
Detective Dan's (Shorter/Simpler) Version of Bible Story for Big Question 11, Bible Truth 2

The Case of the Amazed, Mad Man Acts 8-9

(Numbers correspond to Bible story picture pages in Detective Dan's Big Question Box)

1. Jesus' followers shared the good news of Jesus with the people of Jerusalem. Many turned away from their sins and trusted in Jesus as their own Savior. They loved Jesus and were so happy to become God's people.

2. But others, like Saul, hated Jesus. "Jesus is a fake! Stop saying He's the Savior," he told Jesus' followers. "Stop telling people about Jesus, or I'll punish you and put you in jail," he warned. Oh, no! What would Jesus' followers do now?

3. Jesus' followers didn't stop sharing the good news of Jesus, but Saul didn't stop either. Saul dragged Jesus' followers out of their houses, punished them, and put them in jail. Life was hard for Jesus' followers, but God was about to use it all to tell even more people about Jesus.

4. "Jesus told us to tell the whole world about Him," Jesus' followers remembered. "A few of us will stay here in Jerusalem, but everyone else should get away from Saul and move to other cities," they decided. "People in those cities need to hear the good news of Jesus, too."

5. So, they packed their things and moved to other cities. Everywhere they went, they shared the good news of Jesus with all who would listen. How happy Jesus' followers were when many people in these new cities turned away from their sins and trusted in Jesus as their Savior!

6. Saul was furious when he heard the news. He went to the high priest, and said, "Give me men to go to these other cities, starting in Damascus. I'll arrest the Christians and put them in jail," Saul promised. The high priest agreed. Saul would stop all this talk about Jesus, this fake Savior.

7. But Saul was wrong. And God had very different plans for him. God was about to give Saul the gift of faith in Jesus. He would use Saul to spread the good news of Jesus to many, not stop it. And this was all about to happen as Saul and the men neared Damascus.

8. Suddenly, a bright light from heaven shone down on them. Saul shut his eyes and fell down to the ground. Then he heard a voice say, "Saul, Saul, why are you hurting me?" "Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked. "I am Jesus. Now go to Damascus and you'll be told what to do," Jesus replied.

9. But when Saul went to open his eyes, he was blind! The men had to lead Saul to Damascus. For three days, Saul prayed and thought about everything. Jesus WAS the Savior. His followers WERE God's people. And HE deserved God's punishment for the terrible things he had done to them.

10. But as Saul prayed, he asked God for MORE than he deserved. Saul asked for God's forgiveness, and God gave it. God helped Saul turn away from his sins and trust in Jesus as his Savior. Saul had become one of God's people. How kind God is to sinners like Saul, and us!

11. God sent a man named Ananias to Saul. "Brother Saul, Jesus, has sent me so you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." Ananias laid his hands on Saul and something like scales fell off his eyes. Saul was healed! Best of all, God's Holy Spirit came to live in Saul's heart.

12. Saul was a new man. God even gave him a new name: Paul. Paul got up and was baptized. He began a new life of living for God with Jesus as his Savior. Then, Paul did something he never dreamed he would do: he shared the good news of Jesus with the people of Damascus.

13. The Holy Spirit worked in the hearts of many that day. That was just the beginning of God's plans to use Paul. God may even use Paul's words, written down in God's Word, to help YOU turn from your sins and trust in Jesus as your Savior. Ask Him to help you!