

A Workshop Rotation Model Lesson Set from St. Paul's Presbyterian Church  
56 Thames Street South Ingersoll, Ontario, CANADA N5C 2S9 519-485-3390 [whispering.ridge@sympatico.ca](mailto:whispering.ridge@sympatico.ca)

This material is the copyrighted property of Rev. Dr. Lonnie Atkinson. Permission is granted to copy this material only for non-commercial use.

"A LIFE CHANGING LIGHT" *Adapted for Gloria Dei Lutheran Church by Beth Tobin, August 2006, updated 2014, and 2018.*

## The Conversion of Saul

### COOKING WORKSHOP: Gloria Dei Live!

Scripture: Acts 9: 1-19

Memory Verse: Psalm 25:4 (NIV)

*"Show me your ways, O Lord, teach me Your path guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior."*

**Workshop Summary:** Children will be baking upside-down fruit tarts and discussing how our lives can sometime get turned upside down. They will explore how to get back on the right track, or right side up again.

#### Objectives for the rotation

At the end of the rotation, the students will:

- be able to find Acts and know it is a history of the early Christian church.
- understand that anyone can be called to do God's work.
- Know the story of Saul's persecution of Christians and his conversion on the Road to Damascus.
- be able to contrast Saul before and after his experience on the road.
- be able to repeat the memory verse.

#### Teacher preparation in advance:

- Read the scripture passages and lesson plan and view the Bible study online at [www.GloriaDeiKids.org](http://www.GloriaDeiKids.org).
- Read the lesson two or three times placing yourself in the scene. How would Saul of Tarsus feel going blind? What brought him to belief and baptism?
- Test the recipe ahead of time using different fruit.
- Become familiar with the kitchen at church and gather the supplies needed.
- Learn the memory verse.
- Treat yourself to an Upside Down tart treat and share the prayer at the end of this lesson.

**PRESENTATION:**

**OPEN:**

**Welcome and Introductions:**

Greet the children and introduce yourself. Wear your name-tag. (Remember, you are interacting with a different group of students each week who may not know you.) Make sure the children are wearing name-tags.

Please open with prayer and begin the lesson at 10:05. This will help the students transition into their time of learning. Students will be arriving and interacting with their shepherd(s) between 10:00 and 10:05.

Tell the children that they will be baking Upside Down Fruit Tarts that will help them remember the story of Saul's conversion on the road to Damascus. These tarts symbolize how Jesus can turn our lives upside down and around so that the good that is inside us gets out.

Remind the "chefs" about the kitchen safety rules particularly regarding how to handle hot things, and washing hands.

**START BAKING:**

Following the attached recipe, create Upside Down Fruit Tarts. Share the creating of the tarts as much as is age appropriate.

As the layers are going in the tart trays reflect on how each person is unique. Emphasize this point by using a variety of fruit fillings. Talk with the children about the story of Saul on the road to Damascus. As the weeks progress, have the children tell you the story and make connections to Saul's life being turned up side down. They may also relate to our own lives being turned up side down.

While the tarts are baking: 15 - 20 minutes, present the following information:

**Scripture/Bible Story:**

Read Acts 9:1-9. Have the children locate the story passage in their Bibles.

Review the organization of the Bible:

The Bible is divided into two big parts, the Old and New Testaments.

Each part is a collection of books.

Each book is divided into chapters and verses.

Show them that if they open their Bible in the middle, they will usually land in the book of Psalms in the OT.

The book name is at the top of each page.

Acts is the fifth book of the New Testament and it comes after the gospels, specifically, the Gospel of John. Remind them that the order of the first five books of the New Testament is Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, and Acts.

Explain to the children that Acts is short for Acts of the Apostles and the stories here tell about what happened to Jesus’ followers after his death and resurrection. It tells the story of the early church. Acts is a book of history---the only history book in the New Testament.

After they have found Acts tell them to find Acts 9:1-19. Some of the children may confuse chapters and verses. Show them that chapter numbers are the big ones, and also are at the top of every page (in most editions).

For classes composed primarily of pre-readers, show the children how to find the passage in the Bible and then have them do it. After everyone has found the passage, have them listen while you read.

**Reflect:** (Closing Discussion)

Enjoy the Upside Down Fruit Tarts while review/learning the memory verse.

The following activity should take place if you have time. If you do not have time, send the journal pages home with the students.

Pass out the journal pages and pencils/markers.

**Journal Time:**

Have students draw or write about a time when their lives were “turned upside down.” How did that time feel? Was it an especially busy time for them? Was there a ton of homework? Were they feeling anxious? Had they done something wrong or were untruthful? Was a family member or pet sick or did someone they know die?

How did they get turned “right side up” again?

Please send the journal sheets home with the students. Make sure their name and the date are on the paper.

Ask for help in tidying up the kitchen if there is time.

### **Closing Prayer:**

Younger Children: Dear God, Help us to listen to you and turn right side up again when we get turned upside down. Amen

Older Children: Gracious God, when our lives lead us away from you, turn us around. Stop our sinning. Help us to see and to follow your way. Amen.

Sunday School Closing begins at 10:45 in the choir room upstairs.

### **“Upside Down Fruit Tarts”**

A sweet treat to teach how God can turn our lives Upside Down

2 dozen tart shells  
1 cup fruit (fresh berries or fruit jam)  
1/2 cup soft butter  
1 tsp. vanilla  
1/2 cup sugar  
2 eggs

Place tart shells in baking pan. Cream butter and sugar. Add eggs one at a time. Beat until smoothly blended. Stir in vanilla. Spoon in a teaspoon or so of fruit into each tart shell. Cover with blended mixture, divided evenly, fill about 2/3 full. Bake on bottom rack at 350 degrees for 15-20 minutes or until golden brown. Cool slightly, then remove from pans.