



**Prayer:**

*Heavenly Father, we embrace Your call for us to make disciples, to be witnesses and to grow leaders. Give us the eyes to see Your vision, ears to hear the prompting of Your Spirit and courage to follow in the footsteps of your Son, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.*



**Dingbats:**

A Dingbat is a well-known phrase or saying which is expressed in picture form. See how many of the dingbats you can solve on the sheet at the back of these notes (page 4).



**DVD: 2:1**



**Exercise: My Story**

Before/Early Years.

Choosing to follow Christ.

What following Jesus means to me now.



**DVD: 2:2**



**Bible: Acts 26:4-23**

This is the account of the Apostle Paul explaining his faith in front of the court of King Agrippa

<sup>4</sup> *“The Jewish people all know the way I have lived ever since I was a child, from the beginning of my life in my own country, and also in Jerusalem. <sup>5</sup> They have known me for a long time and can testify, if they are willing, that I conformed to the strictest sect of our religion, living as a Pharisee. <sup>6</sup> And now it is because of my hope in what God has promised our ancestors that I am on trial today. <sup>7</sup> This is the promise our twelve tribes are hoping to see fulfilled as they earnestly serve God day and night. King Agrippa, it is because of this hope that these Jews are accusing me. <sup>8</sup> Why should any of you consider it incredible that God raises the dead?*

<sup>9</sup> *“I too was convinced that I ought to do all that was possible to oppose the name of Jesus of Nazareth. <sup>10</sup> And that is just what I did in Jerusalem. On the authority of the chief priests I put many of the Lord’s people in prison, and when they were put to death, I cast my vote against them. <sup>11</sup> Many a time I went from one synagogue to another to have them punished, and I tried to force them to blaspheme. I was so obsessed with persecuting them that I even hunted them down in foreign cities.*

<sup>12</sup> *“On one of these journeys I was going to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests. <sup>13</sup> About noon, King Agrippa, as I was on the road, I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, blazing around me and my companions. <sup>14</sup> We all fell to the ground, and I heard a voice saying to me in Aramaic, ‘Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.’*

<sup>15</sup> *“Then I asked, ‘Who are you, Lord?’*

*“ ‘I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,’ the Lord replied. <sup>16</sup> ‘Now get up and stand on your feet. I have appeared to you to appoint you as a servant and as a witness of what you have seen and will see of me. <sup>17</sup> I will rescue you from your own people and from the Gentiles. I am sending you to them <sup>18</sup> to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.’*

<sup>19</sup> *“So then, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the vision from heaven. <sup>20</sup> First to those in Damascus, then to those in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and then to the Gentiles, I preached that they should repent and turn to God and demonstrate their repentance by their deeds. <sup>21</sup> That is why some Jews seized me in the temple courts and tried to kill me. <sup>22</sup> But God has helped me to this very day; so I stand here and testify to small and great alike. I am saying nothing beyond what the prophets and Moses said would happen— <sup>23</sup> that the Messiah would suffer and, as the first to rise from the dead, would bring the message of light to his own people and to the Gentiles.”*

Before: v4-11

- What do we learn about Paul’s background and beliefs?
- What sort of a person do you think Paul was before he became a follower of Jesus?

During v12-18

- What do we discover about the way Paul became a follower of Jesus?
- Why do you think God revealed himself in this way?

After v19-23

- What differences has following Jesus made in Paul’s life?
- How has Jesus changed your life?



**DVD: 2:3**



**Exercise: Fishers of people**

Think about the people who you have chosen to pray for regularly. Are there bits of your faith journey that might connect with some of the people you are praying for? You might like to put some ideas in the box below.



Share in groups of three about some of the ways that you might be able to share bits of ‘faith bait’ with the people you are praying for or with other people you know.



**Prayer:**

Spend some time together in silence praying for the people on the prayer list you wrote in Session One. Ask the Lord to make himself real to them.

*<sup>16</sup> As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. <sup>17</sup> “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” <sup>18</sup> At once they left their nets and followed him.*

Pray together the ‘Being Witnesses’ prayer.

*Lord, help us to be witnesses through our actions and our words.  
May we be faithful in prayer, gracious in service and more confident in speaking.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen*



Take away activity: Try dropping some 'faith bait' into conversations during the coming week

Dingbats:

<p>1.</p> <p><b>BAN ANA</b></p>	<p>2.</p> <p>U P S I D E</p>	<p>3.</p> <p><b>SYMPHON</b></p>
<p>4.</p> <p><b>BULL</b></p> <p><b>ZZZZZZZZZZ</b></p>	<p>5.</p> <p>123456789 ..... 40 LIFE</p>	<p>6.</p> <p><b>FX THE</b></p>
<p>7.</p> <p><b>NOON T</b></p>	<p>8.</p> <p>POD POD POD</p>	<p>9.</p> <p><b>ci ii</b></p>
<p>10.</p> <p>LANG<b>4</b>UAGE</p>	<p>11.</p> <p>RUNNING</p> <p>HOME</p>	<p>12.</p> <p><b>THINGTHING</b></p>