

# CHAMPS



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

6/13/2015

## **PRAY FOR WISDOM:**

Father, You are the source of all wisdom and goodness. Thank You for calling us into a loving body of believers. Thank You for all my friends, both believers and non-believers.

## **LESSON MEMORY VERSE:**

Acts 9:27 "Barnabas helped Saul make new friends."

## **LESSON: NEW FRIENDS (BASED ON ACTS 9:19-31)**

Saul was excited. Now Jesus was his Savior and Friend! Now Saul began to tell other people about Jesus. "Jesus is the Son of God!" he told them.

Some people listened to Saul and believed what he said. These people became Jesus' followers, too. They became Saul's new friends.

I'll be your friend. (shake hands with someone beside you)

I'll be your friend. (shake hands with the person on the other side)

I'll be a friend to you! (put on hand on the back of each child you shook hands with)

But the proud religious leaders didn't want to hear about Jesus. They wanted Saul to stop telling other people about Jesus, too. They were not Saul's friends anymore. The proud men became angry. They didn't believe Jesus was the Savior. So, they made a plan to keep Saul quiet. They kept watching for Saul so they could get rid of him. These men watched the city gates day and night to make sure that Saul couldn't get away.

Saul's new friends knew just what to do. One night, they put Saul in a big basket. They tied a strong rope around the basket. Then the men carefully and quietly lowered the basket down the city wall. Down, down, down, Saul went all the way to the ground. Now Saul was free!

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I'll be a friend to you! (put on hand on the back of each child you shook hands with)

Next, Saul went to the city of Jerusalem. He wanted to be friends with people there who loved Jesus. But Jesus' followers were afraid of Saul. They remembered times when Saul had been mean to them. They thought that Saul was only pretending to be Jesus' friend. They didn't want to be Saul's friends.

But one man named Barnabas decided to find out for himself. Barnabas talked with Saul and learned how he had met Jesus. Barnabas heard how Saul had taught many people in Damascus about the Lord. Now Barnabas believed that God had changed Saul. Barnabas brought Saul to his Christian friends. He told them that Saul loved Jesus and followed Him. "Listen everyone," he said. "Saul is Jesus' friend now. He wants to be our friend, too."

I'll be your friend. (shake hands with someone beside you)

I'll be your friend. (shake hands with the person on the other side)

I'll be a friend to you! (put one hand on the back of each child you shook hands with)

Now no one was afraid of Saul. Now they were Saul's friends, too. Now Saul told people in Jerusalem about Jesus. And Saul made new friends everywhere he went.

## **ACTIVITIES:**

**In a Basket** (Supplies: several laundry baskets)

Allow your children to get in the laundry baskets, and as you push them slowly around the room, remind them that Saul rode in a basket to get out of the city. Encourage them to take turns sharing their basket as a way to be nice to new friends.

**Stone Wall Mural** (Supplies: Large sheet of butcher paper, masking tape, brown and tan construction paper, glue sticks)

Write the name of each child on a "stone" (construction paper). Have them find a friend and exchange stones with names, and then put up a stone of the mural. Add several stones to the top of the wall that say "New friends". Remind them how important it is to welcome new children to their class. Remind the children about how Saul's friends helped him over the wall of the city.

For additional resources please visit:

<http://www.discipleland.com/>