



Bible Point ▶

# God calls us to obey him.

## Bible Verse

“I am the resurrection and the life” (John 11:25a).

## Growing Closer to Jesus

- Children will
- learn that Ananias obeyed God,
  - discover how Saul was healed,
  - encourage Pockets to obey her mom, and
  - think of ways they can obey God.

## Teacher Enrichment

### Bible Basis

#### ■ Ananias obeys God.

**Acts  
9:10-22**



The conversion of Saul was a miraculous event (see Acts 9:1-9). Christians everywhere in the area were terrified of him, and he had orders to get rid of Christians (see Acts 9:1-2). So when God told Ananias to go and see Saul to heal his blindness, it didn't sound like such a good idea! However, when God made it clear to Ananias how important this mission was, Ananias responded in obedience, and Saul's life was changed—and through him, the rest of our world as well.

Saul's time with the disciples must have been spent in sorting out how Old Testament prophecies, which Saul knew by heart, applied to Jesus. But it didn't take long for Saul to begin speaking up about the one who had met him so dramatically on the road. And as time went on, Saul—who we know best as the Apostle Paul—not only became a powerful preacher who drew many people to Christ, but also became the early church's leading theologian and the writer of a large portion of the New Testament.







### Prayer

- Read Acts 26:1-20.
- If God could use a person who opposed Christianity as much as Saul, who in your life do you think he might be able to use?
- Pray: God, use me for your purposes as I lead my class. Help me to always show them...

### Before the Lesson

- Collect the necessary items for the activities you plan to use. Refer to the Classroom Supplies and Learning Lab Supplies columns to determine what you'll need.
- Make photocopies of the “Today I Learned...” handout at the end of this lesson to send home with your children.
- Pray for the children in your class and for God's direction in teaching the lesson.

# This Lesson at a Glance

	What Children Will Do	Classroom Supplies	Learning Lab Supplies
<b>Welcome Time</b>	<b>Welcome!</b> —Receive name tags, and be greeted by the teacher.	“Butterfly Name Tags” (p. 26), markers, tape or safety pins	
<b>Let’s Get Started</b>  Direct children to one or more of the optional activities until everyone arrives.	<b>Option 1: Strong and Mighty</b> —Test their strength by lifting “barbells.”	Half-gallon plastic milk containers, water, yarn, broom or mop handles	
	<b>Option 2: Scaly Glasses</b> —Make scaly glasses to wear later.	Crayons, mesh fruit bags, safety scissors, “Scaly Glasses” handout (p. 124)	
	<b>Option 3: Eye Can See Snacks</b> —Make treats that look like open eyes.	Round crackers, softened cream cheese, grapes, plastic knives, tray	
	<b>Pick Up Our Toys</b> —Sing a song as they pick up toys, and gather for Bible Story Time.	CD player	
<b>Bible Story Time</b>	<b>Setting the Stage</b> —Obey instructions to complete a challenging task.	Balloons, large trash bag	
	<b>Bible Song and Prayer Time</b> —Sing a song, bring out the Bible, and pray together.	Bible, construction paper, scissors, CD player, basket or box	
	<b>Hear and Tell the Bible Story</b> —Wear scaly glasses, and hear how Saul was healed in Acts 9:10-22.	Bible, scaly glasses from Option 2	
	<b>Do the Bible Story</b> —Play The Bible Says, and act out ways to obey God’s Word.		
<b>Closing</b>  	<b>Obey—Don’t Delay!</b> —Teach Pockets that it’s important to obey.		
	<b>Open to Obey</b> —Sing a song, and enjoy a snack.	CD player, Eye Can See snacks from Option 3	

\*See the end of this lesson for extra-time ideas and supplies.

## Welcome Time

### Welcome!

**SUPPLIES:** “Butterfly Name Tags” handout (p. 26), markers, tape or safety pins

- Bend down and make eye contact with children as they arrive.
- Greet each child individually with an enthusiastic smile.
- Thank each child for coming to class today.
- As children arrive, ask them about last week’s “Today I Learned...” activities. Ask questions such as “Why do we need to follow God?” and “What did you do to follow God?”
- Say: **Today we’re going to learn that** ► **God calls us to obey him.**
- Hand out the butterfly name tags children made in the first lesson, and help them attach the name tags to their clothing. If some of the name tags were damaged or if some of the children weren’t in class that week, have them make new name tags using the photocopiable patterns.
- Direct children to the Let’s Get Started activities you’ve set up.



### BIBLE POINT



It’s important to say the Bible Point just as it’s written in each activity. Repeating the Bible Point over and over throughout the lesson will help kids remember it and apply it to their lives.

## Let’s Get Started

Set up one or more of the following activities for children to do as they arrive. After you greet each child, invite him or her to choose an activity.

Circulate among the children to offer help as needed and direct children’s conversation toward today’s lesson. Ask questions such as “When have your parents asked you to do something difficult?” and “What happens when you obey?”

### Option 1: Strong and Mighty

**SUPPLIES:** half-gallon plastic milk containers, water, yarn, broom or mop handles

Before children arrive, make two sets of “barbells” by filling four half-gallon milk containers with water and sealing the lids tightly. Slip a mop or broom handle through the handles of two milk containers. Use yarn to tie the containers to the broom handles. Set out the barbells, and encourage children to try lifting them. Explain that when Saul decided to follow God, God made him strong and mighty in speaking about Jesus.



### Option 2: Scaly Glasses

**SUPPLIES:** crayons, mesh fruit bags, safety scissors, “Scaly Glasses” handout (p. 124)

Before class, make enough photocopies of the “Scaly Glasses” handout so each child has one. Have each child lay the handout over a mesh fruit bag and rub over it with crayons. Let children cut out the glasses and fold them on the dotted lines. Have willing helpers make extra scaly glasses so each person in the class will have one. Explain that scales fell from Saul’s eyes when Ananias obeyed God.

Set the scaly glasses aside until the “Hear the Bible Story” activity.



Your 5- and 6-year-olds are developing fine motor skills. Most of them can use safety scissors and color within the lines. They are still developing hand-eye coordination. They can copy patterns, handle paste or glue, and tie shoes.



## ■ Option 3: Eye Can See Snacks

**SUPPLIES:** round crackers, softened cream cheese, grapes, plastic knives, tray

Set out grapes, plastic knives, round crackers, and a bowl of softened cream cheese. Have children spread cream cheese on the crackers and then cut the grapes in half and place one half on each cracker to make an eye. Place the finished snacks on a tray and set the tray aside until the Closing. Remind children that Saul became blind when Jesus talked to him on the road to Damascus.

When everyone has arrived and you're ready to move on to the Bible Story Time, encourage the children to finish what they're doing and get ready to clean up.

## ■ Pick Up Our Toys

**SUPPLIES:** CD player



Lead children in singing “Pick Up Our Toys” (track 2) with the CD to the tune of “Skip to My Lou.” Encourage the children to sing along as they help clean up the room.

If you want to include the names of all the children in your class, sing the song without the CD and repeat the naming section. If you choose to use the CD, vary the names you use each week.



**We will pick up our toys.  
We will pick up our toys.  
We will pick up our toys  
And put them all away.**

**There's [name] picking up toys.  
There's [name] picking up toys.  
There's [name] picking up toys,  
Putting them all away.**

*(Repeat.)*

## Bible Story Time

### ■ Setting the Stage

**SUPPLIES:** balloons, large trash bag

Before this activity, blow up one balloon for each child. The balloons need to be a little more than half full. Place the balloons in a large trash bag.

Tell the children you'll clap your hands to get their attention. Explain that when you clap, children are to stop what they're doing, raise their hands, and focus on you. Encourage children to respond quickly so you'll have time for all the fun activities you've planned.

Say: **I have a job for each of you to do.** Bring out your bag of balloons. **I'd like each of you to sit on a balloon and make it pop. If you don't like the sound of popping balloons, put your hands over your ears. Ready?**

### ⚠️ WARNING: CHOKING HAZARD—

To avoid potential choking hazards, pick up pieces of any broken balloons and dispose of them immediately. Balloons may contain latex.

Distribute the balloons, and let children have fun trying to pop them. It may take more than one child to pop some balloons. When all children have popped their balloons, form a circle and ask:

- **Why was it hard to obey my instructions?** (Because the balloons wouldn't pop; because the balloons were squishy; because I'm not big enough to pop a balloon on my own.)
- **Why was it a little scary to obey my instructions?** (Because I knew it would be loud; I thought it might hurt when the balloon popped.)

Say: **Today we'll learn about a man named Ananias who obeyed God's instructions even when he was a little scared. But because Ananias trusted and obeyed God, many people learned about Jesus. We'll learn that God calls us to obey him, too. First let's all be helpful and obedient by picking up all these little balloon pieces and throwing them away.**



## ■ Bible Song and Prayer Time

*SUPPLIES: Bible, construction paper, scissors, basket or box, CD player*



track 3

Before class, make surprise cards for this activity by cutting construction paper into 2x6-inch slips. Prepare a surprise card for each child plus a few extras for visitors. Fold the cards in half, and then stamp the *footprint stamp* inside one of the surprise cards. Bookmark **Acts 9:10-22** in the Bible you'll be using.

Have the children sit in a circle. Say: **Now it's time to choose a Bible person to bring me the Bible marked with today's Bible story. As we sing our Bible song, I'll pass out the surprise cards. Don't look inside your surprise card until the song is over.**

Lead the children in singing "Read God's Book" (track 3) with the CD to the tune of "The Muffin Man." As you sing, pass out the folded surprise cards.



SING

**Now it's time to read God's book,  
Read God's book, read God's book.  
Now it's time to read God's book.  
Let's hear a Bible story.**

**Now it's time to read God's book,  
Read God's book, read God's book.  
Now it's time to read God's book.  
Let's hear a Bible story.**

*(Repeat.)*

After the song, say: **You may look inside your surprise cards. The person who has the footprints stamped inside his or her card will be our Bible person for today.**

Identify the Bible person, and then have the rest of the children clap for him or her. Ask the Bible person to bring you the Bible. Help the Bible person open the Bible to the marked place and show children where your story comes from. Then have the Bible person sit down.


**BIBLE POINT**

Say: [Name] was our special Bible person today. Each week, we'll have only one special Bible person, but each one of you is a special part of our class! Today we're all learning that ► God calls us to obey him.

Let's say a special prayer now and ask God to teach us about his call to obey him. I'll pass around this basket. When the basket comes to you, put your surprise card in it and say, "God, teach me to obey you."

Pass around the basket or box to collect the surprise cards. Then set the basket aside and pick up the Bible. Lead children in this prayer: **God, thank you for the Bible and all the stories in it. Teach us today to obey you. In Jesus' name, amen.**

## ■ Hear and Tell the Bible Story

**SUPPLIES:** Bible, scaly glasses from Option 2



Point to the Bible and say: **Our Bible story comes from the book of Acts in the Bible.** Hold up the *Bible Big Book: Saul's Surprise*. **Our Bible Big Book shows us pictures of our Bible story. Today you'll get to wear some special glasses while you listen to the story.**

Distribute the scaly glasses made in Option 2, and have children wear them or hold them up to their faces.

Ask: • **What can you see with your cool glasses on?** (Nothing; just paper.)

Say: **Well, then you're a lot like Saul in this story.**

Ask: • **Who can remember what happened to Saul in our story last week?**

(He was mean to Jesus' followers; he was blinded by a flash of light from heaven; Jesus spoke to him.)

Say: **That's right! Just like you, Saul couldn't see anything at all! So Saul went to Damascus to rest and wait for more instructions from God. That's where our story starts today.**

Open the *Bible Big Book* so pages 4 and 5 are showing. Hold up the book, even though children won't be able to see it yet.

Say: **In Damascus, there lived a man named Ananias. He was a faithful follower of Jesus. One night, God told Ananias to do a special job. God asked Ananias to go to Saul, lay hands on him, and heal him.**

**Ananias was surprised. "Saul? Saul of Tarsus? Isn't he the man who's been so mean to Jesus' followers? I don't want to heal *him!* He could put me in jail!"**

**But God told Ananias that Saul was a chosen man—that he would carry God's message to kings and other nations! It was important for Saul to see again. So Ananias obeyed. He went to the house where Saul was staying, placed his hands on Saul, and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road, has sent me so that you might regain your sight." Immediately something like scales fell from Saul's eyes and he could see! Take your scaly glasses off to see what Saul might have felt like.** Pause.

**Saul arose and went to be baptized so everyone would know that he had become a follower of Jesus. Then he ate to regain his strength.**

**Saul spent the next few days with Jesus' followers, and then he began preaching about Jesus in the synagogues. His proofs that Jesus was the Son**

**teacher tips**

If you didn't choose Option 2, have children close their eyes until Saul regains his sight in the Bible story.

of God were so powerful that no one could argue with him. Everyone was amazed at Saul's change of heart. Close the *Bible Big Book*, and put it away.

Ask: • **What did God ask Ananias to do?** (Heal Saul; go see Saul; touch Saul's eyes.)

• **Why didn't Ananias want to obey?** (Because Saul had been mean to other Christians; because he thought he might be put in jail; he was afraid of Saul.)

• **What happened when Ananias obeyed?** (Saul was healed; Saul could see; Saul started talking about Jesus.)

Say: **Ananias obeyed, even when it seemed like a hard thing to do. But because he obeyed, Saul could see again, and he began talking about Jesus! He wanted people to know that Jesus was really the Son of God! ► God calls us to obey him, too. Let's play a game to learn about the things that God wants us to do.**

Have children put their scaly glasses away until it's time to go home.



## ■ Do the Bible Story

**SUPPLIES:** none

Have children stand up and face you. Say: **This game is a little like Simon Says, but it's called The Bible Says. If I say, "The Bible says be kind to others, so gently pat your neighbor on the back," then you'll do what I called out because I said, "The Bible says." But if I say "Act grumpy because you didn't get your way," then don't do the action, because I didn't say, "The Bible says."**

If children do an action that's not preceded with "The Bible says," allow them to continue playing, but tell them to listen more closely.

Here are some suggestions for the game: **The Bible says...**

- to share about Jesus with others, so tell a friend, "Jesus loves you."
- to praise God, so shout, "Praise the Lord!"
- to obey God's commands, so nod your head yes to God.
- to talk to God, so close your eyes and silently tell God that you love him.
- to make a joyful noise, so clap your hands for God.

Here are some silly suggestions to call out:

- Make a funny face to act silly.
- Cross your arms and pout because you didn't get to go first.
- Close your eyes because you want to take a nap.
- Cover your ears because you don't want to listen.
- Stomp your feet because you feel angry.

Have children sit down, and then ask:

• **What are some things that God asks us to do?** (Be kind to others; obey our parents; praise God; tell others about Jesus.)

• **Why is it so important to obey God?** (Because he loves us; because God knows what's best; because he made us; because it shows others that we're his followers.)


**BIBLE POINT** ▶


Say: ▶ God calls us to obey him. When we obey God, we'll see wonderful things happen all around us. Do you remember the wonderful thing we learned earlier about Jesus, the Son of God? He obeyed God and came to earth to die for our sins, and he rose again! He said, ▶ "I am the resurrection and the life." That's our Bible verse for today, from John 11:25a. When we believe in Jesus and put our trust in him, we will live forever, too. Now let's go see what our friend Pockets has been up to this week.

**BIBLE VERSE** ▶

## Closing

### ■ Obey—Don't Delay!

**SUPPLIES:** none

Bring out Pockets the Kangaroo, and go through the following puppet script. When you finish the script, put Pockets away and out of sight.



*(Have Pockets come out looking sheepish and sad.)*

**Teacher:** Good morning, Pockets. How are you today?

**Pockets:** *(Sighs.)* I'm not doing so well. I got in trouble because I didn't do what my mom told me to.

**Teacher:** Oh, I see. What did she ask you to do?

**Pockets:** She asked me to sweep the whole back porch! And it's so big and it was so dirty that I just knew I couldn't do it! So I told her no.

**Teacher:** Sometimes our parents ask us to do things that seem hard. But your mom needs your help, and she knows what you can handle. Say, this reminds me of the story we heard today. Children, can you tell Pockets about the difficult job God asked Ananias to do? *(Allow a few children to tell about Ananias' difficult job and what he did. Be sure they tell what happened after Saul was healed.)*

**Pockets:** So even though Ananias thought that Saul might still be mean, he obeyed? That must have been really hard!

**Teacher:** It was. But God knew the good that would come from it, so he needed Ananias to obey. And God was right! When Saul was all better, he told lots and lots of people about Jesus. ▶ God calls us to obey him, too.

**Pockets:** That means I need to obey my mom, even when it's hard.

**Teacher:** That's right, Pockets. She loves you and wouldn't ask you to do something too difficult.



**Pockets:** I think I'll go sweep the whole porch until it's spotless! That'll really surprise my mom!

**Teacher:** I think that would make your mom and God very happy!

**Pockets:** Thank you for helping me obey. My heart feels good knowing that I'm obeying my mom and God. Goodbye!

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## ■ Open to Obey

**SUPPLIES:** CD player, Eye Can See snacks from Option 3



Say: **Last week we learned a song about God calling us to follow him and obey him. Let's sing it again so we'll remember to do those things this week.**

Sing "God Calls Us" (track 15) to the tune of "Old MacDonald Had a Farm" with the CD. Choose a child to lead the class, follow-the-leader style, in marching around the room as they sing. On the phrase "Follow God!" choose a different child to be the leader; switch again in the same places for the second verse about obeying God.



**God calls us to follow him  
Every single day!  
God calls us to follow him;  
He'll lead us all the way.**

**Follow God!  
He loves you, too!  
Do just what he says to do.**

**God calls us to follow him  
Every single day!**

**God calls us to obey him  
Every single day!  
God calls us to obey him;  
He'll lead us all the way.**

**Obey God!  
He loves you, too!  
Do just what he says to do.**

**God calls us to obey him  
Every single day!**

Form pairs and distribute the Eye Can See snacks from Option 3. If you didn't choose Option 3, provide another sweet treat for children to enjoy. Say: **Today we learned that when Ananias obeyed God, Saul's eyes were opened. Give a**



**BIBLE POINT** ▶

snack to your partner, touch your partner's shoulder gently, and say ▶ *God calls us to obey him.* When children have exchanged snacks, pray: **Dear God, thank you that the Bible teaches us how to follow you. Help us obey your Word and be your helpers. In Jesus' name, amen.**



**Growing closer to Jesus extends beyond the classroom.**

Photocopy the "Today I Learned..." handout (at the end of this lesson) for this week, and send it home with your children. Encourage parents to use the handout to plan meaningful family activities to reinforce this week's topic.



## For Extra Time

If you have a long class time or want to add additional elements to your lesson, try one of the following activities.

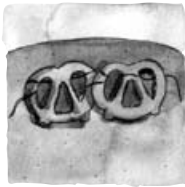
### ■ *Lively Learning: Play and Obey*

Lay a classroom table on its side. Have children sit in front of the tabletop. Choose a volunteer to sit behind the table and another volunteer to sit where he or she can see the person behind the table and the rest of the class. Have the child sitting behind the tabletop choose an action such as wiggling his or her fingers or making a silly face. Have the child who can see the action copy it. Then have the rest of the class do the action. Repeat with a different action. Explain that even though we couldn't see the person behind the table we could still follow his or her actions, and even though we can't see God we can still obey God.

### ■ *Make to Take: Open Your Eyes*

Set out scissors, crayons, yarn, a hole punch, sticky notes, and paper plates. Have children hold paper plates up to their faces while you mark where their eyes are. Help children cut eyeholes. Use a hole punch to make a hole on either side of the paper plate, and then tie an 8-inch length of yarn through both holes. Have children use crayons to make a face on the plate and then place a sticky note over each eyehole. Help children tie their masks on and allow them to role-play Saul and Ananias. Let them remove the sticky notes when Saul is healed.

### ■ *Treat to Eat: Outta-Sight Snacks*



Set out pretzels and long red licorice whips. Show children how to weave the licorice between the pretzels and then pull the ends out to make silly glasses. Children may try to wear their glasses before eating them! Remind children that Saul was healed because Ananias obeyed God.

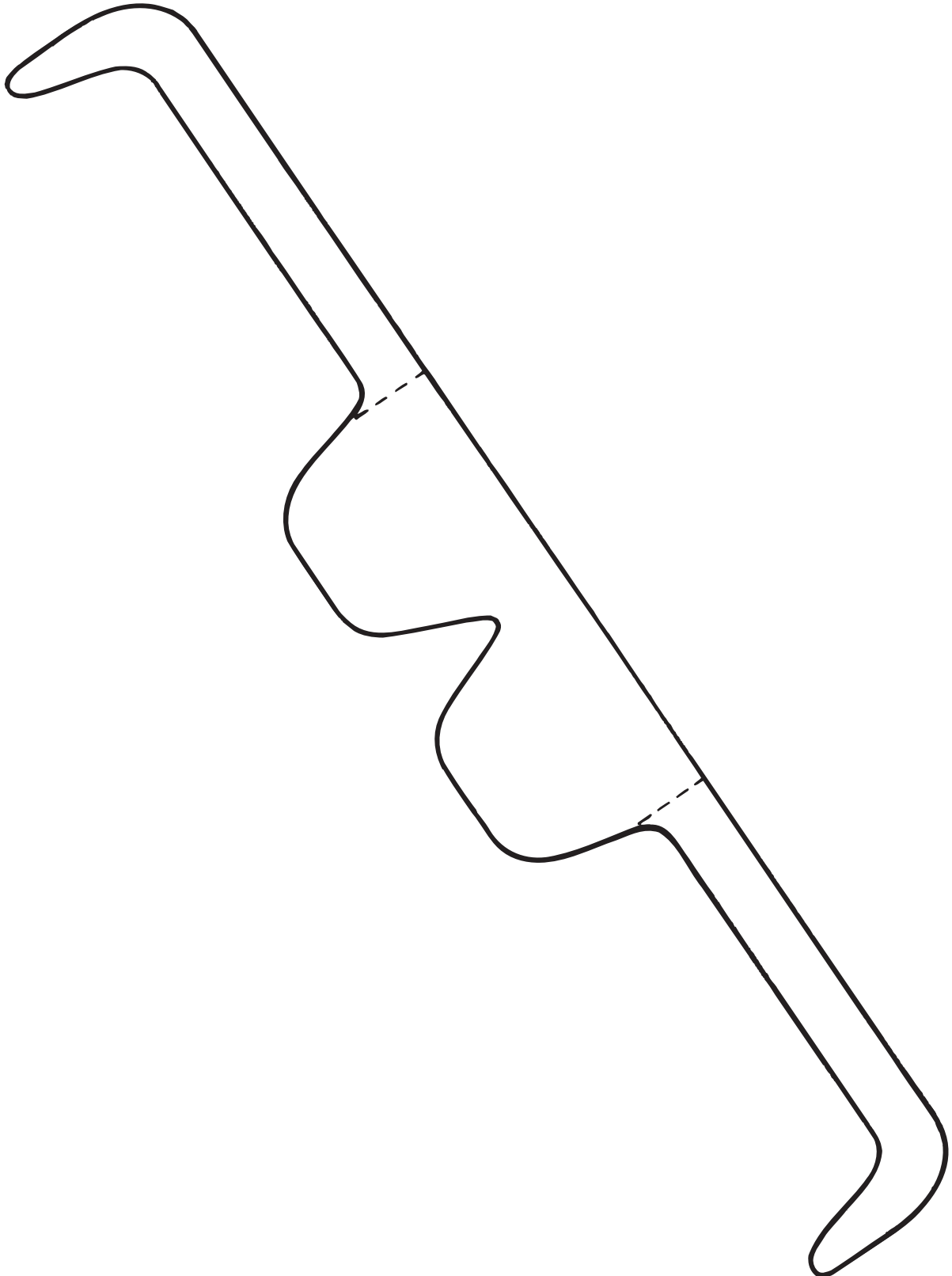


### ■ *Story Picture: Ananias Obeys God*

Give each child a copy of the "Today I Learned..." handout. Let children tape pieces of a mesh fruit bag on Saul's eyes to represent the scales. As children work, talk about what we can do to obey God.

# Scaly Glasses

Photocopy and enlarge the handout, and then give one to each child. Have each child lay the handout over a mesh fruit bag and then rub a crayon over the top. Help children cut out the glasses and fold on the dotted lines.



# Today I learned...

God calls us  
to obey him.

Today your child learned that God calls us to obey him. Children learned that because Ananias obeyed, Saul was able to see again and to tell many people about Jesus. They talked about how they can obey God.

## Verse to Learn

"I am the resurrection and the life" (John 11:25a).

## Ask Me...

- What did God ask Ananias to do?
- What does God ask you to do?
- How can we tell when our family is obeying God?

## Family Fun

- With your child, make a delicious snack that requires following a specific recipe. You might bake brownies, chocolate chip cookies, or granola. As you enjoy your snack, remind your child that good things happen when we follow a recipe, and that even better things happen when we follow God.

## Ananias Obeys God (Acts 9:10-22)



