

Saul Becomes A New Person

Let's see how much you remember from last week's story. Who was the man that was punishing all the people who loved Jesus?

Did Saul believe on Jesus? What did Jesus ask Saul? What happened to Saul as he was walking down the road?

That's right.

When Saul got off the ground, he was blind. His friends had to lead him to Damascus, because that's where Jesus told him to go. But Saul had been there for three days, and still he could not see. No one had come to tell him what to do next, so all he could do was sit in his room in the darkness and wait. He had lots of time to think about how mean he had been and how he had made Jesus sad. So he waited and thought and prayed and waited some more.

Now, there was a Christian man named Ananias who loved the Lord very much. God spoke to him in a vision, telling him to go down the street to find Saul. Now,

Ananias had heard all the stories about Saul and he wasn't very fond of this plan.

Ananias spoke to the Lord: "What if he hurts me? What if he even wants to KILL me? Are you sure about this, Lord?" I'm

sure we all can understand Ananias' hesitation to go out and find Saul! The Lord spoke to Ananias again, reassuring him that everything would be fine.

Ananias found the house where Saul was staying and went in for a visit. While he was there, he prayed for Saul and what do you think happened? The darkness was gone, and Saul could see again. "God has chosen you to do some special jobs for Him," Ananias explained.

"He wants you to tell everyone about Him."

Now instead of hating God, Saul loved Him. He was like a whole new person. Saul was just like the caterpillar wasn't he? First he was an evil man full of hate and then he accepted Jesus into his life and he became a good man. Even

though people are mean, God still loves them and can help them to change. But what do you suppose the believers thought when Saul came to help them preach and teach? They were afraid of him, they wanted to go hide! They thought he was trying to trick them by saying he loved Jesus. They thought he was just pretending so he could catch them and throw them into jail. But Saul preached anyway, to people in the temples and to anyone else who would listen. He stood up bravely and told everyone, “This Jesus whom you crucified, He is the Christ, the Son of God.”

People began to listen, too, but they didn't like what they heard. “Isn't this the man who came here to punish the believers?” they asked. “What does he think he's doing talking about this Jesus in our temple? We must stop him!” They put soldiers throughout the city, day and night to watch for Saul. A soldier sat at every gate so Saul could not leave the

city. They'd catch him for sure, and when they did, they planned to kill him.

My, but things had changed! Saul had been the one who wanted to kill believers. Now someone wanted to kill him because he was a believer.

When Saul's friends found out that these men were going to kill him, they ran to his room. "You must go out of the city," they said. "The leaders of the temple are going to kill you. They even have soldiers watching the gates so you can't get away."

But how could Saul get out of the city?

The gates were the only way to leave, and the soldiers would grab him as soon as he came near.

"I have an idea," someone said.

"We'll help him climb OVER the wall. He won't even have to use the gates!"

Quickly someone brought a basket large enough for Saul to sit in, and everyone watched quietly as Saul climbed in. They tied ropes to it and carefully lowered him out through a window and down the wall.

Down, down, down, slowly and quietly Saul slipped down the city wall. Finally, bump, he was sitting on the ground safely outside the city. Saul hopped out of the basket and ran, as fast as he could, away from the city and away from the soldiers.

Saul knew that God was with him, and he was ready to do whatever the Lord wanted. He didn't want to punish people for loving Jesus, for now he loved Jesus, too. Saul had changed so much that he was just like a new person. God even gave him a new name. Instead of being SAUL, now his new name was PAUL. God has a special plan for Paul. There were lots of things he had to learn and much work for him to do. Next week we'll learn more about Paul, God's preacher.

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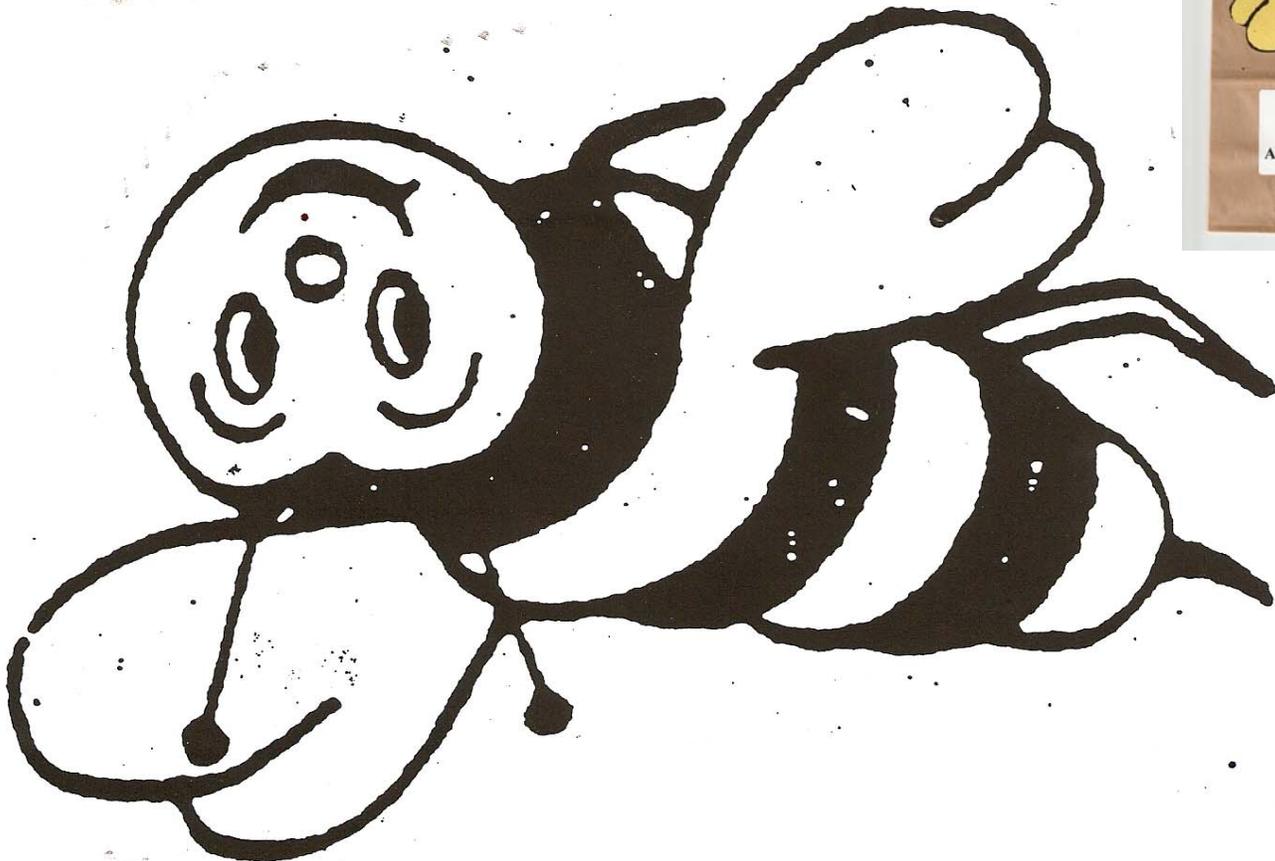
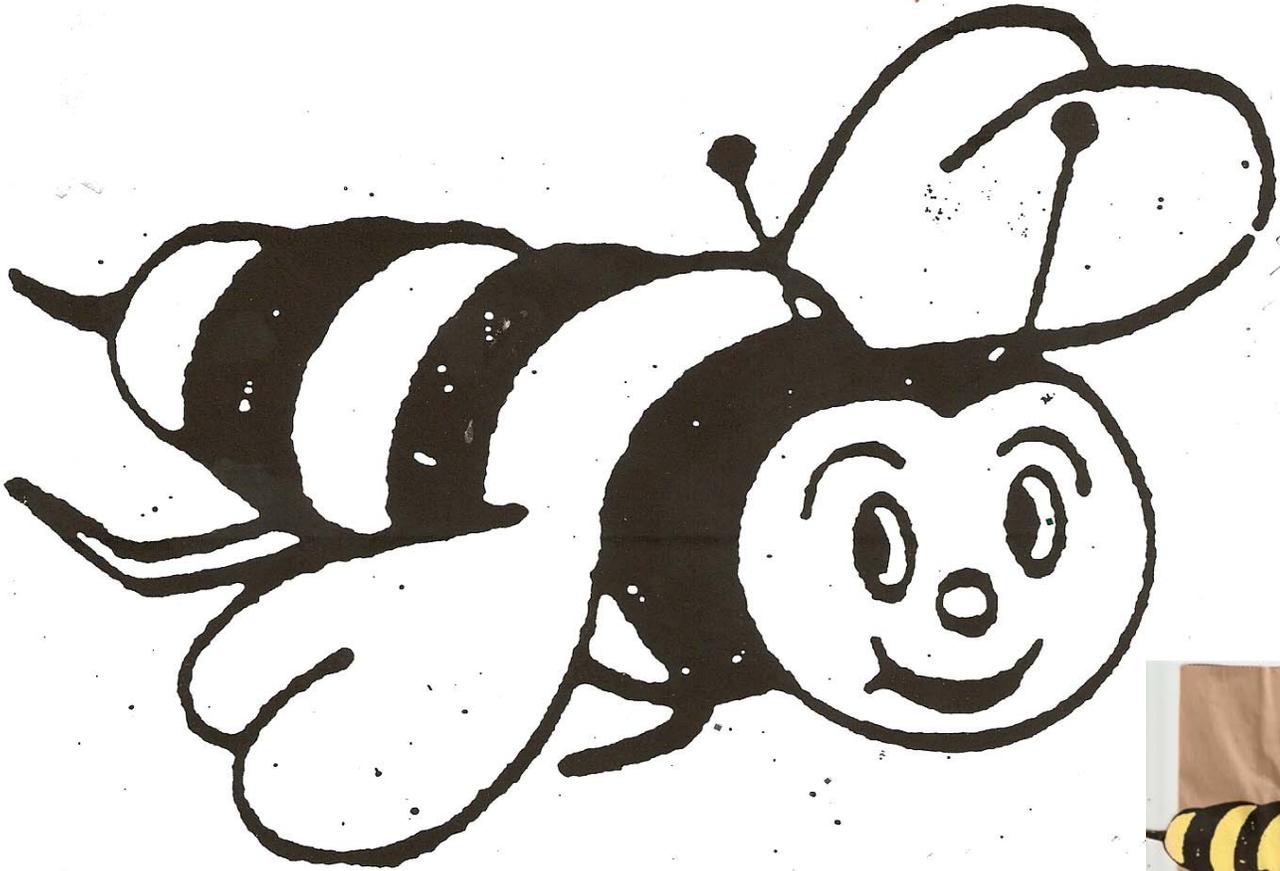
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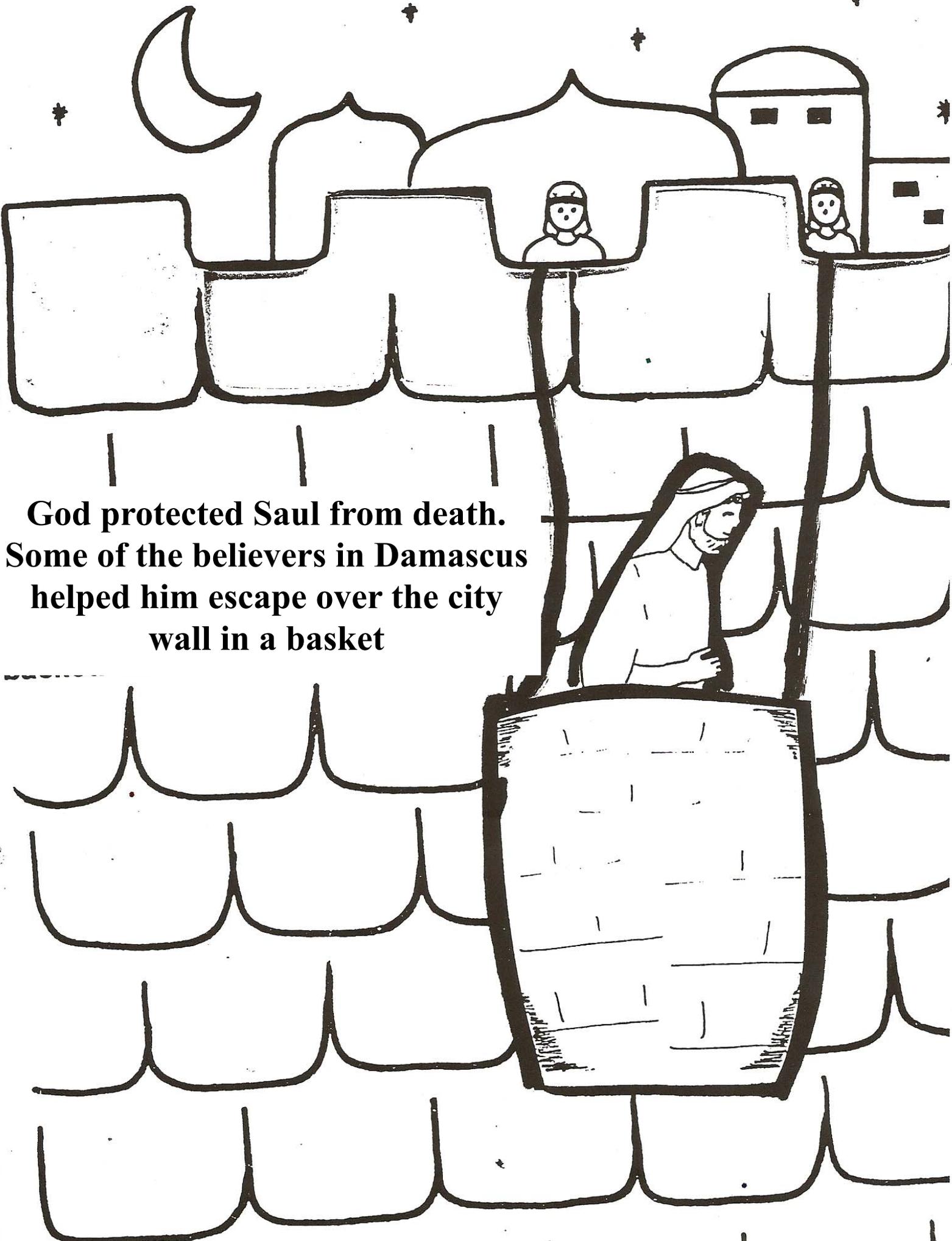
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SAUL BEE-
COMES A NEW
PERSON





**God protected Saul from death.
Some of the believers in Damascus
helped him escape over the city
wall in a basket**

Bee Craft

Pom-Poms-

Black, Red, White, Blue, Green, Yellow

Popsicle Sticks

Magnetic Tape

Hot Glue

Glue Gun

Wiggle Eyes

White Pipe Cleaners

Before class, make the antenna and hot glue them to the yellow pom-pom

In Class

Glue the pom-poms onto the Popsicle stick.

Start with black and go thru the plan of salvation as you attach each pom-pom

Attach eyes

Attach magnetic strip to bottom side of the bee

This sample is not in the correct order and the blue pom-pom is missing.

Correct Order– Black, Red, White, Blue, Green, Yellow

