LESSON 14

ANANIAS VISITS PAUL



Aim: **To teach the children that obedience to God brings blessings, even if it comes in surprising ways.**

Scripture Reading: **Acts 9:10-19; 22:12-16**

Memory Verse: **1 John 3:24**
Those who obey his commands live in him, and he in them.

PRESENTING THE LESSON

STARTING POINT

Make up a story about a parent who told a child to take a message to someone. The child did not want to go, because he or she was rather frightened of that person. Perhaps you can remember something like this really happening in your family or circle of friends. If you can, use that real-life story instead of making one up.

MAIN POINTS OF THE LESSON

1. As we said last week, Paul was on his way to Damascus when he met the Lord Jesus. A man named Ananias, who was a follower of Jesus, lived in Damascus. A few days after Paul's arrival in the city, Jesus spoke to Ananias in a vision. **Recount Acts 9:10 in your own words.**
2. **Explain what task Jesus asked Ananias to do (9:11-12).**
3. Ananias wanted to obey the Lord, but he was afraid. He had heard from other people how Paul hunted the Christians and had them thrown in prison (9:13-14).
4. But Jesus commanded Ananias to go and visit Paul. He told him something very surprising: Paul would become one of the greatest servants of Jesus Christ and suffer for his faith, too (9:15-16).
5. Then Ananias obeyed. When he met Paul he called him "brother", even though Paul had persecuted the Christians and had set out for Damascus for the same purpose (9:17). **Show Picture 14.** Ananias is reaching out to lay his hands on Paul, see? By the power of the Holy Spirit working through Ananias, Paul's sight was restored immediately. Afterwards, he baptised Paul as a follower of Jesus Christ (9:18-19).
6. Because Ananias obeyed God even when he was faced with a difficult task that made him afraid, God used Ananias to do something great. He took God's blessing to Paul.

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Our Response to the Story

Anyone can do easy things. Difficult things we can do for God only when he asks us to, because then we know God himself will give us the strength to carry it out. This is what happened with Ananias.

Can you think of other people in the Bible who obeyed God when he asked them to do something difficult? Examples: Noah built a huge boat when everybody laughed at him. David fought Goliath when every soldier in Israel was too afraid to do it. Abraham left his homeland and set out on a journey to a place he did not know. Do you notice something all of these people have in common? When they trusted God enough to obey him, they received unexpected blessings!

So next time you want to do God's will, but are afraid of the task, remember Ananias of Damascus.

Instil the Memory Verse



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