



God Changes Saul's Heart

Lesson Aim: To know God can change our hearts.
(Salvation Message)

THE WORSHIP

Who God is: The Spirit Who Changes Us

THE WORD

Bible Story: Acts 9:3-19

What He has done: God's Holy Spirit filled Saul and changed his heart.

Key Verse: Acts 9:15

THE WAY

Christ Connection: Ezekiel 36:25-27

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we, who with unveiled faces
all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into His likeness with ever-increasing glory,
which comes from the Lord." 2 Corinthians 3:17b-18

Unit 2: The Promise of Change			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
6	God Changes Saul's Heart, Acts 9:3-19	The Holy Spirit filled Saul and changed his heart.	To know God can change our hearts.
7	Saul Escapes from Damascus, Acts 9:19b-25	God made Saul a bold witness for His kingdom.	To speak boldly to others about Jesus.
8	Peter and Tabitha (Dorcas), Acts 9:36-42	God restored Tabitha's life.	To learn ways our lives can point people to Jesus.
9	Peter Visits Cornelius, Acts 10:11-12, 15, 34-36, 43-48	God proved to Peter that He saves Gentiles as well as Jews.	To know God washes away the sin of anyone who believes in Him.
10	Peter Escapes from Prison, Acts 12:5-16	God sent His angel to rescue Peter from prison.	To join together in prayer and watch for God's answers.
11	Barnabas Encourages the Church, Acts 9:26-28; 11:22-26; 14:19-23	God led Barnabas to encourage the church and its leaders.	To show the importance of encouraging one another.

TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Acts 4:12-14. Please join us in praying, "Thank You, Lord, for the way You change our hearts, thoughts and actions by the work of Your Holy Spirit. Use this story to transform the hearts of the children we teach. Amen."

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THE WORSHIP THE WORD & THE WAY

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Meet & Greet	None
		Game: Bright Light Circle Tag	Blindfold, flashlight
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org	Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse Song: "Where the Spirit of the Lord Is" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "Search Me, O God" "For God So Loved the World" "Chosen People" "Praise the Lord, O My Soul" "You Will Seek Me" Additional Hymn Suggestions: "Change My Heart, O God" "Open the Eyes of My Heart, Lord" "Amazing Grace" Additional Song Collection Suggestions: Worship Jamz Series Shout Praises Kids: Hymns
		Worship Scripture Reading: Psalm 139:23-24	Bible
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	Lesson 6 Commander Cosmos script or storybook
		Read the Word: Acts 9:3-19	Bibles, Bible Story Scripture reference poster, highlighters
THE WORD	Up to 10	Discuss the Word	Bibles, Christ Connection Scripture reference poster, highlighters
		Christ Connection: Ezekiel 36:25-27	
		Golden Bowl	
THE WAY	Up to 25	Final Five Minutes	Treasure Treat—Valentine with Bible Memory Verse, W's, paper, pencils, crayons or markers, prayer notebook, Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse Song "Where the Spirit of the Lord Is," CD player
	Final 5		
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Snack: Bright Light	White or yellow snack (fruit, frosted cookies or cupcakes, or candy)
	Up to 10	Game: Heart Exchange Relay	Red paper, pens or pencils, 2 trash cans, floor tape
	Up to 10	Craft: Light-Hearted Frame	Sturdy red or pink paper, different colors of tissue paper, wax paper, glue, tape, crayons or markers, optional: scissors
	Up to 10	Salvation Demonstration: Cross Your Heart	Masking tape, paper heart with a large question mark on one side
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Erase It, Then Say It	Chalkboard and chalk or dry erase board and marker
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Balloon Toss	Inflated non-helium balloon, Bible Memory Verse poster
	Up to 5	Bible Timeline Review	Date with story title or name printed on card

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Getting started

THE WELCOME

To spark anticipation, encourage arriving children to meet and greet one another with today's question.

Meet & Greet Question: When is one time you changed your mind about something?

GAME: BRIGHT LIGHT CIRCLE TAG

Purpose: Introduce the story of Saul and how he was blinded by a light from heaven.

Supplies: Blindfold, flashlight

Have you ever seen something so bright that you had to squint or close your eyes? (Children respond.) **In today's story, the light that flashed around Saul was so bright that it blinded him. Saul paid attention because the light was from the Lord. Then, Jesus spoke and Saul's heart was changed.**

Directions:

1. Children stand in a circle.
2. Choose one child to be the Light Holder who puts on the blindfold and stands in the center of the circle with the flashlight.
3. Choose another child to be the Friend.
4. All the children count to ten as the Light Holder slowly turns in circles.
5. On "10," the Light Holder stops in place, turns on the flashlight, and points it straight out.
6. The child in the flashlight beam becomes Saul. Note: If the Light Holder shines the light on an empty spot, have him or her turn slowly until the light is shining on a child in the circle.
7. Saul closes his or her eyes and the Friend leads Saul to sit outside the circle.
8. The children standing in the circle move closer together to fill in the empty spot.
9. Repeat steps 4-8 until all the children are sitting outside the circle.

Optional: Switch roles after every few turns so that children who are sitting outside the circle can play the role of Light Holder or Friend.



The Spirit who changes us

THE WORSHIP

Teacher Tip: To help children identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play music as children move to the designated area.



Today, we worship the Spirit who changes us. In today's story, God changed the heart of a man named Saul who didn't believe in Jesus. As we give our offering today, let's ask God to search our hearts and lead us in the way He wants us to go. Sing: "Search Me, O God" as the offering is collected.



Read Psalm 139:23-24.



Perform Commander Cosmos script or read storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 2, Lesson 6.

Saul did not believe in Jesus at all, but that day, God changed his feelings about Jesus. When he heard Jesus' voice from heaven, Saul must have realized He was truly the Lord and the Son of God just as He said. Jesus came to save us from our sins (doing wrong in God's eyes). All who believe in Jesus are forgiven and are given life forever close with God.

Imagine you were headed down a road and a bright light knocked you to the ground. Think for a moment about what Jesus' voice might say to you. Many of you believe in Jesus and trust Him as Lord of your life. Some of you may feel more like Saul. Maybe God has changed your feelings today just as He did with Saul. If you have never prayed to Jesus before and would like to ask Him to be the Lord of your life, you can do that today. If time allows, see GOT TIME? for SALVATION DEMONSTRATION: CROSS YOUR HEART.



Invite children who want to ask Jesus to be their Savior and Lord to pray the ABC Prayer (or a similar prayer of salvation) with you. The ABC Prayer is also offered in THE WAY segment.

ABC PRAYER (Admit – Believe – Come)

Lord Jesus,

I Admit I am a sinner.

I Believe You are the Lord who died to take my sins away.

Please Come into my heart and I'll follow You forever.

In Jesus name, I pray. Amen.



If you prayed that prayer, you now belong to Jesus. You have given your life to Him, and He has put His Holy Spirit in your heart to guide you. Let's celebrate by singing our new Bible Memory Verse Song about the Holy Spirit. Sing: "Where the Spirit of the Lord Is."



God changes Saul's heart

THE WORD

Teacher Tip: As you move from worship to instruction, change rooms or locations within a room to help redirect the children's focus to the Bible story. During this transition time, have each child write their name on a card and place it in the Golden Bowl.

Before we read God's Word, let's go over our Class Covenant. A covenant is an agreement. Just as God made a covenant with His people, I ask each of you to make this covenant promise with me today. Listen as I read our Class Covenant: "I will keep my eyes on my teacher, my mouth in control, my ears on God's Word—knowing God is my goal."

Last time, we learned what happened on the road where Philip spoke to the man from Ethiopia. What was the man reading? (The Bible.) Did he understand the Bible story he was reading? (No.) Philip explained the story was about Jesus. After hearing about Jesus, the man believed in Him and was baptized. This week, we will learn how God transformed (changed) Saul's heart. If a Bible Timeline is available, point out God Changes Saul's Heart. For a Bible Timeline Review activity, see the GOT TIME? segment of this lesson.

Today's story also takes place on a road. It's about a Jewish leader named Saul who did not believe Jesus was the Lord. He thought people who believed in Jesus should be stopped. Saul was on the road to Damascus to persecute Jesus' followers who were there. To persecute someone is to treat them unfairly because of who they are or what they believe. He planned to take any believers he found in Damascus as prisoners to Jerusalem. If a map is available, point out Jerusalem, Israel and Damascus, Syria.



Let's play Find It First! Bring out your Bible; keep it right in front of you. Hand out spare Bibles. **Today's Scripture verse is behind the curtain** (or secret door, secret window, etc.). Child reveals the Bible Story Scripture reference: Acts 9:3-19. **Let's see who can Find It First. Ready? Set? Go!** Children race to find it first. The winner helps others find it. **Let's highlight our Key Verse: Acts 9:15.**

Before we read, let's stand and ask God to open our eyes, ears, hearts, and minds to His Word today. Who would like to pray that for us? Child prays aloud. **Be seated.** Read Acts 9:3-19.



God changes our hearts

THE WAY

Where was Saul going and what was he going to do when he got there? (He was going to look for believers in Damascus and take them as prisoners to Jerusalem.) **How did God get Saul's attention on the road to Damascus?** (A bright light from heaven flashed around him and he heard the Lord's voice.) **God speaks to us in different ways. How does God speak to you?** (Children respond.) **Has God ever used a big event in your life to get your attention?** (Children respond.)

What did Jesus ask Saul? ("Why are you persecuting me?") **What does "persecute" mean?** (To treat someone unfairly because of who they are or what they believe.) **What did Saul learn that day?** (Jesus is the Lord. By persecuting Jesus' followers, Saul had persecuted Jesus, God's own Son.)

What did the Lord Jesus tell Ananias that He had chosen for Saul to do? (To carry Jesus' name to the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel.) **What happened to Saul when he met with Ananias?** (He was filled with the Holy Spirit. Scales fell from his eyes and he could see again.) **What was the first thing Saul did once he could see?** (He was baptized.) **Being baptized showed Saul now belonged to Jesus. After Saul was baptized, God changed Saul from a man that was hurting believers into a man who helped others believe in Jesus. In what ways has God changed you?** (Children respond.) **God changes the heart of each person who believes and follows Jesus. Some of us feel changed right away; some do not. No matter how we feel, when we believe in Jesus as God's Son and the Lord of our life, He puts His Holy Spirit in our hearts to stay forever and our hearts are changed!**



Connecting the Old Testament, the New Testament, and Us

CHRIST CONNECTION

Over 600 years before God changed Saul's heart, the prophet Ezekiel told us about the Lord's promise to forgive us, wash our sins away, and give us a new heart. As I read this promise, close your eyes and imagine Jesus saying these words to you today.



Everyone, place your Bible on your lap. Choose a child to reveal the Christ Connection Scripture reference: Ezekiel 36:25-27. **Let's find this scripture.** Read Ezekiel 36:25-27.

This promise is for anyone who believes in Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Anyone who believes in Jesus and wants to follow Him forever can pray to Him about that. In worship, some of you may have asked Jesus to come into your heart. If you have never said a prayer like that, and you want to now, raise your hand and I will lead you in a special prayer. If you are not ready, know that you can pray at any time. Jesus is always listening. Lead those with hands raised in the ABC Prayer below or a similar prayer.

Lord Jesus, I Admit I am a sinner.

I Believe You are the Lord who died to take my sins away.

Please Come into my heart and I'll follow You forever. In Jesus name, I pray. Amen.

Supply any child who prayed the ABC Prayer today with a Children's Guide for New Believers (available at ResourceWell.org) for the next steps in nurturing spiritual growth. Print the date and the child's name on the inside cover.

THE WAY *continued...*



Revelation 5:8

GOLDEN BOWL

Teacher Tip: Write the names of classmates, local church leaders, and children in other nations or others who need prayer on small pieces of paper. Place the papers in a golden bowl.

Revelation 5:8 says our prayers are like sweet smelling incense in the golden bowls at God's throne. I'm going to lift each one of your names to God's throne as you pray for each person silently. Then, we will pray the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) aloud together. Let's pray.

Lord God, we lift up to Your throne the name of each child here. We trust You to watch over us and our needs, the ones we say aloud and the ones hidden in our hearts. First, we lift up to You ____, ____, ____. Read names in Golden Bowl.

Now, we pray the prayer Your Son taught us: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

TREASURE TREAT: Today, your Treasure Treat is a Valentine with our new Bible Memory Verse printed on it. Let the heart shape and the verse remind you of how God is changing your heart to be more and more like Him. You can keep your valentine or give it to a friend.

W³: Take home today's W³ Journal Entry as your personal devotional study. Keep your journal entries together at home in a notebook or in your Bible. Distribute W³ Journal Entry #6. Complete this at home and let God speak to you through His own words in the Bible!

OFFERING OF ART: Until it is time to be dismissed, make an Offering of Art. For your offering, draw a picture of the bright light from heaven flashing around Saul as he hears Jesus' voice.

PRAYER REQUESTS: As children work on their Offering of Art, ask how you can pray for them this week. Write requests in a prayer notebook.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG: Play the Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse Song, "Where the Spirit of the Lord Is," in the background as children wait to be dismissed.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SNACK: BRIGHT LIGHT

Purpose: Children will eat a snack reminding them of the bright light that blinded Saul.

Snack Suggestion: White or yellow snack (fruit, frosted cookies or cupcakes, or candy)

What did God do to get Saul's attention on the road to Damascus? (God sent a bright light from heaven that flashed around Saul.) **What happened to Saul?** (He fell down and was blinded.) **God changed Saul's heart so that he wanted to follow Jesus and be more like Him. Let's celebrate that good news by eating our "Bright Light" snack.**

Directions:

1. Serve snack and drinks.
2. Child prays to thank God for the snack.
3. Ask each child to answer this question: **"What is a change the Lord has made in you?"**

GAME: HEART EXCHANGE RELAY

Purpose: To realize God changes our hearts.

Supplies: Red paper, pens or pencils, 2 trash cans, floor tape

Prepare: Cut two red paper heart shapes (about 3-inches) for each child. Mark a starting line with floor tape at one end of the play area. Place the trash cans at the other end of the play area.

When God changed Saul's heart, Saul was filled with the Holy Spirit. Saul was changed from a man who was hurting believers into a man who helped people believe in Jesus.

Directions:

1. Give a heart and pen or pencil to each child.
2. Place the remaining paper hearts in a stack between the two trash cans.
3. **Even after God changes our hearts, we sometimes ignore the Holy Spirit and do wrong in God's eyes. Each day, we can ask God to fill us with His Spirit so that we pay attention to Him and make godly choices. Think of one wrong behavior you do that you want the Holy Spirit to help you change. Write or draw a picture of that wrong behavior on your heart.** Allow children a few minutes to write or draw on their heart.
4. **Now, pray out loud after me: "Lord, Fill us with the Holy Spirit. Please change our hearts to help us be more like You. Amen."**
5. **Crumple your hearts to represent that you have been forgiven. Children crumple hearts. Let's throw away our old hearts and get new ones! The new heart is for you to keep as a reminder that God gives you a new heart.**
6. Divide children into 2 teams. Line the two teams up at the start line.
7. On your signal, the first child on each team races to his or her team's trash can.
8. The child tosses the crumpled heart in the trash can and takes a new heart from the stack.
9. The child races back to the starting line to tag the next player.
10. The first team to have all their members get a new heart is the winner.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

CRAFT: LIGHT-HEARTED FRAME

Purpose: To remind the children that God changes hearts.

Supplies: Sturdy red or pink paper, different colors of tissue paper, wax paper, glue, tape, crayons or markers, optional: scissors

Prepare: From sturdy red or pink paper, cut a heart-shaped frame. The frame should be 1-2" inches thick. Cut a heart-shaped piece of wax paper that is slightly smaller than the frame. On the frame, print in bubble letters: **"God changes hearts."**

What was Saul doing at the beginning of the story? (Hurting Jesus' followers and trying to put them in prison.) **At first, Saul's heart wanted to hurt Jesus' followers. Then, God changed Saul's heart to become a follower himself! Let's make a heart to help us remember how God changes hearts to love Jesus and want to be more like Him.**

Directions:

1. Cut or tear pieces of tissue paper. Glue them onto the piece of heart-shaped wax paper.
2. Allow to dry.
3. Color in the words "God changes hearts."
4. Tape or glue the wax paper heart to the back of the frame.
5. Trim any tissue paper squares that are sticking out from the edges of the frame.

Look at how dark the heart looks when it is just laying on the table. Now, hold it up to the light. How did it change? (Children respond.) **Think about how the bright light from heaven flashed around Saul, then God changed Saul's heart!**

SALVATION DEMONSTRATION: CROSS YOUR HEART

Purpose: This supplement to THE WORSHIP gives children a visual picture of the salvation message.

Supplies: Paper heart, masking tape

Teacher Tip: This object lesson is designed to be very simple. Put it into your own words, but keep it very brief so children can easily remember it.

Directions:

1. **This heart shows God's love for us.** Show the paper heart.
2. **We are separated from God's love by our wrongdoing or sin.** Tear the heart in half.
3. **God sent His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross for us. His death paid for our sins, so we could be forgiven and close to God again.** Use two pieces of intersecting tape to make a cross and tape the two pieces of the heart back together.
4. **Anyone can ask Jesus for that forgiveness. When we believe and follow Jesus, His Spirit stays with us in our hearts forever. Nothing can separate us from God's love.** Hold the heart close to your chest.
5. **If you would like to ask Jesus into your heart and be close to God forever, you may pray this prayer with me.** Invite children who wish to pray a prayer of salvation to pray the ABC Prayer (or a similar prayer of salvation) with you now.
6. **If you do not want to pray now, know that anytime you are ready, you can ask Him to come into your heart, and He will!**

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into His likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord." 2 Corinthians 3:17b-18

Teacher Tip: During both activities, review the meaning of each phrase in the Bible Memory Verse.

Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. (The Holy Spirit frees us to follow Jesus.)

And we, who with unveiled faces (As believers, we can see Jesus is the Lord.)

all reflect the Lord's glory, (Our lives show others His greatness.)

are being transformed into His likeness (We are being changed to be even more like Jesus.)

with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord. (We will keep showing more and more of His greatness because His Spirit is in us.)

GAME: ERASE IT, THEN SAY IT

Purpose: Children learn the Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Chalkboard and chalk or dry erase board and marker

Directions:

1. Write the words of 2 Corinthians 3:17b-18 on the board. As you write each word, lead the children in saying it with you.
2. Say the whole verse together.
3. Review the meaning of the Bible Memory Verse as explained in the Teacher Tip above.
4. Choose a volunteer to erase one word. Children say the verse again, filling in the erased word.
5. Continue having children erase words and recite the verse until all the words are erased.
6. Choose a few volunteers to say the verse from memory by themselves or as a small group.
7. Say the whole verse together, one more time.

GAME: BALLOON TOSS

Purpose: Children learn the Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Inflated non-helium balloon, Bible Memory Verse poster

Directions:

1. Review the meaning of the Bible Memory Verse as explained in the Teacher Tip above.
2. Divide children into five teams.
3. Assign each team one of the following 5 phrases: **Where the Spirit of the Lord is,/ there is freedom. And we, who/ with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory/ are being transformed into His likeness with/ ever-increasing glory which comes from the Lord.**
4. Give the teams time to memorize their phrase.
5. Children stand in a circle. Teams should be spread out within the circle.
6. The team with the first phrase tosses a balloon high into the air. They must recite their phrase before the balloon touches the floor.
7. As soon as the team completes its phrase, a member of the next team taps the balloon as high as possible. That team recites their phrase before the balloon touches the floor.
8. Continue until all five phrases have been recited.
9. Play again, as time allows.

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE TIMELINE REVIEW

Review the recent Bible stories studied to see the continuing story of who God is and what He has done. Create or purchase a Bible Timeline. Hang your timeline on a wall or other visible location. Point to the Bible Timeline and ask the corresponding questions.

The Stoning of Stephen Stephen was filled with the Holy Spirit. He fed the hungry and did many miracles. He spoke boldly about Jesus. Some people did not want to hear the truth about Jesus, so they threw stones at Stephen. What did he see when he looked up to the sky? (Jesus and God the Father standing in heaven.) What were Stephen's last words about the men who were hurting him? (He said, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them.")

Philip and the Ethiopian Philip saw a man from Ethiopia, a country in Africa. He followed the Holy Spirit's directions to run and stay near the man's chariot. What did Philip do when the man asked him for help understanding the Bible story he was reading? (He sat and read the Bible with the man. Then, he explained the story was about Jesus.)

God Changes Saul's Heart What happened to Saul on the road to Damascus? (A bright light blinded him and Jesus spoke to him.) That day, Saul realized that Jesus was the Lord. What happened to Saul when he met with Ananias? (He was filled with the Holy Spirit. Scales fell from his eyes and he could see again.) What was the first thing Saul did once he could see? (He was baptized.) God changed Saul from a man who hurt believers into a man who helped others believe in Jesus.

How to create a Bible Timeline:

1. Print the story title or person's name with historical date (whenever available) on a card. Before each lesson, add that new card to the Bible Timeline. Specific dates and a confirmed chronological order of all events covered in Lessons 1-31 are not available. On the Bible Timeline for Lesson 1-31, the events will be ordered as they appear in the Bible.
2. Attach card to wall or clothesline in the following order for Prophets & Promises Lessons 1-31:

Acts – Revelation: Jesus Ascends (Circa 33 A.D.) > God Sends His Spirit > Peter and the Crippled Man > The Stoning of Stephen > Philip and the Ethiopian > God Changes Saul's Heart > Saul Escapes from Damascus > Peter and Tabitha > Peter Visits Cornelius > Peter Escapes from Prison > Barnabas and Paul (Circa 46-48 A.D.) > Peter Visits Macedonia (Circa 50 A.D.) > Paul and Lydia (Circa 51-53 A.D.) > Paul and Silas in Prison (Circa 51-53 A.D.) > Priscilla and Aquila (Circa 51-53 A.D.) > Paul's Third Journey (Circa 54-58 A.D.) > Paul's Arrest in Jerusalem (Circa 58 A.D.) > Paul and King Agrippa (Circa 60 A.D.) > Paul and the Shipwreck (Circa 60 A.D.) > Paul Imprisoned in Rome (Circa 61-63 A.D.) > New Testament Letters

3. **Note:** You may choose to add a card labeled Jesus on Earth (Circa 1-33 A.D.) to your timeline.

Teacher Tip: For a comprehensive list of stories for Genesis through Revelation in timeline form, see ResourceWell.org.