

Welcome Others

Acts 9:19–30



19 and after taking some food, he regained his strength. Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus.

20 At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God.

21 All those who heard him were astonished and asked, “Isn’t he the man who raised havoc in Jerusalem among those who call on this name? And hasn’t he come here to take them as prisoners to the chief priests?”

22 Yet Saul grew more and more powerful and baffled the Jews living in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Messiah.

23 After many days had gone by, there was a conspiracy among the Jews to kill him,

24 but Saul learned of their plan. Day and night they kept close watch on the city gates in order to kill him.

25 But his followers took him by night and lowered him in a basket through an opening in the wall.

26 When he came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he really was a disciple.

27 But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. He told them how Saul on his journey had seen the Lord and that the Lord had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had preached fearlessly in the name of Jesus.

28 So Saul stayed with them and moved about freely in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord.

29 He talked and debated with the Hellenistic Jews,[a] but they tried to kill him.

30 When the believers learned of this, they took him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus.

Faith Fact:

We can help new Christians.

Faith Verse: Ephesians 4:3

Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.



When each of us was a new believer or new at church, we wanted to feel welcomed, right?

So we should look for ways to make other new believers or visitors feel the same way.



Let's link arms





Who was Saul before he became Paul

Saul's life took the craziest and most unexpected turn for the better when he chose to follow Jesus.

Jesus told Saul to make a sharp U-turn in his life.

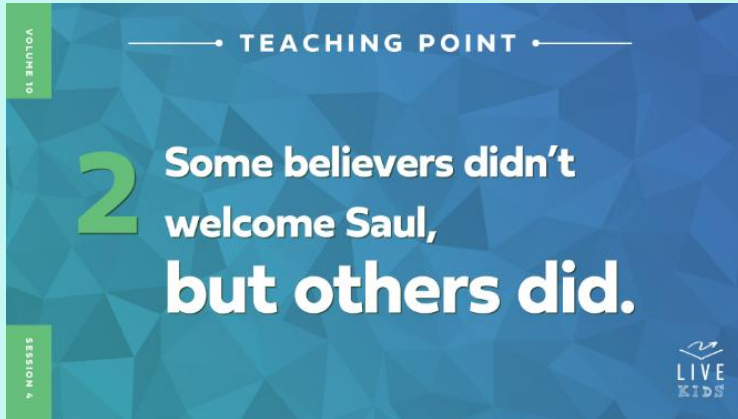
He went from hunting down Christians to becoming a Christian himself.

He started to preach the word

TEACHING POINT

1 Saul immediately began to live for Jesus.

Not all the Christians treated Saul like he was part of God's family?



Now:

What was the right response from Christians to Saul's change of heart?

The right thing to do was to welcome him.

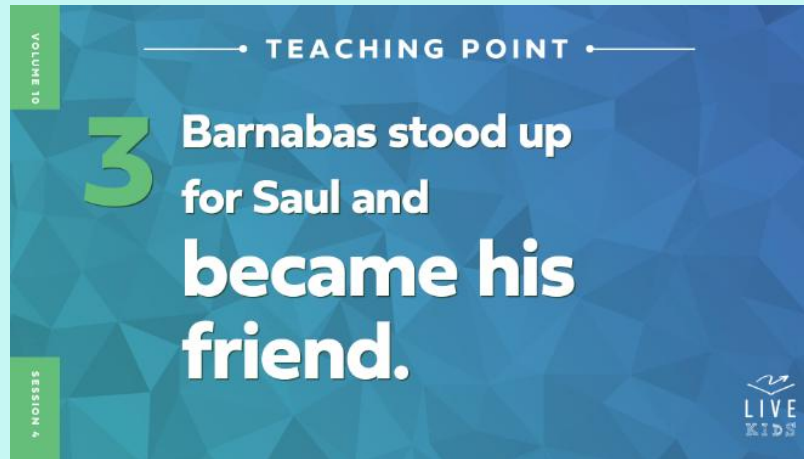
Welcoming new believers can make a big impact.

We need to



Not everyone agreed about Saul.

Some people were afraid to let Saul be a part of the church, but some people were okay with it.



They accepted Saul.

This show:

They showed us that the church should be a place where everyone is welcome.

