

THE MESSENGERS (PRESCHOOL)

WEEK 1

BIG IDEA

We are God's messengers.

BIBLE

Saul's Conversion: Acts 9:1-20

WELCOME TIME

PLAY | Free Time

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Tables will be set with toys and activities for kids to play until the lesson begins. This is a great opportunity to get to know kids and build relationships.*
 - Get on the floor and be silly
 - Play along with what they're playing
 - Ask get-to-know-you questions
 - Learn names and use them as you interact

MUSIC | Worship Playlist

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *-During free time, use one of our spotify playlists to play some background music.*

CLEAN UP

CLEAN UP

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Before moving onto the lesson content, play the "Clean Up" song and work together as a class to put all toys and activities away.*
 - Place all toys in labelled tubs.
 - Place all tubs away in labelled cabinets.

INTRO

ACTIVITY | Snail Mail Race

- **SUPPLIES**
 - *Plastic tubs*
 - *Envelopes*
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Set up a few large tubs at one end of the room, and mark a starting line at the opposite end with painter's tape. Have kids line up at the starting line and get on their hands and knees to crawl like a snail. Give each child an envelope. When you say go, kids will crawl like a snail to the other side of the room and drop their envelope it into the tub, then crawl back to the starting line. Repeat as it holds interest.*
- This month we're talking about being messengers! Messengers get to deliver important messages to people.
- **Does anybody know what "snail mail" is?**
- That's what we call mail that gets delivered to your mailbox. It's called "snail mail" because it takes much longer to deliver than sending a message on the phone. It's slow . . . like a snail!
- Even though it's slow, snail mail still gets messages delivered! Let's play a game — a snail mail race!

- *[play envelope game]*
- I know you had to move like a snail but you did a great job delivering all that mail!

TEACHING TIME

BIBLE STORY | Saul's Conversion

- **SUPPLIES:**

- *flashlight*

- **INSTRUCTIONS:**-*Tell the story from Acts 9:1-20 using the script below. Ask another leader to play the "special messenger" part right after the story.*

- Now it's time to hear a story from the Bible.-

- Today's story is about a man named Saul. Saul didn't like people who followed Jesus. Show me an angry face like Saul might have had.-He looked for people who loved God and sent them to jail.

- **Does Saul seem like he was a good person?-**

- No, he wasn't a very good person at all. But you know what? God loved him anyway and wanted to let him know that he could change.

- So one day, while Saul was walking down a road, looking for more people to arrest, a bright light came from heaven!

- *[Point flashlight at the audience, moving it around from kid to kid]*

- Saul was very confused. Maybe even a little scared. Can you show me a scared face? But you'll never guess what happened next!

- A voice spoke to Saul. The voice asked Saul why he was hurting people who followed Jesus.

- Saul asked, "Who are you?"

- The voice said, "I'm Jesus."
- **How do you think Saul felt when he heard Jesus' voice?** Can you show me a surprised face?
- Then Jesus told Saul to go into the city and someone would help him. You see, after the light had flashed and Jesus had spoken, Saul couldn't see anything anymore.–He couldn't see anything for three whole days! *[Have kids cover their eyes while you count to 3]*
- Around the same time, there was another man. His name was Ananias and he loved Jesus very much. He got a message from God, too. God told Ananias to go find Saul and pray for him so that Saul could see again.
 - Ananias did not want to do that. He might have even crossed his arms and shook his head no. Can you try that?
 - **Why do you think Ananias didn't want to help Saul?**
 - Ananias didn't want to help because he knew that Saul was dangerous. What if Saul arrested him, too? Although Ananias was afraid, he decided to obey God anyway. Show me a thumbs up because Ananias made the right choice and obeyed God!
 - So Ananias went to Saul and prayed for him. Immediately, Saul could see again! *[Have kids do a little happy dance like Saul might have]*
- Saul seemed like the last person who would live for God. But after this amazing thing happened, God changed his heart and Saul began telling people about Jesus.
- If Saul became a messenger for God, telling everyone about who God is!
- We can be messengers for God, too! That-means we can all tell others about Jesus. Practice delivering your message by saying to someone next to you, "Jesus loves you so much!"

BIG IDEA | We are God's messengers.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Enlist a volunteer to play the part of a Special Messenger (SM). Preferably this would be the same person each week and should be dressed in a delivery costume. The Special Messenger will*

enter wearing a mail bag.

- *[Special Messenger enters, "interrupting" the lesson, carrying the delivery.]*
- **SM:** Special delivery, special delivery!
- **Storyteller:** Wow, what might this be?
- *[SM reaches inside the bag and pulls out a scroll that has the Big Idea written on it in large block letters. Hold it up and read it out loud.]*
- *It says, "We are God's messengers."*
- **Storyteller:** Hey! That's what we just learned! **We are God's messengers!**
- **SM:** I told you this was a special delivery! Can you all say it with me?
We are God's messengers!

MUSIC | Worship

- Great job listening today, friends! I think it's time to get up and move around! Let's worship God together with singing and dancing.
- **SUPPLIES:**
 - *motion videos*
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Play the motion videos and encourage kids to dance along! Here are the songs for this month:*
 - *"I'm Gonna Tell"*
 - *"Everyone Everywhere"*
 - *"Very Big Things"*
 - *"Anything At All"*

MEMORY VERSE | Isaiah 6:8 (NLT)

- Great job! God loves to hear you sing to him! Everyone can take a seat on their spot again.

- This month, we're memorizing a verse from the Bible that is all about being God's messengers.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Place the memory verse signs on the white board. Point to-one at a time, in order, asking kids to repeat each verse fragment with you.*
- *[Show picture of ear.]* **Then I heard**
- *[Show picture of mouth.]* **the Lord asking,**
- *[Show picture of envelope.]* **"Whom should I send as a messenger to this people?"**
- *[Show picture of feet.]* **"Who will go for us?"**
- *[Show picture of person raising hand.]* **And I said, "Here I am. Send me!"**
- *[Show picture of Bible.]* **Isaiah 6:8**
- Let's practice it again, but this time, let's act out these motions!
- **Then I heard** *[point to your ear]-the Lord asking [point to your mouth],-* **Whom should I send as a messenger to this people?** *[raise arms as in "I don't know"]-* **"Who will go for us?"** *[walk in place]-* **And I said, "Here I am. Send me!"** *[raise hand]*
- **Isaiah 6:8** *[close and open hands like opening a book]*
- Great job! That's a long one, but we're going to work together to remember it all month long. Make sure you practice at home, too!

PRAYER

- We are going to split up into groups with our friends, but before we do, let's pray together,
- Will you fold your hands together and close your eyes to show me you're ready to pray?
 - Dear God, thank you so much that you love us no matter what! We want to be your messengers and help tell the whole world that you love them, too! Amen.

DISCUSSION | Saul Can't See

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Review the Bible story by placing the story images on the table or floor. As you re-tell the story, encourage kids to find the image that goes with that part of the story.*
- At the beginning of our story today, how did Saul feel about people who love God? **Can you find the picture of Saul angry with someone who is praying?**
- Then, what happened to Saul? **Can you find the picture of the bright light that shined down on Saul from Heaven?**
- God asked Saul why he was treating people so badly. Then he told Saul to go to the city and find someone. Do you remember what happened to Saul then? **Can you find the picture of Saul when he was blind?**
- In the city where God told him to go, a man named Ananias obeyed God and prayed for Saul. Then Saul could see again! **Find the picture of Saul when he could see again.**
- **Did Saul become God's messenger?**
- **Who else can be God's messenger?**
- Saul used to be against God. After God spoke to him on that road, Saul began to tell everyone about God! Isn't that cool?
- We don't need a blinding light to be a messenger for God. You can be a messenger right now!
- We can all tell others about God.

ACTIVITY | Coloring Page

- **INSTRUCTION:** *After discussion, pass out this week's coloring page along with crayons.*
- *While kids color, review the memory verse with each child, awarding prizes. Kids can get an additional prize for bringing their Bible.*

MEMORY VERSE | Isaiah 6:8

- **Then I heard** *[point to your ear]* **the Lord asking** *[point to your mouth], "Whom should I send as a messenger to this people? [raise arms as in "I don't know"] "Who will go for us?" [walk in place] And I said, "Here I am. Send me!" [raise hand]-Isaiah 6:8 [close and open hands like opening a book]*

EXTRA TIME ACTIVITY | Mailed It!

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Use the envelope printable and have kids draw a picture on the back side or help them write a simple message like, "Jesus loves you." Help kids fold it into an envelope.-*
- **If you could deliver a message about Jesus to one person, who would it be?**
- **Let's make them a little message right now!**