

# Saul's Basket escape room

By Kathy Applebee

Content area: New Testament, Acts, Saul/Paul, Bible, ancient history

Recommended Ages/ target audience: Any

Ideal Group Size: 4 to 10

Suggested Time: 10 minutes introduction, 50 minutes playing time, additional time for reflection and debriefing activities

**STORY:** From Acts 9. Saul went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. As he neared Damascus he met Jesus, who told him to "Get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do." Saul was blinded by the light and for 3 days prayed until Ananias came, placed his hands on Saul and Saul was healed and baptized.

Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus. At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God. 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?" Yet Saul grew more and more powerful and baffled the Jews living in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Messiah.

After many days had gone by, there was a conspiracy among the Jews to kill him, but Saul learned of their plan. Day and night they kept close watch on the city gates in order to kill him.

## MATERIALS NEEDED

Clues, hints, story sheets from the clues .PDF

Video intro link: <https://youtu.be/qHHrUdMwg4E>

Google site: <https://sites.google.com/view/sauls-basket-escape/home>

## SOLUTIONS:

District: Wheat (hieroglyphics)

Gates: Between Pearl and Yeast (rebus)

Street: Baker Street (from Genesis 40. The capital letters spell STREET. The orange HE is the Baker in Genesis 40 To make it more difficult, use the clue that has italics rather than the orange HE)

Time: Midnight (crossword)

Number of knocks: 12 (types of soils (4) + loaves of bread (5) + days Saul was blind (3) = 12

Person: Ananias (Fallen letter puzzle. If players are not familiar with this type of puzzle, you can use the version with hints)

Setup Instructions:

1. Print clues from the .PDF (some clues have different versions so leader can differentiate depending on the rigor /difficulty wanted) Print about 1 copy per 3 players) OPTION: Give some or all out ahead of time.
2. Print and post the story .PDFs for players to refer to and learn about Saul's early life as a Christian.
3. OPTIONAL: Print and cut apart HINTS and either hide in room OR set a criteria by which players can ask for a hint.

### Reflection Questions:

1. Which clue was the hardest? Easiest?
2. What did you learn about working together toward a common goal?
3. Saul hunted and arrested Christians. Now the tables were turned and he was the one hunted. What do you think went through his mind?
4. 2 Corinthians 11:32 states In Damascus, the governor under King Aretas guarded the city of the Damascenes in order to arrest me, 33 so I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall and escaped his hands. Why might the governor be in on the plot? Pilate was governor in Jerusalem when Jesus was crucified. How are these situations the same? Different?
5. How is this situation similar to and different from the incident in Joshua 2 when Rahab whose house was upon the town wall of Jericho, let down the spies by a cord through the window. ( Joshua 2:15 )
6. Why didn't Saul stop preaching after this incident?
7. What do we learn about God in this incident?
8. What can we apply to our lives from this incident?