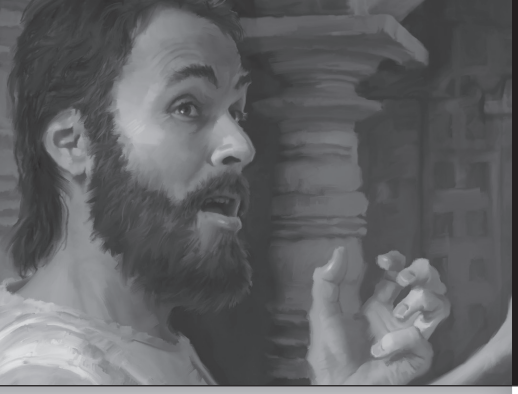


YEAR A | QUARTER 2

3

Blinded

Community
We experience God's love in our church.

POWER TEXT

"For this is what the Lord has commanded us: 'I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth'" (Acts 13:47).

KEY REFERENCES

- Acts 9:1-19
- *The Acts of the Apostles*, chap. 12, pp. 112-122
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 10, pp. 42-46
- Student story on page 42 of this guide

OUR BELIEFS

- No. 10, The Experience of Salvation
- No. 13, The Remnant and Its Mission
- No. 22, Christian Behavior

OBJECTIVES

The students will:

- **Know** that God gives them talents to share with others His love.
- **Feel** grateful that God is calling them just as He called Saul.
- **Respond** by saying yes to God's call.

POWERPOINT

We build community when we use our God-given talents to share with others His love.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

When the early Christians look at Saul, they see a fierce and determined opponent. When God looks at Saul, He sees a strong leader with all the possibilities for sharing the gospel with those who have never heard the story of Jesus. When God looks at us, He always sees what we will be when we yield ourselves to His life-changing power. God still calls us to use our strengths to tell others of His love.

This is a lesson about community.

When we respond to God's call in our lives, He uses the gifts and talents He has already placed within us to help others. It is God's job to call us and equip us to reach out to others. It is our job to respond to that call by saying yes.

Teacher Enrichment

"Paul had formerly been known as a zealous defender of the Jewish religion and an untiring persecutor of the followers of Jesus. Courageous, independent, persevering, his talents and training would have enabled him to serve in almost any capacity. He could reason with extraordinary clearness, and by his withering sarcasm could place an opponent in no enviable light. And now the Jews saw this young man of unusual promise united with those whom he formerly persecuted, and fearlessly preaching in the name of Jesus.

". . . Saul of Tarsus, on his way to Damascus, might easily have been struck dead by the Lord, and much strength would have been withdrawn from the persecuting power. But God in His providence not only spared Saul's life, but converted him, thus transferring a champion from the side of the enemy to the side of Christ. An eloquent speaker and a severe critic, Paul, with his stern purpose and undaunted courage, possessed the very qualifications needed in the early church" (*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 124).

How has God gifted me? When have I used my strengths to tell others about God? Where is God leading me now?

Welcome

Welcome students at the door and direct them to their seats. Ask them how their week has been. Encourage learners to study their Sabbath School lesson regularly, and use several minutes to debrief students on the previous week's lesson. Ask: **What was the most interesting part of the Bible story? What activity did you find the most helpful? Which activity was the most fun?** Invite students to share their experiences and/or the handiworks they created for Sabbath School during the week. (The leader should be familiar with the previous lesson to be able to direct the discussion.) This is also a good time to have students recite the power text.

Have students begin the Readiness Activity of your choice.

Program notes

LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
Welcome	Ongoing	Greet students at the door. Ask about their week.	
1 Readiness	10-15	A. Good News—Bad News B. Love Reflections C. All Change	 Bibles, string, tape, glue paper, colored markers
* Prayer & Praise	15-20	See page 37. Prayer & Praise may be used at any time during the program.	songbooks, world map, pushpins, wrapped gift box to be used as offering collection device, colored strips of paper, glue/tape/staples, pens/pencils/markers
2 Bible Lesson	15-20	Introducing the Bible Story Experiencing the Story Exploring the Bible	three copies of *Net Kids* script (p. 147) Bibles Bibles, Spiritual Gifts Inventory (p. 148), pens/pencils, white/chalkboard, markers/chalk
3 Applying the Lesson	10-15	*Which Gifts?*	
4 Sharing the Lesson	10-15	*Messengers of Light*	
* Closing		A. Prayer and closing comments B. Reminder to parents C. Coming up next week	

1

READINESS ACTIVITIES

Select the activity or activities that are most appropriate for your situation.

A

Good News—Bad News

Divide the class into groups of five. Ask each group to number themselves from one to five.

Say: **We are going to tell a story together. I will introduce the story. If you are the first person, you will tell your part of the story by beginning with the words "The good news is . . ." and adding information to the story. The person following you will tell their part of the story by beginning with the words "The bad news is . . ." The next person will begin with "The good news is . . ." And everyone will alternate after that.**

Start a story (suggestions: "I went for a walk in the park yesterday"; "I'm looking forward to school starting this year"). If necessary, give an example. Say: **My friend was flying for the British paratroopers when his engine malfunctioned.** Have each student group continue.

Person 1 could say: "The good news is he jumped from the plane."
Person 2 could say: "The bad news is his parachute wouldn't open."
Person 3 could say: "The good news is his reserve shoot did open."
Person 4 could say: "The bad news is he was heading for a farmhouse."
Person 5 could say: "The good news is the owners had built a large haystack."

Debriefing

Ask: **How did it feel to have to find good and bad in situations? Although we cannot change some of the situations in our lives, we can choose how we respond to them. We can produce positive change through the way we live. We can choose to be reflections of God's light. Let's say together the power text, Acts 13:47:**

"For this is what the Lord has commanded us: 'I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth' " (Acts 13:47).

Say: **Our power point this week is:**

We build community when we use our God-given talents to share with others His love.

B

YOU NEED:

- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ string
- ☐ tape
- ☐ glue

Love Reflections

Read aloud Galatians 5:13. Provide tape, string, and glue and ask the students to create an illustration depicting love in action. Say: **When God calls us, He wants us to reflect His love to others. Turn to a person sitting next to you and tell them one way you can show God's love to others.** Allow the students a few minutes to discuss with one another.

Debriefing

Ask: **How can we follow God's command to be reflections of His light to others? Why is being a positive influence sometimes challenging?**

Let's say together the power text, Acts 13:47:

"For this is what the Lord has commanded us: 'I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth' " (Acts 13:47).

Say: **Our power point this week is:**

We build community when we use our God-given talents to share with others His love.

C

YOU NEED:
- ☐ paper
- ☐ colored markers

All Change

Distribute art supplies.

Say: **I want you to create a coat of arms or a symbol that describes you. Draw a shield on your paper. Then divide the shield into three or four sections and draw symbols to illustrate your interests, hobbies, best and worst characteristics, and your family** (instead of a symbol for their family, they might write a family motto)**.**

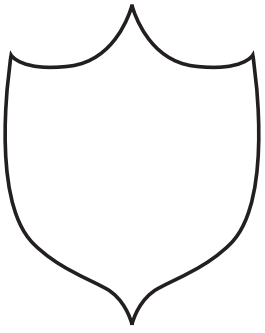
Allow time. Collect the coats of arms as they are completed and post them around the room. When all are posted, ask students to look at all of them and decide to whom each one belongs. After a short time, return the drawings to their owners.

Say: **Think about one personal quality that you would like to have changed by the Holy Spirit. Turn it into a motto and put it below your coat of arms. For example, "From fear to courage."**

Debriefing

Ask: **How did it feel to symbolize what you are all about? What does your coat of arms tell you about what God has called you to do? How can you use your best traits to reflect God's love to others? Let's say together the power text, Acts 13:47:**

"For this is what the Lord has commanded us: 'I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth' " (Acts 13:47).



Prayer & Praise

Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). If they have given you permission, share one or two special items from students' Bible study during the week. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special, warm greeting to all visitors.

Suggested Songs

"One Thing Is Needful" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 39)
"I've Got a River of Life" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 128)
"Give Me Oil in My Lamp" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 139)
"Make Me a Servant" (*Praise Time*, no. 79)

Mission

YOU NEED:
- ☐ world map
- ☐ pushpins

Use Adventist *Mission* for youth and adults (go to www.juniorpowerpoints.org and click on MISSION) or another mission report available to you. Using a world map, have the students identify and mark with pushpins the location where the mission story is taking place.

Offering

YOU NEED:
- ☐ wrapped gift box with a slit

Use a wrapped gift box with a slit in the top to collect the offering.

Say: **Someone once said that what we are is God's gift to us, and what we become is our gift to Him. This month we are going to be learning about using the gifts with which God entrusts us. One thing God has given us to manage for Him is our money. We can share what He has given us as a way of serving Him.**

Prayer

YOU NEED:
- ☐ colored strips of paper
- ☐ glue, tape, OR staples
- ☐ pens, pencils, OR markers

During this quarter the students can make a paper prayer chain to display in the classroom. Each week, have strips of paper; glue, tape, or a stapler and staples; and pens, pencils, or markers with which the students can write prayer requests or answered prayers. You can use one color paper for requests, another for answers, and still another for praise. Close by praying for the students' joys and sorrows, for the birthday and other special event celebrants, as well as for the visitors.

2

BIBLE LESSON

YOU NEED:
- ☐ three *Net Kids* scripts (p. 147)

Introducing the Bible Story

***The* Net Kids**

The *Net Kids* are an imaginative way to introduce the Bible story. If you prefer not to use this imaginary element, read over the script yourself and introduce the lesson concept in your own words. (Refer to Lesson 1 for background and setup information.) Make three copies of the *Net Kids* script found on page 147 of this guide. Distribute to the students you have selected as early as possible. Allow practice time before using this activity.

Present the skit.

Debriefing

Say: **Our lesson today is about using our gifts, strengths, and talents to reflect God's love to others. There are many ways that this can be done.**

We build community when we use our God-given talents to share with others His love.

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles

Experiencing the Story

Have student volunteers each read a verse of Acts 9:1-9. Then ask them to close their eyes while you read the passage again.

Read verses 1 and 2 and ask your students, with their eyes still shut, to describe some of the sights, sounds, smells, and emotions that they imagine from the verses.

Read verses 3 through 6. Ask your students to respond as before.

Read verses 7 through 9. Ask students to respond again.

Ask: **Why do you think God had to go to such extreme measures to get Saul to listen to Him? Has anyone you've known ever had a dramatic life-changing experience like Saul's? What happened? How did the person's life change after that?**

Say: **Let's say together our power point:**

We build community when we use our God-given talents to share with others His love.

YOU NEED:

- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ copies of the Spiritual Gifts Inventory (p. 148)
- ☐ pens/pencils
- ☐ white/chalkboard
- ☐ markers/chalk

Exploring the Bible

Divide the students into three groups. Assign one of the following passages to each group to read: Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12:7-10, 28-30; Ephesians 4:11-13.

Have each group select a scribe to list the gifts it finds.

When everyone has finished, have each scribe write that group's list where all can see. When all the lists are in place, eliminate those gifts that appear more than once. Develop one master list. Keep the list on the board for the next activity.

Let's say together the power text, Acts 13:47:

"For this is what the Lord has commanded us: 'I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth' " (Acts 13:47).

Which Gifts?

Say: **The best way to understand a gift is to see it working in your own life. As we do the Spiritual Gifts Inventory* I will distribute (or read) to you, use the list on the board to decide what the gift is. Then decide whether this is one of your spiritual gifts. You may have more than one.**

Have the students take the Spiritual Gifts Inventory. You may photocopy and distribute it or read it to the students.

*Note: More comprehensive material on spiritual gifts is available in the *ChristWise Discipleship Guide*, available from your Adventist Book Center.

Debriefing

Ask: **What did you discover? Did you discover anything new about yourself? Why is it important to know what your spiritual gifts are? How do you already use your spiritual gifts? What new ways can you think of to use them?**

Say: **Our power point this week is:**

We build community when we use our God-given talents to share with others His love.

4

SHARING THE LESSON

Messengers of Light

Invite students to share if they had the opportunity last week to use their gifts to share with others who Jesus is and what He means to them.

Ask students, alone or in pairs, to decide on a way they can use one of their spiritual gifts to reflect the light of God's love to someone. Then each student will write a plan, explaining how they will use their gifts to spread the love of Jesus and to bring others into His light. Have them take their plans home to remind them of what they will do to share God's love with others.

Debriefing

Allow time for students to share how they plan to be messengers of God's love to others Ask: **How do you feel about helping others in the way God has gifted you to be a light for Him?**

Say: **Let's say together our power point:**

We build community when we use our God-given talents to share with others His love.

Closing

Prayer and comments:

Say: **Remember that God has promised to give you everything you need to share His love with someone else. Let's ask Him to help us be channels of His love to others.**

Reminder to parents:

Say: **Check out the student Bible study guide to find Parents' Pages for your use in family worship, or however you wish to use them to spiritually guide your children. You may listen to the podcast of the lesson online at www .juniorpowerpoints.org/podcast.php?channel =1.**

Coming up next week:

Say: **Christians support one another. As Christians we should be ready to help and support each other.**

Notes

Student lesson

Blinded

Can you think of something that has happened to you that has changed your whole life? It could be the death of a loved one, a divorce in your family, a parent's new job, or a new baby joining your family. How would your life have been different if that event had not occurred? Today we'll hear how one event changed not only one man's life, but the history of the entire Christian church.

Saul had joined the efforts of the priests with strong determination in his heart. A zealous Pharisee himself, he had sought to put an end to the spreading of the gospel by persecuting the followers of Jesus. He had even asked the high priest for letters of permission to go as far north as Damascus to search for Jesus' followers. His intent was to bring them back to Jerusalem and throw them into prison. With the letters of permission from the high priest granted, Saul and his attendants were now making preparations for the journey.

The next morning they left. In addition to Saul's servants, a company of soldiers went with him. It would take several days to get to Damascus. Saul made use of every mile. He and the soldiers searched for believers in Jesus at all the synagogues in towns along the way.

On the last day of their journey, a blinding light flashed across the sky. Saul heard a voice from heaven and fell down to the ground.

The men who were accompanying him shouted, "Look! What's happening to Saul?"

The light was now streaming down all around Saul and a voice was speaking to him.

"Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"

"Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked with fear in his voice.

"I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do" (Acts 9:4-6).

Even though the men who were with Saul could hear the voice, they couldn't see anyone. But Saul recognized that the glorious Being who appeared to him on the road to Damascus was Jesus himself.

He remembered the witness of Stephen, the martyr, who had spoken with courage and conviction about Jesus. Saul now believed that Jesus was the promised Messiah who had come into the world to redeem us.

Jesus continued speaking to Saul:

"Now get up and stand on your feet. I have appeared to you to appoint you as a servant and as a witness of what you have seen and will see of me. I will rescue you from your own people and from the Gentiles. I am sending you to them to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me" (Acts 26:16-18).

Saul struggled to his feet, realizing he could not see. Rushing to his side, the servants helped him stand. They led the blinded Saul down through the green, fertile land he had been admiring just moments before but couldn't see now.

He was headed straight for the very people he had come to murder. But now he was coming to join his gifts and talents with, not against, theirs as together they would serve God and tell others about His love.

Arriving in Damascus, Saul prayed and fasted for three days. As a result of his earnest prayers the heart of Saul was transformed by God's grace and he became a believer fully consecrated to the service of Christ, his Master.

During those days Jesus spoke in a vision to a disciple named Ananias and asked him to meet with Saul and pray for him that he may regain his sight. Ananias was afraid. He had heard about Saul's zeal to persecute Jesus' followers. Yet Jesus reassured him that Saul's conversion was sincere.

"Go!" Jesus said to him. "This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel. I will show him how much he must suffer for my name."

Obedient to the instructions received from the heavenly messenger, Ananias went to meet Saul. As he placed his hands on him, Ananias said, "Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit" (Acts 9:10-17).

As soon as he finished speaking Saul's eyes were opened and he could see. Saul's conversion story tells of God's amazing power to change lives. This account also beautifully illustrates God's desire to cooperate with anyone who is willing to reach out to others for Jesus.

KEY REFERENCES

- Acts 9:1-19
- *The Acts of the Apostles*, chap. 12, pp. 112-122
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 10, pp. 42-46
- Our Beliefs nos. 10, 13, 22

POWER TEXT

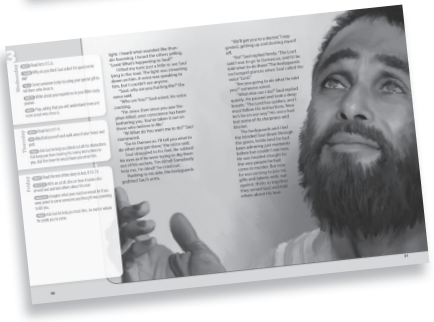
"For this is what the Lord has commanded us: 'I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth'" (Acts 13:47).

POWER POINT

We build community when we use our God-given talents to share with others His love.







Sabbath

DO Do the activity on page 32.

Sunday

READ Read Acts 9:1, 2 and this week's story, "Blinded."

WRITE Get a nonpermanent marker and along with the reference, write the power text on your mirror/window. Start memorizing it.

PRAY Ask God to help you treat kindly those who don't believe as you do.

Monday

READ Read Acts 9:3, 4.

THINK Why do you think God stopped Saul in the way that He did? What did the light represent?

WRITE In your Bible study journal, write about how God talks to you.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Pray, asking God to give you an open heart so that He doesn't have to do dramatic things to get your attention.

Tuesday

READ Read Acts 9:5.

THINK Why do you think Saul asked that question?

REFLECT How would you react if you came to realize that you were persecuting God's true followers? What are ways you could build up the community of believers?

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to help you block out all the distractions that keep you from hearing His loving instructions to you.

Wednesday

READ Read Acts 9:6-9.

THINK What would you have done in Saul's position if you were blinded and told to go to a place you could not see and wait until you received further instructions about what you should do next?

ASK Ask an adult to tell you how he/she acted when faced with a critical decision that involved waiting.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask for a deeper understanding of who Jesus is.

Thursday

READ Read Acts 9:10-12.

TELL Serve someone today by using your God-given talents to share who Jesus is and what He means to you.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to help you trust Him, no matter whom He sends you to serve.

Friday

READ Read the rest of the story in Acts 9:13-19.

THINK What is a gift that God has given you? How are you using it to serve His children?

DISCUSS With an adult, discuss how Ananias also served God and told others about His love.

IMAGINE How would you react if you were asked to serve someone you thought was planning to kill you?

SAY Repeat the power text aloud by memory.

PRAY Ask God to help you use your gifts to share His love with His children to whom He is sending you today.