

Story: **Saul and Ananias\***

Background Scripture: **Acts 9:1-19**

YOU WILL NEED: *No items needed.*

## **Saul and Ananias**

Anytime you say, “God’s got a call,” students should shout back, “For us all.” Feel free to have a boys vs. girls or a side vs. side competition to see who can say it the loudest.

And remember that students are going to mimic how you say it—so be excited that “God’s got a call for us all!”

Leader: *God’s got a call / Students: For us all!*

SAY: Now let’s hear a story about someone who had done a lot of bad things, but not only did God still love him but He had great plans for him too.

Tell students that any time you say, “Saul” you want them to say, “Arrest the Christians!”

Anytime you say, “Ananias,” they say, “Go, Ananias!”

*Practice a few times.*

Tell the following story but pause on the bold words:

**Saul** was a religious leader in Jerusalem. He knew all the rules the Jews had to follow. He obeyed every part of the Law. He had everything going for him—except he hated Jesus and all His followers, the Christians. **Saul** threatened them. **Saul** arrested them. And **Saul** had many of them killed.

You see, **Saul** didn’t just dislike Christians. He wanted to get rid of them. So one day he went the high priest and asked permission to hunt down Christians in Damascus, which was a big city in that day. **Saul** took some companions with him, but as they neared Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. The light was brighter than the sun, and it made **Saul** fall to the ground. Then he heard a voice say, “**Saul, Saul**, why do you persecute me?”

He asked, “Who are you, Lord?”

The voice replied, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting, but rise, enter the city, and it shall be told you what you must do.”

**Saul** got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. For three days he was blind and did not eat or drink anything.

In Damascus, there was a disciple named **Ananias**. The Lord called to him in a vision, “**Ananias!**”

“Yes, Lord,” he answered.

The Lord told **Ananias**, “Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named **Saul**, for he is praying.”

“Lord,” **Ananias** answered, “I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your saints in Jerusalem. And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name.”

But the Lord said to **Ananias**, “Go! This man is my chosen instrument...” In other words, God had great plans for **Saul**’s life—And God has great plans for your life too.

Control Tool

Leader: *God's got a call* / Students: *For us all!*

SAY: Jesus wanted **Ananias** to go and help Saul who had been a very dangerous man, but God had forgiven **Saul** for all the bad things he had done. An even though **Ananias** was afraid, he obeyed God. He found **Saul** and prayed for him and his sight came back. **Saul** didn't wait to say "Yes" to Jesus. He was immediately baptized as a Christian and began to tell others about the love of Christ. He later changed his name to Paul and traveled all over spreading the Gospel. He was arrested many times and beaten and shipwrecked, bitten by a poisonous snake, he spent more than one day and night afloat in the sea, and just like Stephen, he was also stoned, although he survived and continue to tell others about Jesus. He preached in front of governors and leaders. God used him to write more than half of the New Testament and Paul (who had been **Saul**) was eventually killed because he was a Christian.

Control Tool

Leader: *God's got a call* / Students: *For us all!*