



The Diocese of
Canterbury

THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

DIOCESAN COLLECTIVE WORSHIP FRAMEWORK

TERM 1/YEAR 2 / WEEK 4 -CELEBRATE ST PAUL’S LIFE JOURNEY

GATHER	ENGAGE	RESPOND	SEND
<p>Leader: The Peace of the Lord be always with you. Response: And also with you.</p>	<p>CONVERSION OF PAUL</p> <p>The Story Ask for five volunteers to help you tell a very exciting story. Give each volunteer a role: Saul, two companions, Jesus, Ananias Get the volunteer’s to act out the story as you tell it, encouraging them to overact as much as possible (if you know a suitably outgoing pupil to play Saul pick them in advance!). Props: torch, police truncheon (if possible), <i>There was once a man named Saul. He was very important and travelled around the countryside looking for people who had broken The Law. He was a sort of religious policeman and he was tough! He always had a couple of companions with him, they were tough too! Everyone was very scared of them because they were mean, and didn’t mess about! If you were on their list then you were toast! The thing for us to remember is that everyone on Saul’s list were followers of Jesus. He was the baddy, the scary mean, nasty villain. One day Saul and his companions were heading to a town called Damascus. As they were nearing the city, people saw them coming and ran away. Soon, Saul and his companions were all alone on a lonely stretch of road. They were joking together about how scared everyone was and how easy it was going to be find everyone on their list. Suddenly a bright light shone in the sky! The light was so bright that Saul felt his eyes burning! He was in agony, and terrified! He fell to the ground and as he was about to scream he heard a very loud voice! “Saul, why are you out to get me?” Now Saul was really scared.</i></p>	<p>Think about it: Sit quietly and try to imagine how Saul must have been feeling when he was challenged to think about the choices he had been making. We all need to think about the choices we make and be ready to change them if we are hurting others – physically and/or emotionally.</p> <p>Prayer: (invite pupils to pray quietly, and to think of these words as coming from them!)</p> <p>Dear Lord God, as we light a candle, help us to remember that Christ is the light of the world who is able to help us each to change. Amen</p>	<p>Think about one thing that you can do today to show God’s love to someone. Maybe choose someone that you normally don’t get on with – how could you show them that God loves them?</p>



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	<p><i>“who... who are you?” he managed to stutter</i> <i>“I am Jesus. The one you are hunting down! Get up and go into the city and wait for further instructions!”</i> <i>Saul’s companions were very confused. They could hear a voice but they hadn’t seen anything. They helped poor blind Saul to his feet and took him into the city. In the city there was a follower of Jesus named Ananias. God came to Ananias and told him to go and find a man from Tarsus who needed to be healed.</i> <i>Ananias thought to himself, “as long as its not that scary policeman guy... he’s from Tarsus... I’d hate to meet him face to face. What was his name now... Cedric, Syndey, Samson...”</i> <i>“Saul” said God, “his name is Saul and it is him that needs healing.”</i> <i>“What? I can’t go to Saul, he’ll have me killed in two seconds”</i> <i>“Don’t argue. Go – he is the one I have chosen to tell my special story to the world!” said God.</i> <i>Ananias was very brave and did exactly what God commanded.</i> <i>When he arrived at the house he found Saul. Poor Saul hadn’t eaten anything for three days – he’d just been praying!</i> <i>Ananias placed his hands on Saul and said, “Brother Saul, the Master sent me – the same Master who spoke to you on the road. He sent me so that you could see again and be healed!”</i> <i>Scaly things fell off Saul’s eyes and he could see!</i></p> <p>OR <i>Read Luke 9:1-19 from a children’s friendly version (e.g. The Message)</i> <i>Saul was a changed man! Instead of trying to find all the followers of Jesus to arrest them, he now met with them and began to help them spread the amazing story of Jesus. He became known as Paul and we still listen to him today whenever we read the books of the bible that he wrote!</i></p> <p>Comment If anyone has ever been on a ‘naughty step’ or had to go to see the Head teacher for misbehaving, you will know how it can feel when we are told that we</p>		
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<p>Play music from Spiderman, Superman or Harry Potter as children gather.</p>	<p>have not been acting as we ought. Saul wasn't just told off by his mum, or sent to the Head teacher, he was confronted by God! He had to think very hard and very quickly about the choices he had been making. With Ananias' help, Saul decided to listen to the voice of God he had heard, and he changed! He stopped hunting Christians and became a follower, a friend of Jesus. To show everyone that he was serious about this change of heart he changed his name too. He became Paul and today some people call him Saint Paul because of the amazing things he went on to say and do after meeting God on the road to Damascus!</p>	<p>Think about it Think about the people who you don't get on with – maybe you think you have an 'arch nemesis'. What if God wants you to change how you think about them? What if God wants you to be friends? Prayer (invite pupils to pray quietly, and to think of these words as coming from them!) Dear God, We want to see everyone around us as you do. Give us the courage to change the way we think about others. Help us to treat everyone as a friend, not as an enemy. Amen</p>	<p>What do you think God would like you to change about your attitudes, beliefs or actions today? I wonder if there is someone in particular that you might be able to forgive for something they have done/said to you in the past? Forgiveness is quite hard but we <i>can</i> do it if we ask God to help us see that person as God does.</p>
	<p>SAUL IS HEALED AND RESCUED BY GOD</p> <p>Talk Who is your favourite movie hero? Do you notice how each of our heroes has an arch nemesis. A baddie who is always out to get them. Spiderman has the Green Goblin, Superman has Lex Luther, Harry Potter has Voldemort. Now, can you imagine if Voldemort were to suddenly walk up to Harry Potter and say, "I have been wrong. I think we should work together from now on. I believe what you have been trying to tell me all these years." We would be shocked. We wouldn't expect it. We would be very suspicious. Well the same thing happened in the Bible. There was this guy by the name of Saul. He was one of the Priests who ruled in Jerusalem. When Jesus' disciples were going around telling people about God and Jesus, Saul was the one who was most against them. He was their enemy, their arch nemesis. Once Saul had become Paul (see Day 1) he started telling everyone everywhere about Jesus. The Christians at the time were shocked! They didn't know whether to believe him or not.</p> <p>Comment: Once Paul had met God, he became one of the most important people in</p>		

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<p>Leader: Help us O God to know your ways. Response: And follow them.</p>	<p>spreading the Good News about Jesus. The Christians who had been so scared of him soon learnt that he had changed. They trusted in the power of God's love to change people's hearts.</p>	<p>Think about it Pause for a quiet moment and ask the pupils to think about their favourite story from the bible (hopefully they will all know at least one!). Then ask them to think quietly about the follower/friend of God in the story that they should try to imitate. Prayer: (invite pupils to pray quietly, and to think of these words as coming from them!) Dear Lord God, we want to become the people that you have created us to be. Thank you for the good examples of followers of Jesus in the bible stories we know and love. Help us and remind us today to try to copy the good things that they and Jesus have shown us. Amen</p>	<p>Spend a moment allowing them to wonder how they could imitate the follower/friend of Jesus from their favourite bible story today? If time allows and it is appropriate, you might invite some ideas of who they could imitate good examples of being a friend of God!</p>	
	<p>PAUL'S LETTERS: IMITATE ME</p> <p>Game: Play a game of 'do what I do': tell the pupils to do what you do, not what you say. Play a few rounds of telling them to make a silly gesture, while doing the same gesture. (eg. rub chin, pat head, pull ear, touch nose etc.) Then begin to say something different to what you are doing – see how many pupils can do what you do, and not what you say. If it would be appropriate to have people being 'out' then play a few rounds but stop before you have more than a third 'out'. Otherwise just make it a fun game without declaring anyone out.</p> <p>Comment: We all imitate the people around us (define what 'imitate' means if necessary). The thing we need to remember is that sometimes we imitate the wrong sort of behaviour. Use a few bad habits: picking your nose, sniffing, using bad language and so on. Make the point that in the bible we are encouraged to copy, to imitate good examples. Jesus gives us a brilliant example to follow in how He treated all people the same, especially those who were most often treated badly by others. The disciple Peter shows us how to work hard and keep trying even when we get things wrong. And Paul tells us to imitate him, because he knows how much he had to change when he met God.</p>			<p>Think about it Invite the pupils to look at their hands and notice the</p>
	<p>PAUL'S LETTERS: THE WHOLE BODY Introductory Activity [Build a lego car or plane and break it up again keeping all the pieces together]</p>			

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<p>Material for day 5 taken from: Margaret Cooling, Assemblies for Primary Schools: Summer Term: Pub RMEP, 1990, used with kind permission, G9(PP. 86-87)</p>	<p>Invite a couple of volunteers to see if either (or both) can build the car/plane from the pieces. Great to get the crowd to cheer them on. BUT hold onto the wheels or wings After a few minutes ask your volunteers if anything is missing. If they can't see what is missing offer them the wings/wheels asking if the new bits would help at all. Get the crowd to give them a great round of applause for their efforts</p> <p>Talk</p> <p>Cars and planes are no good without their wheels and wings. They would be no good without the engines or the doors too. The same is true for people: we all do different things, but we are each as important as each other. We need to work together. Especially as Christians who are often called the Body of Christ because we all have different parts to offer, that together make up a body.</p>	<p>differences between their fingers and thumbs. Think about trying to pick up a pencil with only your fingers... it would be very hard.</p> <p>Pray: Thank you God for fingers and thumbs, for arms and legs and for eyes and ears. Help us to realise that everyone we know is as important as we each are, because we are all made by you! Amen</p>	<p>Choose one piece of armour to remember today: what would you do differently today if you were wearing that piece of armour?</p>
	<p>PAUL'S LETTERS: THE WHOLE ARMOUR OF GOD</p> <p>You will need: A shield, a plastic sword, a helmet, a belt, a breastplate (body armour), shoes.</p> <p>You may be able to borrow plastic 'armour' from the children. If they do not have the more unusual items such as the shield and breastplate, draw simple versions on card and ask the children to cut them out.</p> <p>Introductory Activity: Cut out some pieces of cardboard armour with a group of children or use the plastic armour. Dress the children in the armour or ask a different child to hold each piece. (Choose the children with care.)</p>	<p>Think about it: Think about the part you can play in the battle between good and evil, right and wrong. Think about the invisible weapons you will need.</p> <p>Prayer: Help us to remember that we are in a battle, but it is a battle that Jesus has already won. The enemy, evil, is</p>	



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	<p>Talk Paul's letter to the Ephesians contained this advice.</p> <p>(Note: I have added the sections in brackets to help the children understand.)</p> <p>Put on all of God's armour, then you will be able to fight against wrong. Put on the belt of truth <i>(to fight deceit and lies wherever you find them)</i>. Put on the breastplate of right friendships with God and other people. Put on the shoes of the good news of peace <i>(a message our world needs to hear)</i>. Put on the shield of faith in God to help you resist wrong and evil. Put on the helmet of salvation <i>(for you have been saved from wrong by Jesus and with this help you can fight against the wrong in the world)</i>. Take the sword of the spirit in your hand which is God's word. <i>(Use the Bible's message of justice, love and peace to defeat evil.)</i></p> <p>Comment: Just as a soldier needs protecting with armour when he is in battle, so Paul said people need protecting with God's invisible armour. Christians believe they are in battle, a battle between good and evil and each person needs their armour. But it is a battle that is already won – in the end good will triumph because love is stronger than hate.</p>	<p>defeated but not yet exterminated. May we do our part in defeating wrong.</p>	
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