

Together @ Home

May 1, 2022

Third Sunday of Easter



Bible Passage

Today we will be exploring together the story of Saul's conversion.

You can find it in your Bible in:

Acts 9 v 1–25



Read the story together – choose a Bible translation or children's story version which best suits your family.

A prayer to say together

Dear God,

Thank you for the story of Saul and thank you that you died on the cross and took the punishment for all our sins. Thank you that no mistake is too great that you cannot forgive it.

We pray for all those who still live in countries around the world where they are persecuted for their faith. We pray for their protection and for change in those countries so that people might be able to safely and openly follow you.

Amen

Discussion

A question for adults to ask children

Where was Saul traveling at the beginning of the story and why?

Saul was traveling to Damascus on a mission – he wanted to arrest and take back to Jerusalem anybody he found who was following Jesus and was part of the new Christian church.

Saul had made it his personal mission to persecute and attack all those who were saying that Jesus was the son of God and had died on the cross and risen from the dead. But Jesus had a plan for Saul – he wanted Saul to know that his sacrifice on the cross had been for everybody. Jesus had a new mission for Saul, to spread his Good News to everybody. Saul was also known by the name Paul and you can read his letters of instruction to many churches throughout the New Testament.

A question for children to ask adults

How did becoming a Christian change you?

Family Activity 1

When Saul was blinded, he had to trust others to guide him where he needed to go. The people who were with Saul took him by the hand and led him to Damascus.

Set up an obstacle course, blindfold somebody and then guide them through the course using just instructions or the sound of your voice. You could talk about how it feels having to trust somebody else to guide you and share how Saul must have felt.





A verse to remember

Matthew 5 v 44

“But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.”

These words come from Jesus’ famous "Sermon on the Mount" where he gave instructions on how to live right for God. We often focus on Saul in this Bible story, but we can learn from the example of Ananias as well.

Can you learn this verse together? You could come up with some actions to help you remember it or decorate the verse on a piece of paper or card together and put it up somewhere to remind you of it



Family Activity 2

You will need – a tray of random items from around the house, a towel or scarf

Lay a range of items from around your house on a tray or table, give everybody 1 minute (or less) to memorize as many objects as they can. Cover over the objects with the towel and remove one item, but make sure nobody can see what you have taken.

Who can be first to figure out which item is missing? Take turns being the person who removes an item and see who can get the most points.

What a change people must have seen in Saul after his encounter with Jesus on the Damascus Road--his behavior changed overnight! Why not use this game to think about how being a follower of Jesus changes the way we live our lives.

Active Prayer

You will need: Paper, Pens

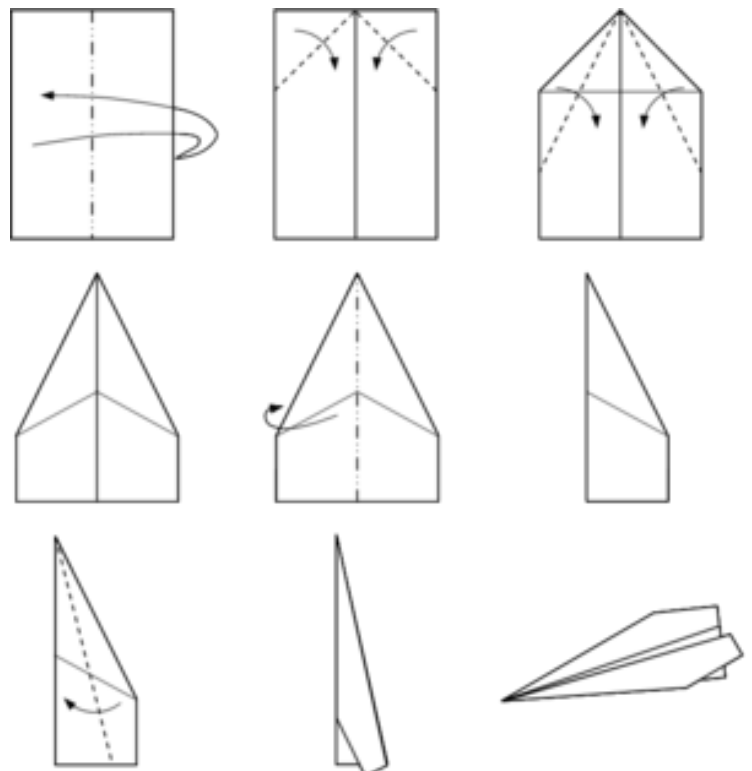


Use these steps to make a paper aeroplane.

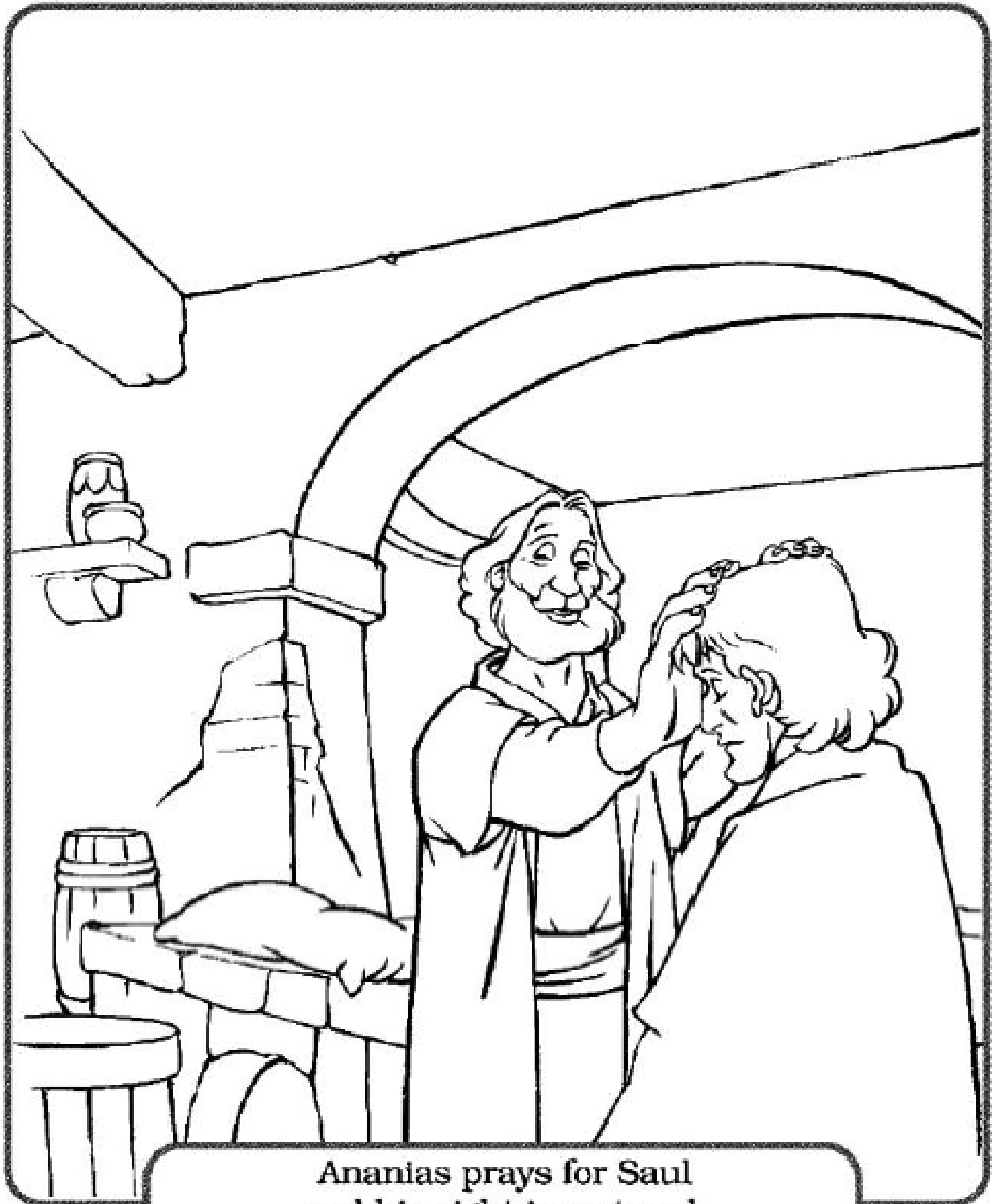
Before you fold your paper you might want to write or draw on it any mistakes from your past that you would like to say sorry to God for.

When you have finished, throw your paper plane as far as you can. Psalm 103 v 12 says that “He has taken our sins away from us as far as the east is from west.”

No mistake of our past is too big that God does not forgive it because of the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross for us.



Coloring Page



Ananias prays for Saul
and his sight is restored.

Acts 9:18

PUZZLE SHEET

Which path should Ananias take to reach the house where Saul is?

Saul had to trust his friends to guide him to Damascus— can you complete this maze with your eyes closed?

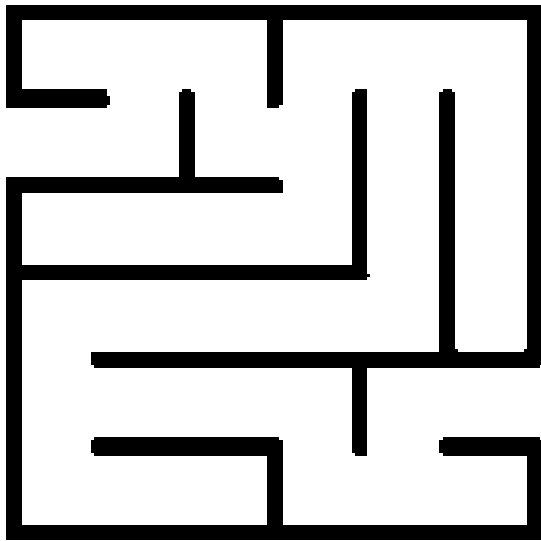
Ask a family member to guide you and talk you through which way to go!



a.

b.

c.

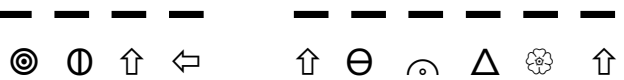
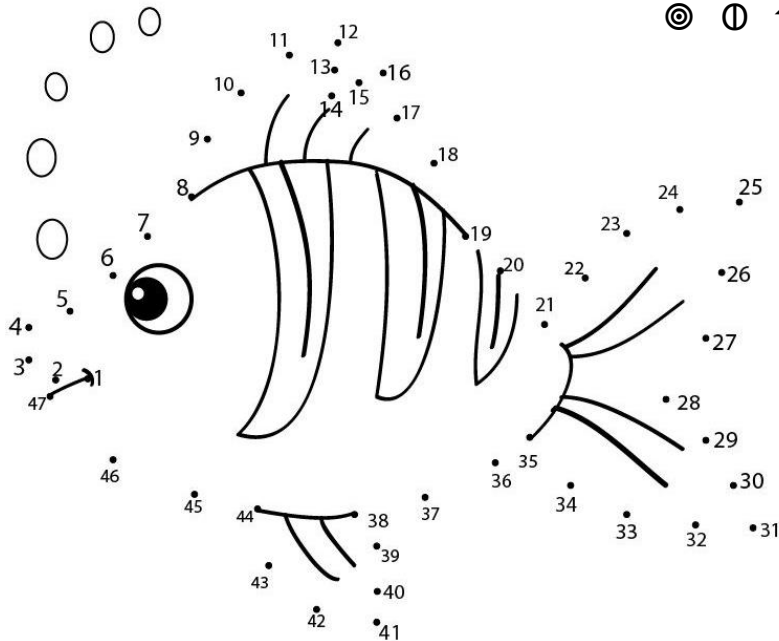


Can you complete the verse from the story – once you have cracked one part of the code use it to help you solve the rest.

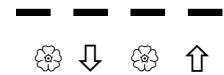
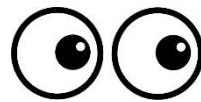


Join the dots in order to reveal a picture. The picture is a clue to help you solve the code puzzle.

Immediately something that looked like



fell from his



and he was

able to

