



# **KIDS**

**weekly devotional**



**verse**

## **Acts 9:22**

“Yet, Saul grew more and more powerful and baffled the Jews living in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Christ.”





"Man, Joey is such a bully," said Ben as he and his friend were walking home from school. "I mean, he really seems to hate me."

"Why would he hate you, Ben," asked Priscilla. "You are one of the friendliest guys I know." But Ben didn't feel too friendly right at the moment. He wanted to yell, scream, fight.

Whatever it took to make Joey stop being mean to him and to others.

"It seems like he is mad at anyone who goes to church," he said. "He is the same way with my friends Jill, Frank, Juan and Amanda."

Ben and his friends all attended the same church, and it did appear that Joey didn't care much for what he called "church people."

"Well, I don't think he has ever been to a church like ours," said Priscilla. "Maybe all he has heard are bad things about 'church people'."

"Yeah, you could be right," he said. "I know some people who go to church on Sunday but then act pretty bad the rest of the week. Maybe he thinks all Christians are like that."

As they continued walking, Priscilla asked if Ben thought Joey could change.

"I don't know," he said. "I really don't think so."

But Priscilla wasn't convinced. She remembered a story Pastor Danny told during church a few Sundays ago about a man named Saul.

"Do you remember the story of Saul from church," she asked.

"Of course," said Ben. "Who could forget that guy. He really changed."



# point

Saul was a Jewish leader who did not like the Christians at all. He believed Jesus was anything but a regular man. He spent most of his time hunting down Christians to put them in prison or kill them.

“Yeah, he was a pretty big bully to Christians,” said Priscilla. “Until Jesus came to him.”

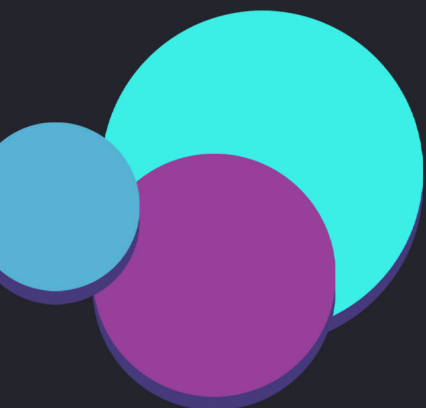
One day, Jesus appeared to Saul as a bright light on a road to Damascus. Saul was blinded and heard Jesus tell him that he would become a follower. When his eyes were open, Saul, who was known as Paul, was completely changed.

The people were amazed that a man who hated Christians was now preaching to everyone about Jesus, and proving He is the Messiah. Nothing could stop Paul from telling others about Jesus.

“You see, Ben, Paul was way worse than Joey,” she said. “He put people in prison and even watched Christians be killed.”

“Paul was pretty bad,” he said.

“And look what Jesus did to him,” said Priscilla. “He changed him completely. Don’t you think He could do that for Joey, too.”



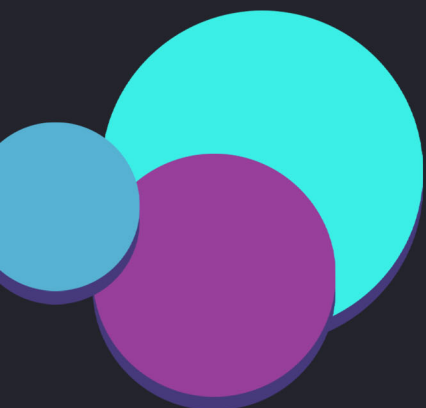


# point

An idea came to Ben. He would invite Joey to church. Oh, Joey might not come, he might even pick a fight with Ben, but he was going to ask him.

“If Joey comes to church and sees the truth about who we are and who Jesus is, maybe it will change him, too,” he said. “Paul thought Jesus was a fake, but when he saw the risen Jesus with his own eyes, that changed everything.”

“I think that could work,” said Priscilla. “Let’s ask him together. I’ll go with you.”







# Lesson



Saul thought Jesus was a false teacher who was leading everyone astray. Joey thought all Christians said they believed but then did things just like everyone else. But when Saul saw the true Jesus, he was forever changed. We need to help people see the true Jesus by the things that we do. Are you telling people you believe in Jesus but then gossiping, saying mean things, and maybe even lying? People like Joey see that and think that Jesus is just a regular guy since no one seems to do what He commands. Jesus said to love God and love others. Do people see that in you?





# prayer



Lord, Jesus, help me to be more like you. Let people see Your love in me. Let them see the light of Jesus in the things I do and the things I say.

