Saint Paul Puppet Show
(VBS time-travel series: this show follows the show on St. Stephen)

Romans 12:20-21 "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him drink…overcome evil with good."

Billy	Susie! Susie!
Susie	Hi Billy! You look excited! What's up?
Billy	I made a new friend, today!
Susie	Really? That's great. Tell me about it.
Billy	Well, remember those kids who made fun of me for talking about Jesus?
Susie	I sure do.
Billy	Well, one of them is named John.
Susie	Does he have red hair and freckles?
Billy	Yeah, that's him.
Susie	I know that kid. He's a pain in the neck.
Billy	Well, I thought so, too. But today he was running on the playground and he fell down and started crying.
Susie	Oh, wow. Bummer.
Billy	Yeah. Some other guys started to laugh at him, so I gave him a hand up and said, "Don't pay any attention to them."
Susie	Then what happened?
Billy	I walked away. But later on, he came over to me and said, "Thanks for helping me." I said, "You want to see who can climb that tree over there?" and he said, "Sure." So we did.
Susie	Who climbed higher?
Billy	He did. He's a really good climber. And I told him some Bible stories. He said I was a good story teller.
Susie	Wow. I'm so proud of you!
Billy	Isn't it weird that we were enemies and now we're friends?
Susie	This kid reminds me of Saint Paul.
Billy	Saint Paul?
Susie	He's a guy who started out being very mean to Christians and later became a great saint. He taught people to fight evil by being kind to their enemies. Like you did with John.

Billy	Wow. He sounds really smart.
Susie	And he said that we're all members of the Body of Christ, each with a special job to do. (*Romans 12:4-8*) We're all given different gifts to share with others, like storytelling…
Billy	Or climbing trees!
Susie	Sure!
Billy	How was Saint Paul mean to the Christians?
Susie	Well, first of all, his name was actually Saul of Tarsus. He believed in God, but he thought the Christians were teaching everything all wrong. So he got a lot of them arrested and killed.
Billy	No way.
Susie	Way. In fact, the day Saint Stephen was killed, Saul was right there watching and smiling. (*Acts 8:1*)
Billy	Woah. That is horrible.
Susie	But don't forget, that was when he was still called Saul. He hadn't met Jesus, yet.
Billy	How on earth did Saul of Tarsus become Saint Paul?
Susie	Let's see for ourselves! (*they hold hands*) Saint Paul, bring us to the place where your life was changed by grace! (*they fly backwards and disappear as Saul and his friends appear – if possible, Saul should be on a donkey or other beast*)
Paul	Giddyap, donkey! (*sighs*) Nice day for a trip to Damascus. (*Acts 9:1-19*)
Friend1	Yeah, Saul, you're right. It's a cool city and it is just ***full*** of Christians. (*chuckles*)
Friend2	Yeah. And we hate Christians.
Paul	Yeah. (*they laugh*) We drag them to Rome, We're quite a team, We trick them and get them to blaspheme!
Friend1	And the rest is sweet, like cherry ice cream! (*they all laugh*)
Friend2	Oh, yeah. Sweet if you're a hungry lion. (*they all laugh again*)
Paul	Hey! Woah! (*Shine a flashlight, Paul falls off his donkey; animal runs off terrified, making a lot of noise*) Ow! Hey!
Voice	Saul, Saul, why do you want to hurt me? (*the friends tremble, speechless*)
Paul	Who are you, Lord?

Voice	I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting; but rise and enter the city and you will be told what you are to do. (*turn light off*)
Paul	Um… Okay. I will, but… (*standing*) I can't see anything… I can't see anything! I'm blind!
Friend1	Oh man, this is so weird. What's going on?
Friend2	I am totally freaking out. Where did that voice come from?
Paul	Friends… You've got to help me walk to the city. I am blind. I need your help!
Friend1	But what if the scary voice comes back? (*turns his back on his friend*)
Friend2	Yeah. (*whirling to look behind him, turning his back on his friend*) Scary voice, scary voice.
Friend1	I want my mommy!
F1/F2	(*looking around nervously, they back into each other and startle each other*) Aaaaaaaaaah!!!!! (*they look at each other for a moment, hyperventilating*)
Friend2	Oh, it's just you.
Friend1	Oh, man you scared me really bad!
Friend2	Don't ever do that again. (*points at his friend*)
Friend1	You either, buddy. (*points back, they both start laughing*)
Paul	Okay, guys. Are we going to Damascus or not? I need your help, here.
Friend2	Yeah, boss. We're going.
Friend1	As fast as we can! Let's go! (*they all exit, holding on to each other as Billy and Susie reappear*)
Billy	So, Saul became blind?
Susie	Yes, but he didn't stay blind. God had work for him to do, so he sent a good Christian named Ananias to visit Saul and he healed his eyes and baptized him. Later, all the Christians called him by a new name--Paul. I think it was to show that he had changed on the inside. It was symbolic.
Billy	Symbolic?
Susie	It means that it was a sign of something.
Billy	Like the leaves turning colors in the fall?
Susie	Yes, that's a good example. The change in the leaves shows us the season is changing from summer to fall. The change in Saul's name showed that he had decided to follow Jesus' Way of Love.
Billy	Cool. So after that, it was smooth sailing for Saint Paul, huh? He could see just fine and he just went around preaching about Jesus?

Susie	Well, I wouldn't say it was smooth sailing.
Billy	Why? What happened?
Susie	Well, Paul was actually shipwrecked, arrested, and beaten many times for talking about Jesus. He had many amazing adventures, but he suffered a lot.
Billy	It was dangerous preaching about Jesus!
Susie	Yes, but Paul had the help of angels along the way.
Billy	Angels!
Susie	Oh, yes! Sometimes they would warn him not to go to a city that was too dangerous, and one time he was in prison and angels opened all the doors and let him out!
Billy	Wow.
Susie	And another time, Paul was on a big sailing ship… (*Acts 27*)
Billy	Oh! Can we go and see? (*he takes her hand*)
Susie	Let's go! Saint Paul, you always trusted the Lord, show us how the angel saved everyone on board! (*they fly backward and disappear, as Paul and others appear*)
Captain	Okay! Cast off! We're going to sea!
Paul	Excuse me, Captain, but that's not a good idea.
Captain	Oh, hello Paul. What are you talking about?
Paul	If you sail today, there will be a terrible disaster. (*the sailors hear this and mumble amongst each other, worried*)
Captain	Yeah, right. Listen, Paulie boy. Why don't you just take a little nap and let us do our jobs. (*the sailors laugh*) Let's go everybody! Time to sail this boat to sea!
Paul	I warned you! This is not a good idea!
Captain	You have nothing to worry about! I've been sailing ships all my life! The weather is nice and calm. The sky is blue… well, maybe it is a little grey… and windy… and…
Sailor1	Captain! A storm is coming!
Sailor2	Oh no! Big waves and dark clouds!
Captain	Throw all the heavy stuff into the sea! Our boat will sink if we don't do something!
Sailor1	Yikes! (*squeaky*) We're all going to die!
Sailor2	Hey, that guy over there said this would happen!
Captain	So what?

Sailor2	And you didn't listen to him. This storm is getting worse and worse and it's blowing us farther from land.
Sailor1	This is terrible! (*weeps*)
Captain	Oh brother. Now what do I do? (*Captain and Sailors freeze or fade away*)
Paul	(*hands together in prayer*) Oh Jesus! Thank you for letting me die a Christian! But I'm scared!
Angel	(*appears before Paul*) (*singing sweetly*) Be not afraid, I go before you always, come follow me and I will give you rest…
Paul	Wow! An angel! This is amazing! But you'd better take off! This boat is going down, my friend!
Angel	Do not be afraid, Paul; God has plans for you. You will not die and God has decided to save all these people, too. (*angel exits*)
Paul	Oh, thanks be to God! (*other characters unfreeze and run around wildly bumping into each other*) Um, excuse me everyone. Ahem!
Captain	Yeah, what is it? Can't you see we're busy throwing all of our stuff into the ocean?
Paul	I've got good news and bad news.
Captain	Yeah? What's the good news?
Paul	I just saw an angel!
Sailor1	Oh, cool! An angel?
Sailor2	Yeah, that's really cool, dude.
Captain	Yeah, right. Hand me that big box of cookies, will you? I've got to heave it into the sea before we all drown!
Paul	But wait a minute! Wait a minute! I really did see an angel! Don't you believe me?
Sailor1	Hey, dude. You didn't believe him about the storm and look what happened.
Captain	Hmm. Perhaps you're right. Okay. So what about this angel?
Paul	Oh, he was so shiny and nice. He sang a really nice song. It went, (*he sings very badly)* Be not afraid, I go before you always……
Captain	Please, please, I beg of you! Don't sing! It's worse than the storm!
Sailor2	Yeah, you're not much of a singer, dude.
Paul	Oh, sorry. Well, let's see where was I?
Sailor2	The angel, dude. What happened with the angel?

Paul	Oh, right. Tonight I saw an angel, sent by the God I love and serve. He said, "Do not be afraid, Paul. God has plans for you. You will not die and God has decided to save all these people, too."!!!
Sailor2	Right on, dude!
Sailor1	I like this angel! (*they high five each other*)
Captain	Wait a minute! You said there was bad news, too!
Paul	Oh, right. We're going to have to crash this boat on an island. You're going to lose all your money and food and stuff. Your boat is going to be totally destroyed.
Captain	Bummer.
Paul	But, all the people will be saved!
S1/S2	Hurray!
Sailor1	Hold on a minute. (*squeaky voice*) Am I going to lose my teddy bear?
Paul	Yeah. Sorry about that.
Sailor1	Oh, man. (*cries*)
Paul	Buck up, my friend. Can you swim?
Sailor1	Not really. I can doggy paddle a little bit.
Paul	Are you serious? You work on a boat and you can't swim?
Sailor1	My mommy packed me some swimmies.
Paul	Well, put them on and trust in God. You're going to get very wet today, my friend.
Sailor1	Aye, aye sir. (*exits*)
Sailor2	I don't have swimmies!
Paul	And you don't swim?
Sailor2	No sir. Not even the doggy paddle.
Paul	Well, let's see… Oh, I know. When the boat gets smashed to bits on the rocks, just grab a piece of wood and hold on!
Sailor2	(*frantic*) A piece of wood? That's supposed to save my ***life***? A piece of WOOD?
Paul	Have faith, my lad.
Sailor2	(*sourly*) Alright. Thanks, buddy. (*to the Captain*) And thanks to YOU I'll be floating on a piece of YOUR broken boat trying not to DROWN! (*exits*)
Captain	(*sighs*) Well! I think I'd better go change into my swimsuit! (*exits*)
Paul	(*exits singing*) Be not afraid…

Billy	(*Billy and Susie reappear*) So the angel saved everyone?
Susie	Sure did. Two hundred and seventy-six people were on that ship and they all survived.
Billy	Cool. So, Paul had a lot of adventures?
Susie	Yes! He went to many different places with cool names like Macedonia and Ephesus, Lystra and Cyprus, Cilicia and Neapolis!
Billy	Wow. I can't even say them!
Susie	And in each place he told the story of Jesus' LOVE.
Billy	Did Saint Paul become a martyr, too?
Susie	Yes, he did. He was killed for the Faith after a lot of very brave preaching and teaching.
Billy	Another hero. Boy, it's a good thing for us he got knocked off his donkey on that road to Damascus.
Susie	It sure is!
Billy	I can't wait to tell the story of Saint Paul to my new friend John! But I don't know if can remember it all!
Susie	Look in your Bible! It's in The Acts of the Apostles, Chapter 27.
Billy	I can't wait to read more! Thanks for teaching me about some of the superheroes of our Catholic history! Bye! (*exits*)
Susie	You bet! Nice kid. He'll make a great saint. Remember kids, a saint is a sinner who keeps on trying. Bye! (*exits*) *

* Quote from Sister Thea Bowman

The End