

# Paul Escapes in a Basket

Lesson 36

## Bible Story

Acts 9:20-28

## Teacher Challenge

Paul was suddenly proclaiming all over Damascus that Jesus is the Messiah. Imagine the uproar! Paul had changed from persecuting followers of the Way of Jesus to being one of them. The religious leaders in Damascus were appalled. They decided that they had to kill this fearless troublemaker!

They immediately posted spies to watch the gate and capture Paul. But his friends lowered him outside the city wall—while his attackers waited at the gate!

- ➔ What troubles has God seen you through in the past?
- ➔ What are you facing now and trusting God to see you through?

As you faithfully obey what you know God has given you to do, trust God to love you and be with you whether you “feel” His presence or not. Remember that He can lead you safely out of or through the most dangerous situation. Trust God as He leads you through any circumstance.

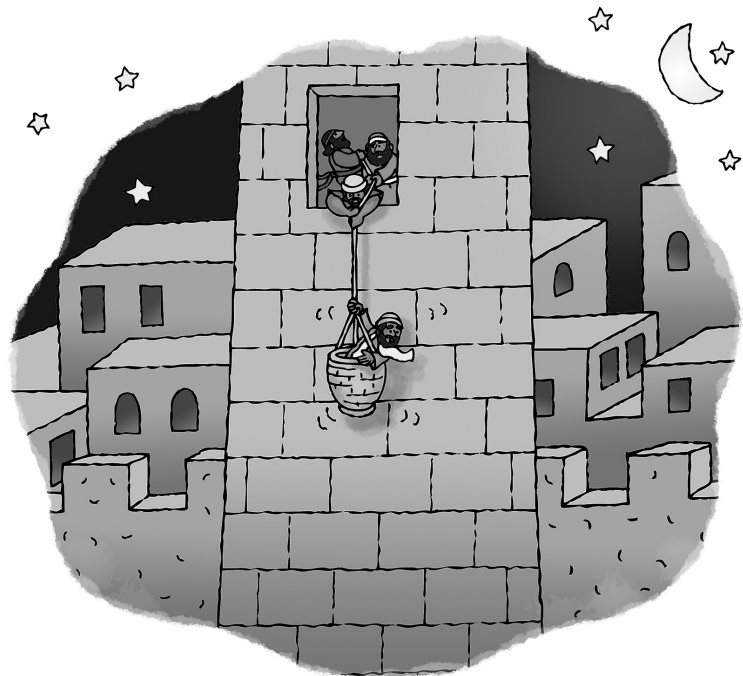
(Note: To reduce confusion for children, the name Paul [instead of Saul] is used throughout this lesson.)

**God's Word**  
“In God I trust; I will not be afraid.”  
Psalm 56:4

**God's Word and Me**  
When I'm afraid, God is  
with me and loves me.

## Teacher's Planning

1. Choose which centers you will provide and the order in which children will participate in them. For tips on schedule planning, see page 9.
2. Plan who will lead each center, making sure to have one adult for approximately every six children. For staffing tips and ideas, see page 12.



# Play to Learn

Lesson 36

## Active Game Center: Over the Wall

### Collect

Bible, two blocks, yarn, construction paper, scissors, masking tape.

### Prepare

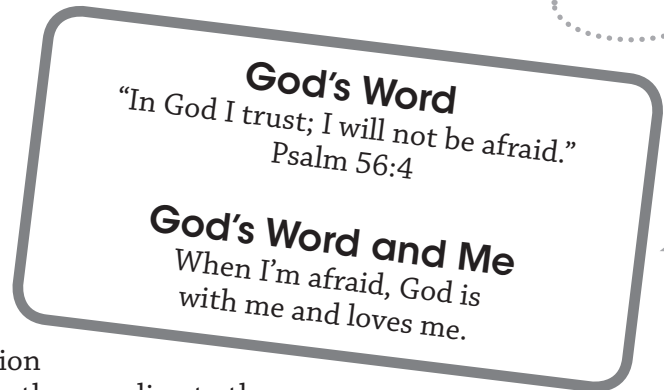
Stack two blocks. Place a yarn line on the opposite side of the activity area. Cut sheets of construction paper in half. Cut enough pieces to make a path from the yarn line to the blocks. Tape papers to floor.

### Do

1. Children line up behind yarn line. The first child follows paper path to the block wall, stepping on each paper. Then child steps or jumps over the wall. Each child does the same.
2. Play additional rounds. Children walk in a variety of ways: sideways, heel-to-toe, jumping, etc.

### Talk About

- ➔ **Paul escaped danger because his friends helped him get over the wall and out of the city. Let's play a game to remind us of what Paul did.**
- ➔ **God gives us our family to help us. What does Mom or Dad do to keep you safe when you are crossing the street?** (Holds my hand.) **When you are riding in the car?** (Buckles the seat belt.) **When you are sick?** (Takes me to the doctor.) **When you start to touch something very hot?** (Pulls me away from it.)
- ➔ **The Bible says, "In God I trust; I will not be afraid." We don't have to be afraid. God is with us and loves us all the time. Pray briefly, Thank You, God, that we can trust in You.**



### For Younger Children

Children do not try to step from paper to paper but simply follow path to the block wall.

### For Older Children

Children trace feet on construction paper, cut out the footprints and tape them to the floor, creating the path.

# Play to Learn

Lesson 36

## Art Center: Basket Weaving

### Collect

Bible, two colors of 9x12-inch (23x30.5-cm) construction paper, ruler, pencil, scissors, tape or glue; optional—Lesson 36 Weaving Patterns 1-2 from *Discovering God's Love* CD-ROM.

### Prepare

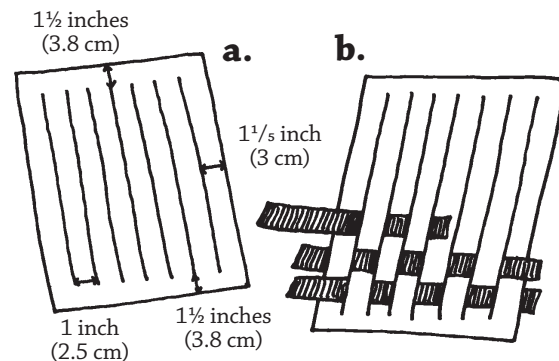
For each child, prepare the following: On one color construction paper cut slits following measurements as shown in sketch a. (Optional: Make copies of Weaving Pattern 1 onto construction paper and cut on lines.) From another color construction paper cut 1x12-inch (2.5x30.5-cm) strips, seven for each child. (Optional: Make copies of Weaving Pattern 2 onto construction paper and cut on lines.)

### Do

1. Give each child a prepared page and seven paper strips. Children weave paper strips as shown in sketch b.
2. Children trim strips and secure with tape or glue.

### Talk About

- ➔ **In our Bible story today, Paul's friends helped him by lowering him over a wall in a basket. A basket is made by weaving grass. Let's practice weaving with paper.**
- ➔ **Paul trusted God. He knew God would take care of him. The Bible says, "In God I trust; I will not be afraid." Pray briefly, Thank You, God, that when we're afraid, we can trust in You. Thank You for being with us and loving us.**
- ➔ **Bella, what is something you like to do? God is with you when you play in the yard! God loves you.**



### For Younger Children

Tape each strip as the child is finished weaving it through the paper. This will make it easier for them to complete the page.

### For Older Children

Children use markers to decorate finished page.

# Play to Learn

Lesson 36

## Block Center: Block Wall

### Collect

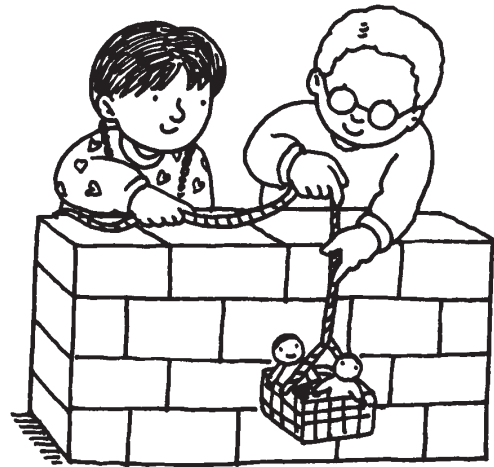
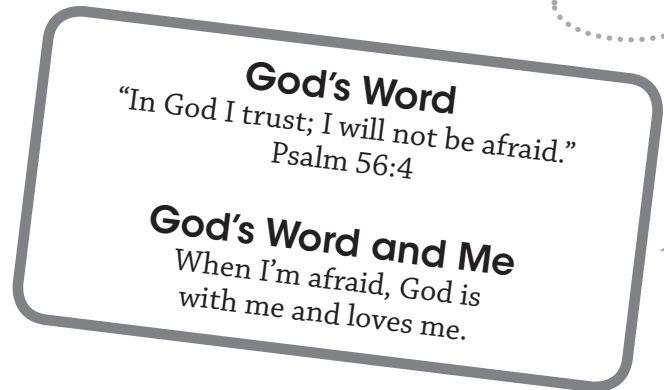
Bible, blocks, rope material (yarn, string or twine), scissors, strawberry or other small baskets, toy people.

### Do

1. Children build block walls. Cut lengths of rope material longer than walls are high.
2. Tie rope material to small baskets. Children take turns placing toy people in baskets and holding onto ropes as they lower baskets over block walls. Repeat as time allows.

### Talk About

- ➔ **In today's Bible story, Paul told people about Jesus, even though Paul knew it made some leaders angry. Paul trusted God and was not afraid. God was with Paul, even when he escaped over the wall in a basket! Let's make a wall and pretend to help others escape in a basket.**
- ➔ **Ashlyn, where is a place you go to play? God is with you when you go to the park. What do you like to play on at the park? God is with you when you go down the slide!**
- ➔ **The Bible says, "In God I trust; I will not be afraid." When we feel afraid, we can ask God to help us. We can ask Him to help us think of the best thing to do. Pray briefly, Dear God, when we are afraid, please help us to remember You love us. Help us not to be afraid**



### For Younger Children

Children simply build walls. Help children by steadying base of wall as children build higher. Children build walls no higher than their chins.

### For Older Children

Children count blocks as they add them to the walls.

# Play to Learn

Lesson 36

## Science Center: Weighty Experiments

### Collect

Bible, blocks, similar-sized toy dump trucks, yarn or masking tape; optional—clean rocks of similar size.

### Prepare

Make a start line by placing yarn or masking tape on floor. (Note: Remove masking tape immediately after activity.)

### Do

1. Children place different number of blocks in dump trucks to make trucks of different weights. (Optional: Children place rocks in trucks.)
2. Children place trucks at start line and take turns pushing trucks to see which truck travels further, which is harder to push, etc. Invite children to then change the number of blocks in the trucks.

### Talk About

- ➔ **In our story today, Paul was lowered down a wall in a basket. It must have been hard work for the men holding the rope! Let's see what happens when something is heavy or light.**
- ➔ **Abigail, your truck did not go very far. Was it hard to push? You have lots of blocks in your truck, so it is heavy. That makes it hard to move.**
- ➔ **God was with Paul, even when Paul was in a basket! Nathan, where do you go? God is with you at school!**
- ➔ **The Bible says, "In God I trust; I will not be afraid." We don't have to feel afraid, because God is with us and loves us.**



**God's Word**  
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Psalm 56:4

**God's Word and Me**  
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### For Younger Children

Instead of using trucks, bring a number of baskets. Children place blocks or other toys in baskets and pick them up to feel their weight.

### For Older Children

Children place a short length of masking tape on floor where the trucks stopped and then compare distances.

# Listen to Learn

Acts 9:20-28

Lesson 36

## Collect

Bible, Bible Story 49 pictures from *God's Story for Me Poster Pack #1*, *Preschool Music #1* CD and player, magazine or calendar pictures of places, large manila envelope; optional—rhythm instruments, Lesson 36 Place Patterns 1-3 from *Discovering God's Love* CD-ROM.

## Prepare

(Optional: Print Place Patterns 1-3 from CD-ROM.) Place pictures of places in a large manila envelope.

## Greet Each Other

Children sit in a circle on the floor. (Optional: Give children rhythm instruments.) Children clap (or play instruments) as you say the following rhyme:

**Here is our circle**

**And here we are!**

**Here's (Jenna) and (Penni).**

**Here's (Trevor) and (Logan).**

Continue to insert children's names until all have been named and then finish the rhyme:

**And here I am, too.**

**We're glad we're together!**

**I'm glad I'm with you!**

## Tell the Story

Open your Bible to Acts 9. Tell the story using the pictured motions (keywords in bold) or show Bible Story 49 pictures.

**Who has some good news to share today? Listen to hear about a man who had good news he wanted to tell everyone!**



After Paul met Jesus, he didn't want to hurt the people in God's family anymore. He wanted to tell everyone that Jesus is God's Son. The people in the city where Paul was staying were very surprised. The leaders who sent Paul to hurt Jesus' friends were surprised, too. And they were **angry!** They decided, "We must stop Paul!"

The leaders sent men to watch the **gates** of the city. They knew Paul would have to come out of the city gates. They told the men to catch Paul and hurt him. But Paul found out about the leaders' plan. Paul knew he could not leave the city by walking out in the usual way. And of course, God loved Paul and had a way for Paul to escape the city.



One night, some of Paul's new friends met him on the wall of the city. The wall was very high and wide. Paul's friends brought a very big basket and a long, long rope.

Paul climbed into the basket. His friends tied ropes tightly around the basket. And they tied a long, long rope to the basket. Paul's friends held tightly to the rope and



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slowly pushed the basket over the wall. The basket began to drop **down, down, down**. Soon there was a THUMP! The basket was on the ground outside the city wall.



Paul was GLAD to climb out of that basket and glad to be out of Damascus! He went to Jerusalem, but Jesus' friends there thought Paul still wanted to hurt them. They were **afraid** to be Paul's friend. One man, Barnabas, became Paul's friend. He told everyone that Paul was Jesus' friend now. And Jesus' friends in Jerusalem became Paul's friends, too.

### Talk About the Story

**How did Paul's friends help him escape?** (Put him in a basket. Tied a rope to the basket and let it drop over the city wall.) **Paul must have been afraid! But God was with Paul and loved him. When we are afraid, we can remember that God is with us and loves us! Where are some of the places you go with your mom? God is with you at the store!**

### Sing to God

**Let's sing about God's love for us.** Lead children in singing "In a Very Big Way" (track 10 on CD). **This song tells us that God loves us in a very big way. This means God loves us all the time!**

### Hear and Say God's Word

Holding your Bible open to Psalm 56:4, say verse aloud. **We can trust God. He always does what He says He will do. God is always with us.** Lead the children in saying the verse together. Ask volunteers to raise their hands. As you repeat the verse, point to one of the volunteers. You and the children say that child's name instead of "I." **In God (Joshua) trusts; (Joshua) will not be afraid.** Repeat for each volunteer.

### Pray to God

Invite volunteers to name places they go. Pray, **Dear God, thank You that You are with us at** (list children's answers). **We trust You. In Jesus' name, amen.**

### Praise to God

Slowly pull one picture of a place at a time from the envelope. Children guess the place. Repeat with other pictures. **I am so glad that God is with us at all these different places. God is with us everywhere we go!**

# Talk to Learn

Lesson 36

## Bible Story Activity Pages Center

### Collect

A copy of Activity 49 from *The Big Book of Bible Story Activity Pages #1* for yourself and each child, scissors, crayons or markers, 12-inch (30.5-cm) length of string for each child, tape; optional—adhesive stars.

### Do

Lead children to complete pages following the instructions. (Optional: Children add adhesive stars to nighttime sky on page.) Use the conversation suggestions as children complete their pages and retell the story.

## Preschool Puzzle Center

### Collect

Copies of Puzzles 71 and 72 (p. 149 and p. 151 from *The Big Book of Kindergarten Puzzles*) for each child; pencils, crayons or markers.

### Do

Children complete the puzzles and color pages. Use the conversation suggestions on the pages.

## Read-Aloud Story Center

### Collect

A copy of Story Picture 36 from *The Big Book of Read-Aloud Stories #1* for yourself and each child, crayons or markers.

### Do

Read the story and distribute pictures. Use the conversation suggestions as children complete their pages.

