A young man named Saul did not believe in Jesus. Saul had watched as Jesus’ enemies had thrown stones at a believer named Stephen until he died. Saul thought that the Jewish leaders had done the right thing by killing Stephen.

Saul became one of the believers’ worst enemies. He went from house to house in Jerusalem looking for believers. When he found them, he had them thrown into prison.

But putting the believers in Jerusalem into prison wasn’t enough for Saul. He wanted to arrest them wherever they lived. So one day he took some men and went to the city of Damascus. He knew that many believers were also living there. Saul planned to find them and bring them back to Jerusalem as prisoners.

As Saul came near Damascus, a bright light from heaven suddenly flashed around him! He fell to the ground and heard a voice say, “Saul, Saul, why are you working against me?”

“Lord, who are you?” Saul asked.

The voice said, “I am Jesus. I am the one you are working against. Now get up and go into the city. There you will be told what you must do.”

Saul got up, but when he opened his eyes, he could not see a thing. He had become blind! The men who were with Saul took him by the hand and led him into Damascus. For three days he couldn’t see, and during that time he didn’t eat or drink anything.

Now, a believer named Ananias lived in Damascus. The Lord said to him, “Get up, and go to the house where Saul is staying. He is praying. I’ve let him know that you’re coming to place your hands on him so that he’ll see again.”

“Lord,” Ananias answered, “I have heard bad things about this man from many people! They told me what terrible things he did to your believers in Jerusalem. And now he has come to Damascus to arrest those who believe in you!”

But the Lord told Ananias, “Go! I have chosen this man to teach people in many different countries about me.”

Then Ananias went to the house where Saul was and put his hands on Saul’s head. Ananias said, “Brother Saul, I know that the Lord Jesus appeared to you on the road to Damascus. He has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.”

Right away something like scales fell from Saul’s eyes. He could see again! Saul got up and was baptized. After that he ate some food to get his strength back.

Saul began to preach about Jesus, the Son of God. All those who heard him were surprised. They kept asking one another, “Isn’t this the
man who made so much trouble for the believers in Jerusalem? And didn’t he come here to Damascus to arrest more of them?” God had changed Saul from a man who had hated believers into a man who loved Jesus. Saul later became known as Paul. Paul preached boldly about Jesus to Jews and Gentiles in many different cities. God blessed Paul, and Paul became one of the Lord’s greatest missionaries.

In today’s lesson we learned that Saul, a man who had imprisoned and killed Christians, later came to faith and became one of the Lord’s greatest missionaries. Only God can change unbelieving hearts into believing hearts that love and serve him.

1. God has given you faith in the Savior and can use you to tell others about him. Complete the boxes to show places where you too can tell others about Jesus.

2. Take a piece of paper, and crumple it up. Is it still paper? Of course it is! Without using fire, water, or anything else, can you change that paper into something totally different? Of course not! God changed Saul’s unbelieving heart into a heart that believed in the Savior and wanted to tell others about him. As a family, pray for someone you know who doesn’t yet believe in Jesus. Ask God to change that unbelieving heart into a new heart that trusts and loves God.

Pray Together
Father, help me every day,
So I know just what to say.
Help me share your Word like Paul,
Saying, “Jesus died for all!” Amen.

* 1 Timothy 2:3,4

* The Third Commandment
Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

* Hymn 573:2
If you cannot speak like angels,
If you cannot preach like Paul,
You can tell the love of Jesus;
You can say he died for all.
If you cannot rouse the wicked
With the Judgment’s dread alarms,
You can lead the little children
To the Savior’s waiting arms.