

S.A.F.E. Homes



*“...This one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before”
Philippians 3:13*

Victory Over The Past

One of the biggest battles we will ever fight is dealing with the past. Each of us have things in our past that taunt us. It might be as simple as getting embarrassed by a wrong answer in front of the whole class or as big as a terrible mistake we made which we regret but cannot change. One of Satan’s most successful tactics is to use one’s past failures to cause present-day defeats.

The Apostle Paul understood this about as well as anyone. From the time of his conversion, his past rose up to haunt him. God instructed Ananias to befriend the man who was known as Saul of Tarsus. Ananias was shocked by this astounding command so he reasoned with God, **“Lord, I have heard by many of this man, how much evil he hath done to thy saints at Jerusalem” (Acts 9:13).** But God was accepting no excuses from Ananias, **“Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles...” (verse 15).**

Ananias did exactly what God directed him to do and soon Saul was a new creature, baptized in Jesus’ Name and filled with the Holy Ghost! He even received a name change and became known as the Apostle Paul. He left that amazing encounter with God and began preaching the gospel to whoever would listen to him. But there were many who were not so quick to forget his past. The Bible says, **“But all that heard him were amazed, and said; Is not this he that destroyed them which called on this name in Jerusalem, and came hither for that intent...?” (verse 21).**

But Saul/Paul just got stronger in his testimony. Leaving Damascus, he returned to Jerusalem and tried to join up with the followers of Jesus. Even there he met resistance. **“...they were all afraid of him, and believed not that he was a disciple” Acts 9:26.** But there was one man among them who believed; his name was Barnabas. **“But Barnabas took him, and brought him to the apostles...” (verse 27).**

As they say, the rest is history. Paul became the writer of over half of the New Testament. What if he had allowed Satan to keep him defeated about his past? Praise God, he understood the mercies of God. Has something been bothering you? It’s time to give it all to God and move forward in Jesus’ Name!

Family Prayer: *Lord, I am so thankful for Your mercies. Help me not to get bogged down with mistakes I have made in the past, but to give them to You and believe You for future victories! In Jesus’ Name, Amen.*

Includes
Family
Activities



Want more?
Scroll down for
Bonus Pages



Purchase a helium balloon for this exercise. Have each person write down at least one past experience they have had that continues to bother them. No one else needs to see what anyone else has written. Pray over them together, placing these things firmly in God's hands. Next, rip them to shreds and place them in a baggie tied to the helium balloon. Rejoice in God's mercies as you release these things to the Lord and watch them float away!

Let's talk

How is it that a person can do a hundred things right, but if they make one mistake that is what everyone notices? Discuss embarrassing or defeating experiences you have had. How did you overcome the feeling of failure? How can you help others overcome their defeats?

Be an encourager! Make a special effort not to laugh at the mistakes of others, just imagine yourself in their shoes. Ask God to help you to lift up the people in your world. Research Galatians 6:1 together as a family and discuss ways to apply it in your daily life.



Additional Challenges

Read Acts 8-9 - Let's examine Saul's conversion to the Apostle

Paul.

What do we find Saul doing in Acts 8?

And Saul, yet _____ out _____ and _____ against the _____ of the Lord, went unto the _____ priest,

What was Saul's request from the High Priest?

In verses 3-9, explain in your own words what happened on the road to Damascus.

How did the Lord speak to Ananias? What was Ananias' response in verse 10?

And the _____ said unto him, _____, and go into the _____ which is called _____, and enquire in the _____ of _____ for one called Saul, of _____: for, behold, he _____, Then Ananias _____, Lord, I have _____ by _____ of this man, how much _____ he hath done to thy _____ at Jerusalem:

Even after all the wrong Saul done, what did the Lord say about him in verse 15?

Did Ananias obey? How?

And _____ there fell from his _____ as it had been _____: and he received _____ forthwith, and _____, and was _____.

And _____ he _____ Christ in the _____, that he is the Son of _____.

Why were the people amazed at Saul? What was their reaction?

Puzzle Page

Hidden message: when you find all the words the letters left will reveal the message.

G O D W I L A E E N T G D T L
D E L I V N R N E O E N R E R
U S F R A U C O D I S I A R M
S O B N T O U E C S T T W G R
P R I A U A T S H R I P R E T
L A E N P C O I A E M E O R G
S R T W E T W X N V O C F P D
C E Z R O G I L G N N C L N J
R P I X M L A Z E O Y A A M M
W D P A U L L Y E C W M E M S
B A T T L E S O J D M R W Z C
T E G R O F Q X F O C O M G C
N E T S I L G Y C I U E C F T
G F C O R V A T E G Q W P X O
Z U Y O O N O S U H R N X A J

ACCEPTING
BATTLES
CONVERSION
ENCOUNTER
FORWARD
PAUL

ANANIAS
CHANGE
CREATURE
FOLLOWERS
LISTEN
REGRET

BAPTIZED
COMMAND
DIRECTED
FORGET
MERCIES
TESTIMONY

Coloring Page

