Volume 12 (SUM15) Adult-Kid Connections

Unit 35, Session 1: Paul's Conversion and Baptism
Acts 8:1-3; 9:1-31

Christ Connection:
Preschool: Saul had hated Jesus and His followers, but then he met Jesus. Jesus came to earth to save sinners. (1 Timothy 1:15) Jesus changed Saul's life! Saul, also known as Paul, spent the rest of his life telling people the good news about Jesus.
Kids: Jesus appeared to Saul and changed him inside and out. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. (1 Timothy 1:15) Jesus called Saul, also known as Paul, who was once an enemy to Christians, to spend the rest of his life telling people the gospel and leading them to trust Jesus as Lord and Savior.
Adults: One of the ways that we see how the gospel transformed Saul (later Paul) is not only by his declaring that Jesus is the Son of God and Messiah (Acts 9:20,22) but also by the way his reading of the Scriptures changed (see Acts 17:2-3; 26:22-23). As we read in Acts and in his letters, we see how Paul preached Jesus from the Old Testament and how he used Old Testament passages to show that God still speaks to His people through those books. The books of the Old Testament are God's Word to us, His new covenant people (Rom. 15:4; 1 Cor. 10:6,11). We observed this particularly in Paul's use of the law.

Like Paul, we must always see the law as holy, just, and good (Rom. 7:12). We, however, no longer submit to the Law of Moses in the same way that ancient Israel did. We are under a new law, what Paul calls the law of Christ (1 Cor. 9:21; Gal. 6:2). Yet, even though we no longer live under the Law of Moses, we should nevertheless find the laws prescribed in the Old Testament useful, instructive, and authoritative in some way (Rom. 13:8; 2 Tim. 3:16-17).

The Old Testament laws, then, are not "law" to us, but they are Scripture, giving us wisdom and at times foreshadowing important truths that would have a greater fulfillment with the coming of Christ. A key, therefore, is to ask if there is a principle behind the law we are reading. We can also ask what the law reveals to us about the character of God or God's desire for how we should treat one another as people. We must remember that the Bible is God's Book that He has written and preserved for His people. We are not free to choose which parts we like to read and ignore the rest. All of it is God's Word, and all of it ultimately is about Jesus. We should learn to read and study the Bible the best that we can out of our love for God and a longing to know Him more.

Materials: Dry erase board or chalkboard, dry erase markers or chalk
Play a fill-in-the-blank word game using key words from the Bible story or Christ Connection. Draw a line to represent each letter in a word or name. (Examples: *Saul, changed, sinners, gospel, enemy,* and *good news*. For preschoolers, use *Jesus* or *Saul*).
Retell the Bible story about Saul's conversion.

Ask: "What happened to Saul on his way to Damascus?"
Recall Saul's experience when he saw a bright light and heard Jesus calling to him.
Read .

Ask: “What happened to Saul after he arrived in Damascus?”
Remind your kids that God told another believer, Ananias, to go to Saul and tell him about God’s plan for him. After hearing Jesus, Saul knew that Jesus is God’s Son and the promised Messiah. Saul went from trying to hurt Christians to telling people that Jesus is the Son of God! Later, Saul began using his Roman name, Paul.
Pray, thanking God for rescuing Saul from sin and changing his heart to love Jesus. Thank God that when we turn away from sin, Jesus also changes our hearts to want to tell others about Him too.