

Blinded by the Light by Matt Lehman

MATERIALS AND ADVANCE PREPARATION:

- High powered flashlight
- Swedish Fish candy—enough for the whole class to enjoy some
- Blindfold—fold it with a few pieces of Swedish fish inside so it will not fall out easily.
- A sign labeled “Damascus”
- Nametags
- Bibles
- Copies of the skit for participants

SESSION OUTLINE

FOCUS:

Welcome the youth and open with prayer. After the prayer, ask the youth to give you a definition of “faith journey.” If they have difficulty with that, divide it into two words. Ask for definitions of “faith,” and then “journey.” Then put it together. One definition of faith journey is “The trip we make during our life in our relationship with God.”

EXPLORE THE BIBLE STORY:

Do the skit. Read the story as found in Acts 9:1-19.

Ask youth to identify different stages of a faith journey as seen in the story.

Possible stages:

- Denying Christ (Saul persecuting Christians)
- Uncertainty (Saul while he’s blind and doesn’t know what’s going on)
- Accepting Christ (Saul after his sight is restored)
- A Conversion Experience (Saul meeting Jesus on the road)
- Obeying Christ (Ananias going to see Saul)
- Doubting Christ (Ananias questioning Jesus wanting him to visit Saul)

Say: *“Notice how God is moving through the story at all times, working to promote a relationship between God and Saul. Let’s look at some other examples of faith journeys in the Bible.*

Divide into small groups and hand out Bibles. Ask groups to look up the following stories and report back the following information to the class:

Who’s on a faith journey in this story?

What stage(s) of the journey is the person in?

How is God relating to the person?

Exodus 3 and 4:1-17

Jonah—all four chapters

Luke 1:26-56

Luke 7:36-50 (two people in this story)

The Bible is full of stories of people on faith journeys! If you have time, find others as well.

APPLY/RESPOND:

Ask students to decide whom they identify with the most in the stories, or to find another example of someone in the Bible with whom they identify as far as their faith journey.

Encourage them to share with the group but allow them to pass as well if they don’t want to share.

Hand out the Swedish fish to everyone, and offer this prayer:

Lord, we are all at different stages on our journeys of faith. Some of us may feel blinded at times, and some of us feel like fish scales have fallen from our eyes and we see you clearly. We know, though, Lord, that no matter where we are, you will find us there, and you will be us with throughout the whole journey. Thank you for this promise.

Amen.

Session Reproducibles

SKIT

Characters:

- Narrator
- Saul
- Several friends of Saul's
- Jesus – wielding a flashlight, and the blindfold with the fish wrapped inside
- Ananias

Put the Damascus sign up in a corner of the room

Narrator: After a long day of persecuting Christians, Saul was walking with his friends down the road to a town called Damascus. Suddenly a light came from heaven, and Jesus spoke to him from heaven.

Jesus (leaps out and begins to shine the light directly in Saul's eyes): Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?

Saul (shields his eyes from the light): Who's there? Who's talking?

Jesus: I am Jesus—the guy you are persecuting. Go to the city, and you will see what you need to do. Of course, I mean “see” in a totally figurative sense. **(Jesus wraps the fish-laden blindfold around Saul's face and then leaves)**

Narrator: And then, Saul was blind, and his friends led him to Damascus.

(Friends lead Jesus to “Damascus”)

Narrator: Jesus then spoke to a man named Ananias.

Jesus: Ananias!

Ananias: Who's there? Who's talking?

Jesus: Saul is in town, and I need you to go see him.

Ananias: But Lord ... isn't he here to kill off Christians?

Jesus: Probably. But when I say you need to go see him, I mean “see” literally. You need to go see him!

Ananias: But what if **He sees me** and **kills** me!

Jesus: Right now, he's not seeing anything. And he won't kill you. I have something better in mind for him. I have plans for that man.

Session Reproducibles

Narrator: So Ananias went to Saul, and laid his hands on him, and the blindness was lifted.

(Ananias takes the blindfold off of Saul)

Narrator: And then something like fish scales fell from his eyes.

(Ananias opens the blindfold and finds the Swedish fish. He acts surprised and shows them to Saul)

Saul looks at the Swedish fish: Cool! Fish!

Narrator: And then Saul got up, and ate, and regained his strength.

Saul eats the Swedish fish