

❖ "Come here, young one, I've got a story to share..." ❖

The old woman settled on the bench, her hands resting gently on her lap. "Let me tell you about a man named Saul," she said, giving the child a soft smile.

"Saul was a man on a mission—fierce and determined. He thought he was doing the right thing by chasing down the people who followed Jesus. 🚶 🏠 In Saul's mind, they were breaking the rules, and rules were very important to him."

The child furrowed their brow. "Why didn't Saul like Jesus's followers?"

"Well, Saul believed that anyone following Jesus was against God," the old woman explained, her voice thoughtful. "He didn't understand that Jesus was sent by God. So, every time Saul went after Jesus's followers, he was really fighting Jesus without even knowing it."

The child tilted their head. "So Jesus had to stop him?"

The old woman grinned. "Exactly. Saul was on his way to Damascus, all ready to arrest more believers, when something incredible happened—BOOM! 💥 A light so bright, brighter than the sun, shone all around him. 😊 Saul was knocked off his feet, and so were his friends. They were all scared stiff!"

The child gasped, eyes wide. "What did Saul do?"

"Nothing!" the old woman chuckled. "He couldn't see a thing—blind as a bat! 🦇 And then, from that blinding light, Saul heard a voice. It was Jesus, saying, 'Saul, Saul, why are you fighting me?'"

The child leaned in closer, captivated. "What did Saul say?"

"Well," the old woman said, her tone softer now, "Saul was confused. He asked, 'Who are you, Lord?' And Jesus told him, 'I am Jesus, the one you are hurting.' That was when Saul realized—he had been wrong all along."

The child's face softened. "Did Jesus forgive him?"

The old woman nodded with a gentle smile. "Oh yes, He did. But Saul had to change. He couldn't keep fighting anymore. Jesus had a whole new purpose for him, and Saul would spend the rest of his life helping people instead of hurting them."

🌱 A Thought for Today

Sometimes, we think we're doing the right thing, just like Saul did—until life stops us and shows us a new way forward. Those moments might feel hard, but they're often what lead us to something

better. ✨

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