

The Transformation of Saul to Paul

Three Storytellers minimum, The Voice, Saul and Ananias, 2 henchmen, not needed but extras could be accommodated as Christians arrested and thrown into prison.

The Scene is set with the Storytellers in view but with Saul taking centre stage)

Saul: *(Standing on wooden box with cloak on with collar up.)* This is a Cloak and Dagger Story, here is the Cloak but I am not allowed to carry a Dagger. You are not allowed to carry knives because of their danger.

Storyteller 1: I am going to tell you a story of a very evil man. He was horrible and nasty and malicious. He used to hang around doorways, down dark alleys, and lurk in the shadows. He was always listening out for people to mention a name. And if they mentioned that name when they left their group he would follow them and as they passed a dark area he would have them snatched by his henchmen and thrown into prison. He was really evil and the people he was after were Christians, and the name he was listening for was 'Jesus'.

Storyteller 2: Why?

Storyteller 3: Because Saul did not believe that Jesus was the Son of God; nor that he had risen from the dead. He thought Christians were making it all up when they said that Jesus was alive. He saw them as deceivers and needed to be got rid of.

Storyteller 1: However to get on with the story – Saul had filled all the gaols in Jerusalem so he decided to go to another city called Damascus to collect some more of these Christians.

Storyteller 1: Saul got on his horse, *(produce hand puppet of a donkey)* I haven't got a horse so I had to bring a donkey. Well Saul got on his horse and was riding with his henchmen to Damascus. *(Saul pretends on the box to be riding by moving the knees up and down under the cloak, the box might not be quite level and give a sense of movement as well).* Suddenly out of the sky came this very bright light, brighter than the sun, in fact it was so powerful that Saul was blinded and fell off his 'orse. *(Saul still in his cloak falls from the box on to the floor and lays there.)*

Storyteller 3: Here was this horrible person cowering and frightened all of a sudden, when not so long ago he had been a real bully. The shoe was on the other foot now. Instead of him being in the position of strength he was now very vulnerable and he didn't like it.

Storyteller 2: That is often the case with bullies, they think they are great until the tables are turned and then they become a sobbing mess.

The Voice: *(preferably hidden with microphone)* Saul, Saul, why are you doing these evil things against me.

Saul: Who are you?

The Voice: I am Jesus who you are persecuting.

Storyteller 2: Saul realised that Jesus must be alive if he was talking to him. He realised he had made a terrible mistake.

Storyteller 1: Can I get on with the story – The light disappeared and Saul opened his eyes but could not see. He got up trying to find his 'orse.

Saul: *(Eyes shut and arms outstretched feeling for his horse)* Here horsy, horsy, where are you?

Storyteller 1: Saul's henchmen had to help Saul mount his 'orse and then lead it into Damascus. Saul went to stay in a house and in an upper room he sat alone refusing to eat and prayed and thought many things. *(Saul lays his cloak down & sits on the box deep in thought.)*

Storyteller 3: Now there was in Damascus a Christian named Ananias. *(Ananias is to one side on his knees with his hands together and eyes closed)*

Storyteller 2: Is there anyone here called Ananias? *(pause)* I didn't think so, stupid name.

Ananias: Excuse me, what did you say? I didn't quite catch your words I was praying.

Storyteller 2: I just said what a wonderful ring your name has.

Ananias: Oh thank you.

Storyteller 3: Do you mind if I get on with the story?
Ananias was in his house praying.

The Voice: Ananias *(Ananias looks heavenward)*

Ananias: Yes, Lord.

The Voice: I want you to go to Straight Street

Storyteller 2: It's called Straight Street because it's a very straight street *(show a straight line with hands going both ways)*, and it's a street because its got houses on it.

Storyteller 3: Thank you!!! *(in a fed up voice)*

The Voice: I want you to go to the house in the middle of Straight Street and ask for a man called Saul from Jerusalem.

Ananias: No, Lord, I can't go there. He's come to arrest Christians like me.

The Voice: Ananias

Ananias: Yes, Lord.

The Voice: You are to go because Saul has said he is very sorry for all the evil he has done, and I have forgiven him, and he needs your help to see again and to set him on the correct path.

Storyteller 3: Ananias got up and goes to Saul *(actions)*.

Ananias: Brother Saul, I have come so that you may see again. *(Ananias lays his hands on Saul's head and Saul's sight is restored)*.

Saul: Great I can see again, now I must be baptised.

Storyteller 3: So Ananias took Saul to a local pond *(Actions by Ananias & Saul)*

Storyteller 2: A pond is what's got water in it.

Storyteller 3: Shut up! – Sorry for that interruption - Saul was pushed under the water by Ananias and when he came back out Saul was radiant. Saul decided that with this new start in his life he was going to change his name to Paul.

Storyteller 2: That means he took away the 's' and put in its place a 'p'.

Storyteller 3: Thank you, do you have to ruin a good story.

Storyteller 2: Sorry, I was only trying to help

Storyteller 3: Well don't

Storyteller 2: I thought this story was about saying sorry, and being forgiven, and starting again.

Storyteller 3: It is.

Storyteller 2: Well you are not very forgiving.

Storyteller 3: Well, are you truly sorry for interrupting.

Storyteller 2: Yes, I am, I am very sorry.

Storyteller 3: Then I will forgive you, and you can start afresh just like St Paul.

Storyteller 2: Was that who he was? I didn't think that changing a 'p' for a 's' made you a saint.

Storyteller 3: Just stop there, and let me finish the story. Paul had been so transformed that instead of skulking in the dark Paul wanted to be out in the daylight in all the key places in Damascus telling people about Jesus and encouraging them to believe in him. In fact Paul became a missionary for Jesus walking thousands of miles around the Mediterranean countries talking about Jesus, and how he had been forgiven by Jesus for doing such evil things to his followers in Jerusalem.

Storyteller 2: Christ Jesus is a loving and forgiving God to everyone who is truly sorry for doing wrong.