Stephen was the first person who was put to death because he believed in Jesus as his Savior. After the death of Stephen, a man named Saul led the persecution against believers in Jerusalem. But he wasn’t satisfied to do this only there. He had heard that many believers were also living in the city of Damascus. So Saul got permission from the high priest to arrest any believers he found there and bring them back to Jerusalem as prisoners. Then he took some men and set out for Damascus.

But as Saul got close to Damascus, suddenly a bright light from heaven flashed around him! He fell to the ground and heard a voice say, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?”

“Lord, who are you?” Saul asked.

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

When Saul got up from the ground and opened his eyes, he couldn’t see a thing! So the men who were traveling with him took him by the hand and led him to a house in Damascus. For three days Saul remained blind. During that time he didn’t eat or drink anything.

A believer named Ananias lived in Damascus. The Lord came to him in a vision and said, “Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man named Saul. He is praying to me. I’ve let him know that you will come and place your hands on him so that he’ll be able to see again.”

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

But the Lord told Ananias, “Go! For I have chosen this man as my special witness. He will bring my message of salvation to the Gentiles and even to their kings, as well as to the people of Israel.”

Ananias went to the house where Saul was staying. He put his hands on Saul and 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.”

Immediately 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.

At once Saul went out into the city and began to preach that Jesus is the Son of God, the Savior. All those who heard him were surprised, and they asked one another, “Isn’t this the man who persecuted the believers in
Think of it! Even though Saul’s actions showed that he was an enemy of Jesus, God showed his great love for Saul by calling him to faith and to be Jesus’ witness. God has shown this same great love for us. Through his Word he has called each of us from a life of sin and despair to a life of faith and witnessing.

1. Help your child make a very small cross (about 1½ inches high) out of poster board or cardboard. You can cover the cross with foil if desired. Encourage your child to carry the cross in a pocket or backpack as a reminder that God has given us faith and is always with us, including when we witness for Jesus. Talk about how the cross might even become a tool for witnessing, as others could ask why your child carries the cross and what the cross means.

2. Together as a family, list reasons why you are glad God has called you to faith. Then, in the place indicated, speak of those reasons for rejoicing as you pray the following prayer together.

**Pray Together**

Dear God, thank you for calling us to faith. We praise you because (list reasons why you are glad). Teach us to spread your Word so that people everywhere may come to know Jesus as their Savior. Amen.

*S Matthew 28:19,20

*1 Timothy 2:3,4

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

What does this mean?
We should fear and love God that we do not despise preaching and his Word, but regard it as holy and gladly hear and learn it.

*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.