and bold! Much like I shaped and molded this same piece of paper into something that was strong enough to hold the weight of the cup, God is working on you, and He will

make you courageous in His strength! We can always trust that God is stronger than anything on this Earth, and He is always in control. **Word Up! God is strong!**

 **BIBLE LESSON**

INTRODUCTION

(Bring a basket or a picture of a basket. Hold it up for the children to see.) Baskets can be used for many different things. What are some things you have seen baskets used for? What are some things you have seen in baskets? *(Allow responses.)* Listen closely to hear how a basket was used in our story.

PROGRESSION OF EVENTS

Last lesson we learned from God's Word, the Bible, about a man named Saul. Do you remember what happened to Saul on his way to Damascus? *(Allow response.)* There was a blinding light and Jesus spoke to Saul! Saul believed Jesus really is the Son of God.

Flashcard 5-1

When Saul was in Damascus, he began to preach in the Jewish synagogues there. The Jewish people would go there to worship and learn about God. Saul would say to them, "Jesus is the Son of God!" Even though the Jewish people believed in God, most of them did not believe Jesus is the Son of God.

The change in Saul was so great that when people heard him preach, they were amazed. Saul was the one who had persecuted people who believed on Jesus! Show me your amazed face. *(Do with children.)*

"Isn't this the man who caused so many problems for the believers in Jerusalem?" the believers asked. "Hasn't he now come to Damascus to take us prisoner?"

It's true that Saul had gone to Damascus to arrest Jesus' followers, but God had a much different plan. He wanted Saul to become a follower of Jesus and tell others about Him. And that's exactly what happened! When God saved him, Saul turned away from his sinful life and began preaching the Good News that Jesus is the Son of God.

Saul spent several years in a place called Arabia learning more and more about Jesus and growing strong in God's strength. God was helping Saul know Him and love Him. God was also preparing Saul to have the strength he would need for the hard times that were going to come!

Flashcard 5-2

The Bible says Saul grew more and more in strength that came from God. God gave Saul strength to be bold for Him even when it was hard. Saul returned to Damascus and day after day he continued to preach about Jesus, showing from the Old Testament that Jesus is the Savior who had been promised hundreds of years before. The Jewish leaders became angrier and angrier. They hated what Saul was saying! They didn't believe that Jesus is God's Son. The leaders didn't like to hear Saul preaching the truth about Jesus. They didn't like to hear that they needed Jesus as their Savior.



We talk a lot in club about the truth about Jesus. Maybe it makes you uncomfortable because you haven't believed on Jesus yet. Maybe you think, "I'm not a bad person! I don't do really bad things like other people." The truth is that you need Jesus because you are a sinner. Sin is wanting your own way and not God's way. *(Read Isaiah 53:6.)* We are born wanting to go our own way and not God's way. When you look down on other people because you think they are not as good as

you, that is sin. When you think about getting back at someone because you are angry with him, that is also sin. Your sin keeps you apart from God who is completely pure and holy. Some people think they are good enough on their own, but no one is as good as God. God is the Creator who made you and the whole world. Because He is perfect and you are not, you deserve to be separated from God. You need Jesus! The truth is Jesus is God the Son. He never sinned—not once. Because of His great love for you, He came to the Earth He created to die for your sins. (*Read 1 John 1:7b.*) Jesus' blood and life that He gave on the cross is what cleanses (takes away) your sin. On the third day after Jesus died and was buried, He came alive again! Later He returned to His home in Heaven, where He is alive today with God the Father. This is the truth of the Gospel—you need Jesus to save you.

The Jewish leaders did not like to hear the truth about Jesus. They did not want to admit they were also sinners who needed to be saved. Saul had been a religious leader like them but now he followed Jesus and they hated him for that. So they plotted to kill Saul. They watched the gates to the city day and night so if Saul tried to leave, they could capture and kill him. Saul and his friends found out about the plan. What would they do? Many cities in those days had high walls around them for protection. Damascus was one of these cities. If anyone wanted to go in or out, he had to go through the city gate.

But Saul's friends had to get him out of the city a different way. What would you have done? Talk to the person next to you and see if you can come up with two ideas. (*Allow response.*) Let's hear a few of your ideas. (*Allow several children to share.*)

Flashcard 5-3

The Bible tells us what Saul's friends did. (*Read Acts 9:25.*) They lowered Saul over the wall in a basket! Saul was no longer the one looking for followers of Jesus wanting to kill them. Now the Jewish leaders were looking for Saul to kill him! Saul was being bold for God and sharing the truth about Jesus but people hated him. It is not always easy to be a follower of Jesus.



People may make fun of you or even think you are weird or crazy because you believe on Jesus—some may even hate you. It can be easy to stop talking about Jesus because it's easier to be quiet than to be hated, made fun of or laughed at. Maybe kids at school treat you differently because they know you go to *Good News Club* or church. Or maybe you are even afraid someone might hurt you if you continue to follow Jesus. Jesus said if you are one of His followers, you can expect people to think this about you. (*Read John 16:33.*) Jesus said to expect tribulation (trouble, persecution). But He is bigger and greater than anything that can happen to you in this world. If you are a follower of Jesus, **God gives you His strength to be bold for Him.** God is not talking about physical strength, though He can give that too. He is talking about strength on the inside—strength to be brave and to tell others about who Jesus is and what He has done for them. You can take comfort in this during those times when it would be easier to not talk about Jesus or pretend like you don't know Him.

It would have been easier for Saul to keep the truth about Jesus to himself. But he couldn't! Jesus had saved him and Saul wanted everyone to know the truth about Jesus.

Saul's enemies, who had been watching at the gates, didn't know that he had escaped at first, but they weren't going to stop trying to kill him!

When Saul came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the other followers of Jesus there, but they were afraid of him! Why do you think they were afraid? (*Allow response.*) They didn't believe he had become a follower of Jesus.

Flashcard 5-4

But Barnabas, one of the believers, brought Saul to the other believers. He told them the whole story about what happened to Saul. Barnabas had to explain that Saul no longer persecuted the Church but was now a follower of Jesus. Jesus had appeared to Saul! Now Saul was even preaching about the Lord Jesus. Because Barnabas spoke up for Saul, the believers in Jerusalem accepted him as one of God's family, the Church.

So much had changed in Saul's life. From this point on in the Bible, Saul is called by his other name which was Paul. Paul had been changed by God's Holy Spirit and was now bold for Him in God's strength!

Flashcard 5-5



Paul began boldly telling people in Jerusalem that Jesus is the Son of God. He was doing this in the strength God gave him!

God can give you strength too. If you are a follower of Jesus, **God gives you His strength to be bold for Him.** There will be times in your life when it will be easier to pretend like you are not a follower of Jesus. Or there may be times when you don't want to tell someone about Jesus but you know you should. You don't have enough strength on your own to be bold for God, but the good news is that God is strong!

Word Up Visual

Say with me, **"God is strong!"** (*Say with children.*) The Bible says, (*read Ephesians 6:10*). God can give you the strength you need to continue being a bold follower of Jesus. You can ask God to help you be bold to tell people about Jesus, even when it's easier to be quiet and not tell them. You can also ask God to help you be strong when people make fun of you because you follow Jesus. Another thing you can do is serve and love other people just like Jesus did. The Holy Spirit, who is God, lives in you and will give you strength to love and serve other people. You can pray and ask God to give you strength when you do not feel bold or strong.

Paul was being bold for God in the strength God gave him. But just like in Damascus, there were people in Jerusalem who wanted to kill him! Even though many people hated Paul, even more people came to listen to the truth he was saying about Jesus.

CLIMAX

Slide 11

More and more people believed on Jesus because of what God had done in Paul's life!

CONCLUSION

Paul was made completely new because of Jesus. God's family of believers accepted Paul as a believer and welcomed him into the church in Jerusalem. The church kept growing more and more! The Bible says the believers were comforted by the Holy Spirit, who gave them strength and helped them be bold for God.

INVITATION



You have heard the truth about Jesus today in club. You've heard how much God loves you. You've heard Jesus died and rose again to save you from your sin. Here is another truth from God's Word. (*Read Acts 16:31.*) To believe is to realize you have sinned and trust with all your heart that Jesus is the Son of God who died and came alive to save you from sin. When you turn to Jesus, believing on Him, you will be saved from the punishment you deserve. You will have God's strength every day as He helps you get to know Him better. Will you believe on Jesus today to save

you? Please close your eyes and bow your head. If you want to believe on Jesus as your Savior, will you show me by looking up at me? (*Acknowledge responses.*) You may all open your eyes. If you looked up at me, please meet me (*designate time and location*) and we can talk more about what it means to believe on Jesus.

? REVIEW GAME

Basket Ball

When a child answers a question, they score 100 points. Then they get to throw a stuffed animal or soft ball into a basket. If they make it, they get an extra 100 points.

1. What did Saul do as soon as he got his eyesight back? (He began to preach that Jesus is the Son of God.)
2. Why were the religious leaders trying to kill Saul? (They did not believe the truth about Jesus that Saul was preaching.)
3. What does sin do to your relationship with God? (It keeps you apart from God.)
4. Why did Jesus come to Earth? (To forgive your sin by dying on the cross.)
5. How did Saul's friends save his life? (They helped him escape the city in a basket.)
6. Name some times when it could be hard for you to be bold for God. (When others make fun of you; when you're afraid to tell someone about Jesus; answers may vary.)
7. Who can help you be bold and have strength? (God because He is strong!)
8. Why were the Christians surprised when they saw Saul preaching? (They thought he had come to persecute them.)
9. Who helped explain to the other believers how Saul had changed? (Barnabas.)
10. What is one way you can be bold for God this week in His strength? (Answers will vary.)
11. What was Saul's name changed to? (Paul.)
12. According to our memory verse, what shows God's love for you? (He died for us while we were still sinners.)

MISSIONARY STORY

A missionary is someone who tells others about Jesus. If you have believed in Jesus as your Savior, you can tell others about Jesus. Some people do that as their full time job. Some people give money to other missionaries so they can spend their time sharing the love of Jesus instead of working a regular job to earn money. And some people work a regular job and also work to tell others about Jesus.

God might give you a strong desire to move to a new country, learn a new language and tell other people about Jesus in a place far away. Or God might want you to tell kids about Jesus, like we do here in Good News Club. God might

want you to help people that are hungry, or people with addiction issues or people that need jobs. God has gifted us in all different ways, and we can all use the special person He has made us to be and to serve Him. What special skills do you have? Look for ways to use those skills to share the good news of Jesus with others.

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY

God Is Strong to Help

God is strong and He gives His strength to those who believe in Him. He helps us in those times when we don't feel like we have enough strength. You can pray and ask God to give you His strength to help you. Let's think about some of the things we have been praying about for the last few weeks. *(Discuss some of the prayers in the prayer notebook.)* How can we pray for God's strength during these hard times? *(Discuss with children.)* Let's pray that God will give those we have been praying for His strength during the hard times they are going through. Let's pray that God will give each of us His strength too. *(Pray with children.)*

DISMISSAL

Hand out a Quiet Time Sheet (Week 5 in the Resource Pack) to each child. Encourage them to fill it out and bring it back next week. As children are getting picked up, try and connect with the parents and let them know the kids are working on trusting in God's strength this week.

Paul Trusts God's Strength (Paul escapes over the wall in a basket)

This page has been designed for you to photocopy and place in you Bible as a ready reference.

Lesson Outline

I. INTRODUCTION
Baskets can be used for many different things. What are some things you have seen baskets used for?

II. PROGRESSION OF EVENTS

A. Flashcard 5-1

1. When Saul began to preach about Jesus in Damascus, people were amazed at his change.
2. Saul spent several years in Arabia learning more about Jesus.

B. Flashcard 5-2

1. Saul came back to Damascus and boldly taught about Jesus but this made the Jewish leaders angry.
2. Because of His great love for you, He came to the Earth He created to die for your sins. This is the truth of the Gospel—you need Jesus to save you. [Isaiah 53:6; 1 John 1:7b]
3. The Jewish leaders did not like to hear the truth about Jesus. They plotted to kill Saul.
4. Saul and his friends found out about the plan to kill him.

C. Flashcard 5-3

1. Saul's friends lowered him over the wall in a basket!
2. **God gives you His strength to be bold for Him.** [John 16:33]
3. Saul's enemies didn't know he had escaped.
4. When Saul came to Jerusalem, Jesus' followers there were afraid of him.

D. Flashcard 5-4

1. Barnabas brought Saul to the other believers and told them how Saul was now a follower of Jesus!
2. After this point in the Bible, Saul is called Paul.

E. Flashcard 5-5

1. Paul began boldly telling people in Jerusalem that Jesus is the Son of God.
2. You don't have enough strength on your own to be bold for God, but God is strong and gives you His strength! [Ephesians 6:10]

III. CLIMAX

Flashcard 5-6
More and more people believed on Jesus because of what God had done in Paul's life!

IV. CONCLUSION

- A. The believers in Jerusalem accepted Paul and God's Church kept growing.
- B. God, in His strength, will give you the strength to do what's right. [Ephesians 6:10]
- C. Will you believe on Jesus today to save you? [Acts 16:31]

Scripture verses in parentheses are background text. Bracketed verses should be quoted or read from God's Word.