**Sunday School at Home**

**June 21, 2020**

This week our story is that of Paul escaping from Damascus. Paul had changed from being one to persecute Christians, to being one who was persecuted himself! Other Christians saved Paul’s life by lowering him outside the walls of the city in a large basket, and he went on to proclaim the Good News for the rest of his life.

* Read the Bible story in Acts 9:20-25
* Here is a video to watch about the story (note that it begins with Saul’s conversion): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W_BaCLcVMeU>
* Try acting out the story by using materials around the house to build a “wall,” such as blocks, Legos, play dough, laundry baskets, couch cushions, etc. and a basket from one of the craft suggestions below.
* Make a basket craft using a paper plate and yarn: <https://sundayschoolzone.com/activity/paul-escaped-in-a-basket-bible-craft/>
* Use a paper lunch bag to make a basket. Cut off the top of the bag, leaving the bottom 3-4 inches. This will become the main part of your basket. Use yarn or the top of the bag to create handles and ropes for lowering the basket down the side of your “wall” above.
* For a science exploration, challenge kids to make their basket stronger with materials you have around the house. After all, the basket from our story was strong enough to hold an adult man! See whose basket can hold the most weight without ripping or breaking.
* Learn a basic weaving technique with strips of paper (try [**THIS**](https://babbledabbledo.com/art-for-kids-paper-weaving) for a starting point). You can use different types of paper to get different textures, and your base can have curving lines or vary in widths to make the pattern more interesting. To preserve your masterpiece permanently, you can put it into a simple frame or cover it with clear contact paper to use it as a placemat.
* Play a game to see what it might have felt like to be Paul or one of his friends who helped him escape from Damascus. Let one child sit inside of a sturdy laundry basket or in the middle of a towel or blanket. The rest of the family can work together to lift, push, or pull him or her across the room. Take turns being Paul. Talk about how difficult it would have been to lower Paul all the way down the wall safely!

**Older kids and adults:**

* Try using twine, yarn, or strips of fabric to make a more sophisticated basket. You probably already have the materials you need at home! There are tons of tutorials online, but here is one to try: <https://www.craftpassion.com/easy-basket-weaving/>
* Paul’s ministry took him many different places, and much of that travel would have been on foot. Use the reference section in your Bible or online resources to learn about Paul’s travels. Compare some of his trips to locations that might be familiar to us today (for example, Jerusalem to Damascus was about the distance of Pittsburgh to Columbus, OH). Estimate how long this trip would have taken to complete, and how it would have been accomplished without modern conveniences like cars and cell phones. What challenges or dangers would people have faced on this type of trip?
* Paul said, “I can endure all things through the power of the one who gives me strength.” (Philippians 4:13). What things in your past (or present!) has God helped you to endure? Discuss these with a friend or family member, or write about them in a journal. Give thanks for God’s steadfast love!