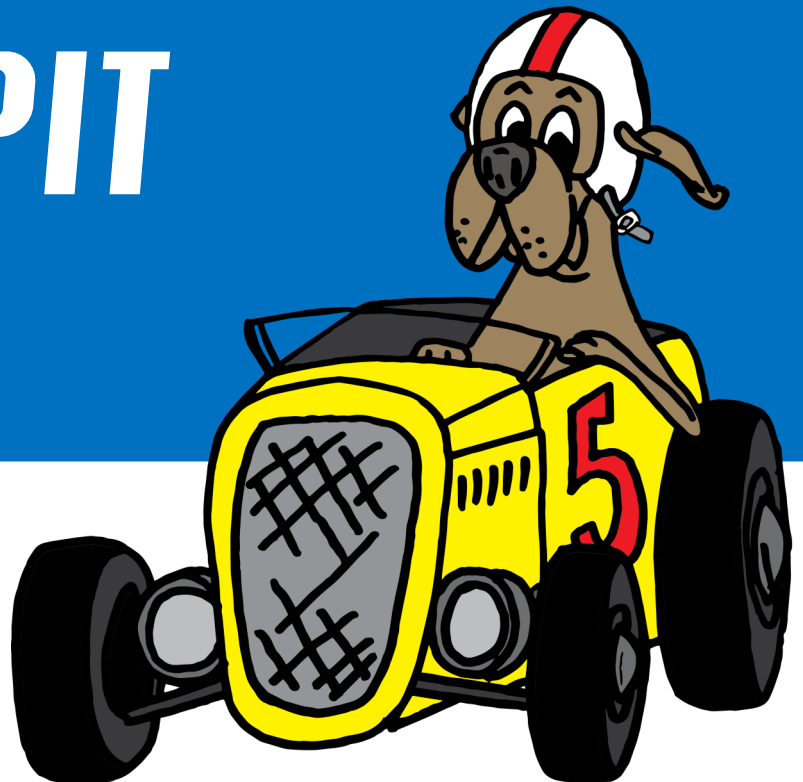




BIBLE PIT STOP



Elementary

Covenant VBS Writing Team

Lisa Updike
Tim Frost
Tabitha Lookabill
Burress McCombe
Kristin McCombe
Aaron Roberts

Covenant VBS Editing Team

Teresa Wildermuth
Kathy Bowen
Kendal Butler
Sharbelle Couric
Fern Pence
Vanessa Manson
Dorothy Scheel
Kendra Shickel

Covenant VBS Artwork Team

Tim Frost
Jaye Brumfield
Jeff Furman
Tabitha Lookabill

Covenant VBS Video Team

Burress McCombe & Lisa Updike
Corey Barlow
Maretta Heatwole
John Hodges
Zach Koops
Chris Maestle
David Shank

Covenant VBS Music Production Team

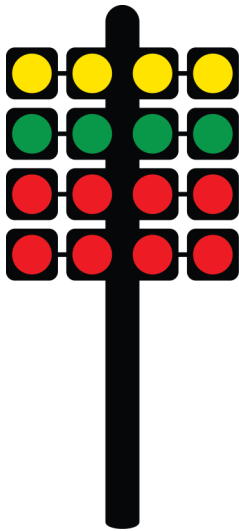
Burress McCombe
Cov-Pres Children's Choir
John Stephens (mixing/producing)
Lisa Updike

Special Thanks to members of our Road Rally Pit Crew who kept us rolling by sharing their expertise.

Brian Good
Grace Good
Mindy Miller



BASIC MECHANICS



Pre-Race Checklist

- **CREATE!** Start thinking now how you can create a setting for each day's lesson that will invite the children into the story.
- **COORDINATE AND GATHER!** Coordinate with your Director or Station Leader Coordinator about what supplies will be provided and which supplies you will be responsible to gather.
- **PRAY!** Start praying now that the Holy Spirit will prepare your heart to teach the children and that He will prepare the hearts of the children to receive the Word. Pray, too, for the Pit Crew Leaders to be good facilitators.

So, what's the Big Idea?

Every day a different road sign will represent the "Big Idea" for that day. These "Big Ideas" will help us understand more about the "Word of the Day."

Day 1	DEAD END	SIN
Day 2	U-TURN	REPENTANCE
Day 3	ONE WAY	ATONEMENT
Day 4	UNDER CONSTRUCTION	SANCTIFICATION
Day 5	GO	WITNESS

*Fueling your
imagination...*



Contact someone in your city about road signs for sale or for free to use as decorations.

The Road Map Bible Verse

John 14: 6 (ESV)


Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

Attention-Getter

Leader calls:


Honk, honk

Children respond


Beep, Beep, Beep!

RPgT

Rejoice, Pray, Give Thanks!

During the Ready, Set, Go! station, the children will participate in "RPgT" time. This stands for "Rejoice, Pray, and Give Thanks!"

Based on I Thess. 5: 16-18 "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

This time is designed as a means of training children to take notice of God's faithfulness toward them and developing a habit of praise and prayer.

**DEAD
END**

DAY 1 Sin

READY, SET, GO!

- ⇒ Learn the Day 1 Big Idea: Dead End and the Word of the Day: Sin
- ⇒ Learn the Bible memory verse for the week: John 14:6
- ⇒ Sing Road Rally songs
- ⇒ Meet Roger Racer, a racecar driver who has lost his way

BIBLE PIT STOP

Genesis 1-3 Adam and Eve and the Fall
We are all sinners and have come to a Dead End, but there is a way out!

FILL 'ER UP SNACKS

Dead End Rice Cakes

Rice Cakes have a big red X on them reminding the kids that sin is a DEAD END.



CREATIVITY CORNER

Explore with mirrors discovering how they reflect, and how if broken, the image is distorted.

People are created in the image of God and we are to reflect Him.

C³—CARTOON CUTOUT CINEMA

- ⇒ Paws and Wooly talk about the DEAD END of sin.
- ⇒ Angel shares about how Jesus saved him from sin's DEAD END.
- ⇒ Introduce "Missions Near and Far"

FINISH LINE

- ⇒ Drive home the point that sin has made a DEAD END.
- ⇒ Crew Chief Charlie

RACEWAY GAMES

LISTEN TO THE RIGHT VOICE

Kids will hear two different voices: one leads to a DEAD END, another to the finish line.

WATER WAR

Teams will work hard to keep the sponges from accumulating on their side of the battlefield. The war against sin is constant, but we are not alone in the battles.

Steering you right...

DAY 1
SIN



As you teach remember this... **Genesis 1-3**

⇒ When God created the world He did not need anything to do it. He did not work with some simple primary elements that already existed because, you see, before the creation of the world there was nothing. Absolutely nothing at all. He created out of nothing. And when God created something, He just spoke it into existence.

"That's a miracle!"

Exactly!

It was miraculous, and that's the only way to explain it. When God created everything that exists out of nothing, He did it only by the power of His word. This is the unique power and beauty of God's creative work. It teaches us that we are utterly dependent upon our Creator in everything. There is nothing in all of creation, including us, that is independent of Him.

⇒ The first two chapters of Genesis leave us with no confusion as to what is most important to the Creator. Even though we study the galaxies or the sun and the moon which God created, they are not the top of God's "most-awesome" list. And though the mountains and rivers, trees and animals are worth a lifetime of exploration, and are good in the eyes of God, they are still not the greatest of His creative works. As we read the creation account, God focuses our eyes with each passing verse on what is most important to Him: His image-bearers (Genesis 1:26). He is so interested in Adam and Eve, He retells the very creation account by focusing only on them (Genesis 2:4ff). As His image-bearers, God made them male and female with reasonable and eternal souls, having the knowledge of God's law on their hearts and the ability to keep it. They were given authority over creation and were to care for it as a gardener would his garden.

⇒ After creating them, God gave Adam and Eve a rule. It was one rule with great eternal blessings if they kept it, but a curse of sure death if they did not. The curse is the **DEAD END**. When they ate of the fruit of The Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil which God commanded them *not* to eat, they disobeyed God. The curse not only came upon Adam and Eve, but upon every single human to be born after them! All humanity would be born in this sinful "dead end" state. The fruit of this state is rejection of God and His law. His image-bearers would now live like they do not need their Creator.

⇒ God was not aloof and He had no Plan B. All along God planned to be gracious to Adam and Eve even though they had to leave the beautiful garden for their sin. God did not exact full judgment on them by putting them to immediate death. Instead, by His great mercy God would rescue them. This plan involved a promise to Adam and Eve: one day, many generations later, from their offspring would come a Rescuer. He would destroy Satan and redeem His people from the **DEAD END**. Adam and Eve believed God by faith. This Rescuer would make right what Adam and Eve made wrong. He would make all things new.

DAY 1 SIN



DEAD
END

Day 1 Supplies

- ⇒ **Hand-held mirrors** in frame; 4, one per each rotation
- ⇒ **Bowls of grapes;** enough for each child to have 4-5 grapes
- ⇒ **Plants,** greenery, fresh and fake flowers and fruit
- ⇒ **Two fake trees** representing the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil and the Tree of Life with fruit attached to the limbs
- ⇒ **Star projector,** or Christmas lights
- ⇒ **Twinkling lights** hung from ceiling
- ⇒ **Pillar candle light**—1 battery-operated
- ⇒ **Spot light**—small
- ⇒ **CD or mp3 Player**
- ⇒ **CD** with sounds of water running, jungle noises
- ⇒ **Eve's script,** provided at the end of lesson

PREPARATION

- ⇒ Pray—Thank the Lord for each child here and thank Him for making each one uniquely in His Own image. Ask the Lord to give each child greater understanding of His truth.
- ⇒ Decorate your room with greenery and flowers to be reminiscent of the Garden of Eden. Have fruit around the room and the animal and water sounds ready to play in the background. See Day 1 Supplies.
- ⇒ Have one bowl of grapes ready for each crew.
- ⇒ Create a darkened room with a single pillar candle on.
- ⇒ Copy Eve's Script (last page of Day 1 lesson)

WELCOME

Assistant: stands outside the room welcoming crews

This week we will be on a road trip through Bible history as you journey through several true events from Scripture...and the best place to start a road trip is "In the beginning!"

Assistant, direct the kids into a darkened room lit only by the pillar candle and have them sit by crews. Then, go to hidden place from which the controlling of the sound and lighting effects can occur.

Leader: seated by the pillar light, whispering **We are so excited to have you here! Welcome to...The Beginning!** Say dramatically for effect.

Beginnings

Leader: **In the beginning there was nothing. All was emptiness. But there was God. And He spoke, "Let there be light and there was light."** Turn on small spot light.

Each day for six days He spoke and new things came into being. He spoke and there was day. He spoke and there was night.

Turn off spot light.

He spoke and there was sky and earth, and seas. Helper will turn on water sound machine **and plants, and stars.** Turn on star projector, or Christmas lights.

Each day he made something new and said it was good.

He made living things in the water, in the sky and on the earth. Turn on jungle sounds

He filled the earth with beautiful things, and one space was especially lovely. Turn on twinkle lights in garden area.

It was the Garden of Eden. Everything He made was good. But it was not yet *very* good. There was still something very important missing. *Finally*, on the 6th day God created man and woman.

Image of God

Now, of all the things God created, man and woman were the

very best. In fact, He even did something very different when He created man and woman. For all that He had created before, God had simply **spoken** the words, and things had come into being. But the creation of people was different. He **formed** man out of the dust of the ground...Yep, **dirt**! Then He breathed His own breath into the nostrils of man, and the man was alive! Ah, but it wasn't good for the man to be alone, so God caused the man to sleep, and then He formed a woman out of the rib of man. There was something else very special about these people He had made. You see, it says in Genesis 1:27, "God created man in His Own image..."

Every man and woman and boy and girl since the beginning has been made in the **image of God**!

Hold up the mirror. **That's why you are so special! Not because you are strong, or smart, or popular, or well-behaved, or good at sports. You are special because God created people in His image.**



What about the people that are hard to like? Are they made in the image of God? Encourage answers.
What about mean people? What about people in jail?

You may be surprised to know that **ALL PEOPLE ARE MADE IN THE IMAGE OF GOD**! God is **perfect**, but people are **far** from perfect. How can imperfect people be made in the image of God? Let's get back to the garden, and I think you will understand...

So the man and woman (their names were Adam and Eve) were in this beautiful, perfect garden. Because God loved them so much, He gave them work to do. He had created them in His image, and just as He rules over the entire universe, so He gave them the job of ruling over the garden and caring for it well. God loved them so much that He provided for their needs, and gave them the trees and plants in the garden for food. They could just reach and take whatever food from the garden that they wanted!

Pass around the bowls of grapes and let each child take four or five. As the grapes are passed continue...

Imagine if you were in the garden and those grapes were just hanging big and juicy from the vine! There were delicious pineapples, juicy peaches, plump plums, crunchy vegetables... They had everything they could possibly desire. **AND BEST OF ALL, GOD HIMSELF CAME EACH EVENING AND WALKED WITH THEM IN THE GARDEN! THINGS. WERE. PERFECT.**



Circle up in your crew and tell what you think were some of the best things about living in the garden.

Use an attention-getter to refocus group.

God Gives a Rule

Now, even though Adam and Eve were created in the image of God, God knew it was important for them to understand that they were *not* the **same** as God. He is the great Ruler over all things and He alone is to be worshipped!

Keeping on track...

Help kids understand:
"The Bible doesn't tell us what kind of fruit was on the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, but for our purposes today we are using ____ to represent the "forbidden" fruit.

So God gave them a way to help them remember that He is God, and they were not. He gave them a rule that they were not to disobey.

He placed two special trees in the garden: the "Tree of Life," and the "Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil." Then God said to Adam, "...You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil **YOU SHALL NOT EAT**, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." Genesis 2:16-17

That tree stood as a reminder to them that they were not God. It is good for even the most perfect people to have that reminder.

Disobedience would lead to a big **DEAD END** (*Jesus is The Way!*).

I think everything might have been just fine, except for this: God has an enemy. Anything good, this enemy hates. Anything that God loves, this enemy hates!

?

Does anybody know who this enemy is?

Yes, that's right! Satan. He is the enemy of all that is holy, all that is right, and all that brings God glory.

Satan saw how much God loved Adam and Eve. He saw them walking in the garden together. He saw that Adam and Eve were made in the image of God, and so he hated Adam and Eve. He began to scheme. How could he harm them?

?

How could he bring a **DEAD END** (*Jesus is The Way!*) to all this holy perfectness?



Circle up in your crew and tell why you think Satan wanted to mess everything up.

Use an attention-getter to refocus group.

Temptation

Leader, choose a female Pit Crew Leader to play "Eve." Give her Eve's script (found on last page of this lesson).

Narrator: Satan, in the form of a serpent began a conversation with Eve. A talking serpent? That should have alarmed Eve, but Satan is very tricky in the most evil and nasty way.

Narrator as Satan: imitating the voice of Satan with a serpent-like sound Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?'

Leader points to Eve to prompt her.

Eve: We may eat of the fruit of any of the trees in the garden, but God said, "You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die."

Narrator : It is true that God told them not to eat of that tree, But, did you notice that Eve added to what God had commanded?

?

What did she add to the rule that God had given?

That's right! He said nothing about touching it. We must be careful not to add to God's commands, for that only adds to confusion.



Fueling your imagination...

Narrator may use a fake snake as a prop while speaking Satan's lines.

Narrator as Satan: “You shall not die! God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

Narrator: Oh, how that must have gotten Eve’s attention! To be like God! What would it be like to know both good and evil?

We don’t know exactly what Eve was thinking, but we do know what temptation is like and we wonder, **“Does God really know what is best for me? Is He keeping something good from me? Are His rules really good? Don’t I know what is best for myself?”** Maybe we have even dared to think, if not said, **“Who is God to tell me what to do?”**

Thank Eve and tell her she may sit down.

Whatever Eve was thinking, we know she decided that what **she** wanted was more important than honoring God—at least at that moment, because she reached out and plucked a fruit from the tree, opened her mouth, and bit into that forbidden fruit. It must have tasted good to her, and she must not have wanted to be the only one who disobeyed, because she handed some to Adam, and now he had a choice to make. He had heard what God had said to him, “Of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil...What did He say, Have the kids say with you **”YOU...SHALL...NOT...EAT.”** But still Adam decided that what **he** wanted was more important than honoring God at least at that moment, because he reached out and took the fruit from Eve, opened his mouth and bit into that forbidden fruit.

Broken Image

Hold up the mirror for the children to see. Put it under the corner of one chair leg and put your weight down, breaking the mirror, but keeping it in the frame. Hold up the now broken mirror.

Broken. No longer would people be able to bear the whole image of God. **Broken.** Ruined. All that holy perfectness of creation destroyed because of a lie.

The story should end there. They dared to disobey God. They doubted His goodness. He told them that the consequences of disobeying were death. **DEAD END** (*Jesus is The Way!*) God should have killed them.

Sit for a moment in sober silence.



Circle up in your crews and talk about how that one sin affects us today

Use an attention-getter to refocus group.

Still holding the mirror say, **But look carefully.** Satan could not win. **Look carefully.** You can still see bits and pieces of the reflection. It’s distorted, but I can still see eyes. I can see a mouth. I can see an image.

The story did not end there because **God is good.** God already had a

Keeping on track...

If kids ask why it is not a good thing for us to strive to be equal with God, here are some reasons:

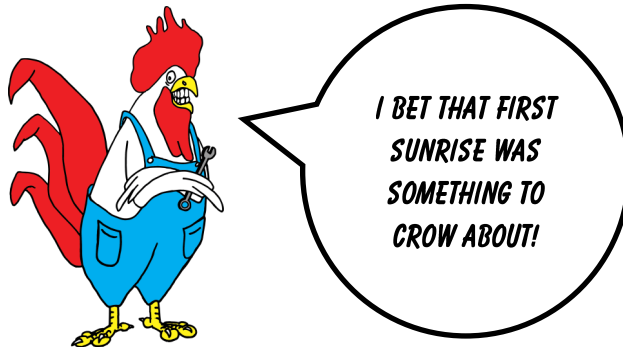
- We were created for His glory, not for our pleasure.
- He is infinite and we are finite in our understanding and wisdom.
- We are the created and not the Creator.
- How we handle so much knowledge of evil will be flawed because we are the created beings. We were not created to have a knowledge of evil so we cannot handle it rightly.

plan for the future and would not allow the story to end. He already had a plan ready to rescue Adam and Eve and all His people that would someday be born from the **DEAD END** (*Jesus is The Way!*). Adam and Eve were banished from the perfect garden. They would never eat from the Tree of Life again. They would die. Instead of living forever in a perfect place with God, they would have to work really hard to raise their food and fight the weeds. Their bodies would become weak and crippled as they aged, and eventually they would die and be buried.

BUT...The story does not end! God would make a way for new life! God would send Someone to pay the full price of the **DEAD END** (*Jesus is The Way!*). Yes, that's right! Jesus **IS** The Way! God would send a Helper Who would help His people learn to make a **U-TURN** before they came to the **DEAD END** (*Jesus is The Way!*).

And that, friends, is a story for another day.

SUGGESTED CLOSING PRAYER: Lord, thank You that You made us in Your image, and that even though sin has broken us, You have a plan to rescue us. Amen.



Eve's Script

(to be copied)

Narrator as Satan: Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?'

Eve: We may eat of the fruit of any of the trees in the garden, but God said, "You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die."

Narrator: It is true that God told them not to eat of that tree, But, did you notice that Eve added to what God had commanded?

Eve looks at "Narrator as Satan" while he/she talks.

Narrator as Satan: "You shall not die! God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."



DAY 2 Repentance

READY, SET, GO!

- ⇒ Learn the Day 2 Big Idea: U-TURN and the Word of the Day: Repentance
- ⇒ Learn what Repentance is
- ⇒ Review the Bible verse: John 14:6
- ⇒ RPgT Time
- ⇒ Sing Road Rally songs
- ⇒ Roger Racer learns he can make a U-TURN before crashing.

BIBLE PIT STOP

Acts 9 Saul's conversion to Paul

The Holy Spirit calls us to "U-TURN" from our sinful path by repenting and following Jesus.

FILL 'ER UP SNACKS

U-Turn Apple Cars

Crews will join Fillus for a snack that reminds them of a U-TURN.



CREATIVITY CORNER

Magnet forces demonstrate the opposite "forces" of our sin nature and the Holy Spirit. Our sin nature draws us to sin and the Holy Spirit pushes us away from sin.

C³— CARTOON CUTOUT CINEMA

- ⇒ Callie, the cat, tells us that no one is "Purrrrrfect" except for Jesus.
- ⇒ Aaron talks about repentance in his own life and as a dad with his son (asking forgiveness of his son).
- ⇒ "Missions Near and Far"

FINISH LINE

- ⇒ The Spirit calls us to make a U-TURN.
- ⇒ Crew Chief Charlie

RACEWAY GAMES

CHANGE & U-TURN RELAY

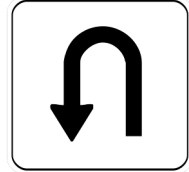
Teams race to dress in large clothes, run around a cone and back again to remove large clothes.

SPONGE TAG

Tag as many other kids with a wet sponge until the whistle blows.

Steering you right...

DAY 2 REPENTANCE



As you teach remember this... Acts 6 - 9

⇒ As we turn the pages of church history, we learn that persecution is on the rise. So much so that within the last several years persecution against Christians has now reached a historic level. In certain parts of the world, there are dire consequences for following Jesus. To be a Christian is dangerous! In many places where Christianity is illegal, men and women secretly gather in private locations and hidden rooms simply to worship together on the Lord's Day. And this is not only true today, but it was also true for certain churches in the early years and decades after Jesus rose from the dead.

⇒ When Jesus said, "If anyone would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me," He meant that His followers will suffer many forms of persecution. Our sufferings do not earn us eternal salvation, and we are not encouraged to stir up persecution against us. Yet, persecutions of various degrees seem to find us. Some will have to literally lay down their lives to the point of death. The historical account of Stephen in the book of Acts shows us this great consequence for following Jesus.

Take a moment to read Acts 6 – 7

⇒ The account of Stephen's death also teaches us that God is merciful even to the worst of sinners. Although everyone is a sinner deserving God's judgment, some manifest greater degrees of sin as opposed to others. Take Saul of Tarsus for instance. Saul was a leading figure of the Jewish sect called the Pharisees, who sought the death of the "Way," a term for the followers of Jesus before the term "Christian" became common (Acts 11:26; 19:9, 23; 24:22). Because God is merciful, He brought Saul to a **U-TURN** so that Saul would not only stop persecuting Christians, he would now worship the true and living God: Jesus Christ! God graciously chose to **U-TURN** a man who even enjoyed murdering other people! This teaches us that there is no one who is "too far gone" that God can't change.

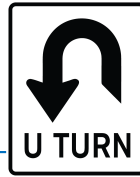
Take a moment to read Acts 8 – 9:31

⇒ Every **U-TURN** is unique. Sometimes it is gradual, occurring over many years, and sometimes it is abrupt like in the case of Saul of Tarsus. But what is common to all **U-TURNS** is that a sinner who was once against God is born again as a child of God when the Holy Spirit brings him to **repentance** and **faith** in Jesus.

⇒ *Repentance* and *faith* are the first initial acts of confessing our sins to God (that is, everything about us!) and turning from our former life against God toward our new life as God's children. We now live with a new saving faith that believes with our whole heart, "God has granted me forgiveness in the finished work of Jesus Who died in my place on the cross." There is no other hope than this great gospel for us. Secondly, *repentance* and *faith* are an on-going lifestyle for every Christian. As Christians, we daily repent to God our Father of our particular sins, knowing that He graciously loves to forgive us on the basis of Christ's atoning work (1 John 1:7-10). Through the Spirit and Word, we live all the time by faith alone for God and His truth. This genuine faith of ours, a gift from God, walks daily in obedience to His ways, knowing that God continues to lovingly transform and change us.

DAY 2

REPENTANCE



PREPARATION

- ⇒ Leaders, dress in Bible time costumes
- ⇒ Post "To Damascus" signs directing kids to Bible Pit Stop
- ⇒ Turn lights down low, only battery-operated pillar candles, lanterns and flicker lights are to serve as lighting.
- ⇒ Create a home/room setting using plants, stone wall, low bench seat of wood, or blankets on floor, clay pots
- ⇒ Copy Crew Questions, 1 per Pit Crew; see end of lesson.

WELCOME

Leader welcomes the crews to his home urging them to be quiet and to come in quickly, explaining there is danger rumored to be out there. The leader or the assistant hands each crew leader the "Questions for Pit Crews" folded in half, instructing them to save it for later.

Saul Sees the Light

Leader: in costume, speaks in a stage whisper, holding a candle up near face so the children can see;

Are your eyes adjusted to the low light yet? You may be wondering why we have it so dark in here and why I am telling you to be quiet. Well, let me tell you! Those of us who are followers of "The Way" have heard that we are in danger.



Do you know what "The Way" is? Let some venture an answer. Yes. All those who believe in Jesus and are following His teachings are following "The Way."

This has made some of the Jewish religious leaders very angry. It's as if their eyes have been blinded and they cannot see that all the prophecies of the Messiah have been answered in Jesus! So, in their jealousy they try to stop us from worshiping Him and sharing His teachings.

They try to stop us by arresting us and dragging us off to jail, beating us, and some have even been killed for teaching about Jesus. So, you see why it is so important for us to be quiet and hidden when we meet to talk about and worship Jesus. We are not afraid to suffer for His name, but why invite the suffering, right?

Suddenly interrupted by loud and urgent knocking on the door.

Leader: Do not show fear, but do appear startled.

Who could that be? Open the door and quickly draw in the guest, also dressed in Bible times costume.

Leader: **Welcome! I was telling my friends here why it is so important to be quiet and why we meet in the dark, when you pounded so noisily on the door that all of Damascus could hear you! What is going on?**

Guest: breathing heavily **News! Such news I have to tell you! Such news that I don't even feel the need to apologize for interrupting your meeting here.**

Day 2 Supplies

- ⇒ **Bible-time costumes** (for leader and helper)
- ⇒ **Flicker lights, battery-operated candles, and lanterns**
- ⇒ **"Stones"** created out of bags, boxes, and/or cardboard
- ⇒ **Sign** saying, "To Damascus" posted along the way to Bible Pit Stop rooms
- ⇒ **Questions for Pit Crews** (at end of lesson – 1 per crew)
- ⇒ Clay pots, clay pitcher, or wood bucket & gourd dipper (opt.)
- ⇒ Scroll from which the Guest reads his "News" (opt.)

Leader: Good, or bad news? Aside to crews **We never know these days.**

Guest: It starts out terribly, but the end will have you rejoicing!

Leader: Out with it then! Don't keep us in such suspense!

Guest: Well, have you heard of Saul?

Leader: Of course. I was just going to tell my friends here about him. He is one of the Jewish leaders who hates those of us who follow "The Way." He has had people thrown into prison and even watched with approval when a crowd killed our beloved brother Stephen for telling them about Jesus.

Guest: Nodding, Yes. You have stated the truth. Well, this very same Saul was on his way here with permission from the leaders in Jerusalem to arrest us and throw us in prison.

Leader: I would be frightened if you had not already told me that I would be rejoicing at the end of the story!

If you would like, the "Guest" may pull out a paper or "scroll" with the script on it, saying something like, "I wrote it all down lest I forget one important detail!"

Guest: Well, as he was approaching our own city, Damascus, there was suddenly a light from heaven that shone around him. He fell to the ground and he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?"

Saul had no idea who was talking to him, except that it was some high authority, so he asked, "Who are you, Lord?"

Pause dramatically

Leader: Well? Well? Go on!

Guest: The voice answered, "I am Jesus, Whom you are persecuting!"

Leader: Thanks be to God! And then did he die? Surely, God killed him on the spot! Now we have one less danger to worry about! That is a good ending!

Guest: No, no, no! It is even better than that. What I am going to tell you is cause for hope for even the worst of us!

Leader: What? Saul is **not** dead?

Guest: No. He was blinded.

Leader: Well **good!** That shows God's justice and mercy. He blinded Saul to punish him, but is kind to let him live.

Guest: No! No! NO! You must listen! The voice told him to come on into the city, so his friends led him, blind as he was, into the city. He has actually been here for three days, neither eating nor drinking.

Fold arms and pause for emphasis.

Leader: Go on, go on!

Guest: Ok, you know Ananias? pause

Leader: Of course I do. He is one of the followers of The Way, a godly man who hears from the Lord.

Guest: Exactly. Ananias had a vision from God. In the vision the Lord said, “Ananias.” And he said, “Here I am, Lord.”

Leader: Of course, he said, “Here I am!” What else would you say to the Lord?

Guest: I’m just telling you what happened! So, he said, “Here I am, Lord.” And the Lord told him to go over to Straight Street. You know the one, it’s real...straight...no bends or anything...Well, any way, that’s where Judas lives.

Leader: to the kids **He’s another member of The Way.**

Guest: So the Lord told Ananias that he had also given a vision to Saul at the same time. He told Saul in this vision that Ananias is going to come to Judas’ house and lay hands on him so that he can see again.

Leader: Didn’t Ananias tell the Lord that this Saul is not to be trusted?

Guest: Well, of course he did. But the Lord had something even bigger in mind than we can imagine! The Lord said, “Go, for he is a chosen instrument of My name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of My name.”

Leader: What did Ananias do then?

Guest: He did just what God told him to do. He went to Judas’ house on the street called Straight. Marched right on in and laid hands on Saul, and said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus Who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” And right there something like scales fell off his eyes and he could see. He went right out and was baptized!

Leader: Wow! That **is** remarkable.

Guest: Well, I need to go tell others this incredible good news!

Leader: Thank you so much for telling us today. Safe travels. turning toward crews, **Wow! Isn’t that something? God stopped Saul right in his tracks and turned him around. Surely, God has great plans for Saul.**

U-TURN AND REPENTANCE

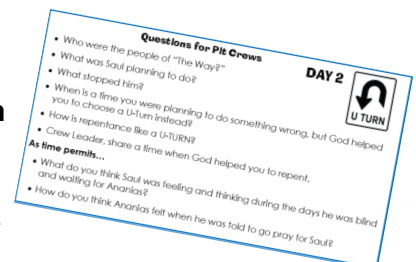
This is such an amazing story! We have so much we can learn from the way God worked in Saul’s life. Let’s circle up in our crews and talk about it.



Now circle up in your crews and discuss the questions on the paper you received when you arrived.

Leader takes off head covering or cloak to show he is transitioning out of character.

Use an attention-getter to refocus group.



Leader: We just shared with you a true story from the Bible of a man who made a remarkable **U-TURN** (*Jesus is The Way!*) Saul was headed with all his might against God's people and against Jesus Himself. But God stopped him, and showed him the Truth.

Saul had grown up studying the Scriptures. He knew all the prophecies of the Messiah, but although he had studied and worked hard to follow all the laws of God, he did not have understanding. It took God making him blind for him to truly see!

There is a word in the Bible for making a "**U-TURN** (*Jesus is The Way!*)". This word is **repentance**.

REPENTANCE

A sinner who was once against God is born again as a child of God by grace through faith.

REPENTANCE is: Encourage kids to participate with motions.

- **Seeing your sin: realizing what you did was wrong**
(Make binoculars with your hands and look through them.)
- **Being sorry for your sin**
(Trace lines on your cheeks to symbolize tears.)
- **Confessing your sin**
(Point to your mouth.)
- **Asking for forgiveness**
(Clasp your hands together as if you're praying.)
- **Turning from your sin**
(Turn around.)

That is why we are using the **U-TURN** (*Jesus is The Way!*) sign today!

We know that Saul repented because his life completely changed after this. He loved Jesus, He loved Jesus' people, and was even willing to be imprisoned for the sake of Christ. He became such a different person that he even changed his name from Saul to Paul (which means "little").

God still calls us to repentance today. We must turn from our own sinful ways to become followers of Jesus. You see, Jesus is the **ONE WAY** for us to walk.

And that, friends, is a story for another day. Let's pray.

SUGGESTED CLOSING PRAYER: Lord, thank you that even today you show us how we can repent and make a **U-TURN** (*Jesus is The Way!*) to follow your path instead of the path that leads us away from you.

SAUL IS ON THE RIGHT ROAD NOW!
HE'S GOT A NEW ROAD MAP AND A
NEW NAME TO GO ALONG WITH IT.
NOW WE CALL HIM "PAUL."



Questions for Pit Crews

DAY 2



- Who were the people of "The Way?"
- What was Saul planning to do?
- What stopped him?
- When is a time you were planning to do something wrong, but God helped you to choose a U-Turn instead?
- How is repentance like a U-TURN?
- Crew Leader, share a time when God helped you to repent.

As time permits...

- What do you think Saul was feeling and thinking during the days he was blind and waiting for Ananias?
- How do you think Ananias felt when he was told to go pray for Saul?

Questions for Pit Crews

DAY 2



- Who were the people of "The Way?"
- What was Saul planning to do?
- What stopped him?
- When is a time you were planning to do something wrong, but God helped you to choose a U-Turn instead?
- How is repentance like a U-TURN?
- Crew Leader, share a time when God helped you to repent.

As time permits...

- What do you think Saul was feeling and thinking during the days he was blind and waiting for Ananias?
- How do you think Ananias felt when he was told to go pray for Saul?

Questions for Pit Crews

DAY 2



- Who were the people of "The Way?"
- What was Saul planning to do?
- What stopped him?
- When is a time you were planning to do something wrong, but God helped you to choose a U-Turn instead?
- How is repentance like a U-TURN?
- Crew Leader, share a time when God helped you to repent.

As time permits...

- What do you think Saul was feeling and thinking during the days he was blind and waiting for Ananias?
- How do you think Ananias felt when he was told to go pray for Saul?

Master Supply List

Day 1

- **Hand-held mirrors** in frame; one per each rotation
- **Bowls of grapes**; 4-5 grapes per child
- **Plants**, greenery, fresh and fake flowers and fruit
- **Two fake trees**: Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil and the Tree of Life with fruit attached to the limbs
- **Star projector**, or Christmas lights
- **Twinkling lights** hung from ceiling
- **Pillar candle light**; 1 battery-operated
- **Spot light**; small
- **CD or mp3 Player**
- **CD sounds of water running, jungle noises**
- **Eve's script**, provided at the end of lesson

Day 2

- **Bible-time costumes** for leader and helper
- **Flicker lights, battery-operated candles, and lanterns**
- **"Stones"** created out of bags, boxes, and/or cardboard
- **Sign** saying, "To Damascus"
- **Questions for Pit Crews** (at end of lesson—1 per crew)
- **Clay pots**, clay pitcher, or wood bucket & gourd dipper (opt)
- **Scroll** from which the Guest reads his "News" (opt.)

Day 3

- **Sign** saying "Court Room"
- **Judge's Black Robe** (graduation gown works)
- **Tall, bistro-height table** as a Judge's "bench" and chair
- **Dark cloth** to cover the table front
- **Leather-bound Bible**, large
- **Large Scroll**
- **Hammer** and **Nail**
- **Gavel** and **Sound Block**
- **Small "Death Penalty" scroll** copied on buff colored paper; 1 per child
- **Baskets**; 1 per crew to hold small scrolls, pencils and writing surfaces
- **Small writing surface**; 1 per child
- **Crown seals** for scrolls
- **Verdict Instructions**: "When instructed, hand each child a scroll saying, '(Child's name), You deserve this verdict and sentence.'"; 1 per basket
- **Large wooden cross** with predrilled hole to nail death penalty scroll
- **Backdrop** to give the sober appearance of a court room.
- **Catechism Bookmarks**, see end of lesson; 1 per child

Day 4

- Optional: seagulls hanging from ceiling, ropes, items from a fishing village scene
- **Fishing nets**, 2
- **Cardboard boxes** for boat 4-5'x 6'x1' (see Preparation)
- **Water fabric** or blue sheets
- **Campfire** (use Fire Lights)
- **6-7' cardboard painted ancient stone wall** or paper bag "stones" for courtyard; vine greenery for effect
- **Spotlight** to adjust focus for scenes
- **CD player** or mp3 player
- **CD sea sounds, rooster crowing, great rushing wind, many languages talking at once**
- **Spray bottle** filled with water
- **Cloth** representing Jesus' death shroud
- **Flicker light**; 1 per crew; per rotation

Day 5

- **CD or mp3 player**
- **CD with Game Show theme music**
- **STOP OR GO** sign
- **Game Show Host jacket/blazer**
- **Tent cards** (3) - question on front and answer inside. See samples in margins.
- **Wordless Book, small**; 1 per child
- **Wordless Book, large** for the Leader
- **Crew Leader Questions** (see last page) 1 per crew
- **Buzzer**
- **Names tags** for Game Show Host and contestant

THE ITEMS IN **BLUE** ARE PROVIDED
IN THE MANUAL AND IN A
DOWNLOADABLE FILE.



Track Records: ~~✍~~

[illegible]

