



God Changes Saul's Heart

Lesson Aim: To know God can change our hearts to want to be more like Jesus.

THE WORSHIP

Who God Is: The Spirit Who Changes Us

THE WORD

Bible Story: Acts 9:1-7

What He Has Done: Jesus spoke to Saul from heaven.

THE WAY

Whisper Verse: "My heart is changed."

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" 2 Corinthians 5:17

Unit 2: The Promise of Change			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
6	God Changes Saul's Heart, Acts 9:1-7	Jesus spoke to Saul from heaven.	To know God can change our hearts to want to be more like Jesus.
7	Saul Escapes from Damascus, Acts 9:19b-25, 28	God protected Saul as a witness for His kingdom.	To keep telling others about Jesus.
8	Peter and Tabitha (Dorcas), Acts 9:36-42	God helped Peter bring Tabitha back to life.	To know we can help others.
9	Peter Visits Cornelius, Acts 10:9-12, 15, 22-35	God showed He does not have favorites.	To know God loves everyone the same.
10	Peter Escapes from Prison, Acts 12:5-17	God sent His angel to rescue Peter from prison.	To know praying together is important.
11	Barnabas Encourages Saul, Acts 9:26-28; 11:22-26	God sent Barnabas to help Saul.	To be a true friend to others.

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."



**THE WORSHIP
THE WORD &
THE WAY**

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Treasure Chest	Treasure chest, stamp or sticker of a heart
		Whisper Verse	Sign language for "My heart is changed."
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: "A New Creation" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "Give Thanks to the Lord" "How Wide?" "I Can Do Everything" "Let Everything That Has Breath" "He Is Mighty to Save" "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" Additional Hymn Suggestions: "Change My Heart, O God" "Jesus Loves Me"
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	<i>The Adventures of Delbert and Lello</i> puppet script or storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 2, Lesson 6
THE WORD	Up to 10	Watch the Word: Acts 9:1-7	Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Acts 9:3 Visual: Flashlight or a picture of a bright sunbeam
THE WAY	Up to 25	Craft: Light-Hearted Frame	Sturdy red or pink paper, scraps or 1-inch squares of different colors of tissue paper, wax paper, label or small strip of paper, tape or glue, scissors, crayons or markers
		Game: Saul in the Light	Flashlight, paper plates or cut several pieces of paper in the shape of stepping stones
		Game: Change My Heart	"Light-Hearted Frame" crafts
		Snack: Changed Hearts	Heart-shaped snack
	Circle of Prayer	None	
	Final 5	Final Five	Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 2, Lesson 6 Color This Story: "Jesus Spoke to Saul"
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Say & Do: Acts 9:1-7	None
	Up to 10	Game: New Hearts	None
	Up to 10	Game: "New Heart" Memory Pass	Heart-shaped item (pillow, toy, or sturdy paper cut-out)
	Up to 10	Story Time	Any story about God changing a person's heart

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



My heart is changed **THE WELCOME**

Welcome each child as they arrive. **Hello _____. I'm glad you are here! Come open the Treasure Chest to find today's treasure.** Child unlocks the Treasure Chest to receive a stamp or sticker of a heart. **Let this stamp or sticker of a heart help you remember God changed Saul's heart. Today's Whisper Verse is "My heart is changed."** Teach the Whisper Verse in spoken language and in sign language below. **We call it the Whisper Verse so you can whisper it to others.***

SIGN LANGUAGE: "My heart is changed."

(For visual demonstrations, see www.signingsavvy.com.)

Each time we say today's Whisper Verse, let's say it with three hand motions:

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| "My" | Rest the open palm of the right hand on the chest. |
| "heart" | Leave the remaining four fingers extended while tapping the middle finger of the right hand on the heart. |
| "(is) changed." | Create a fist with each hand. Place the inside of the right wrist on top of the inside of the left wrist. Rotate the fists so the left wrist ends on top of the right wrist. |

Allow children to enjoy free play until everyone has arrived. **Let's sing the "Clean Up Song" as we put toys away before Praise Time.** Praise any child who helps. Allow several minutes for clean up.

**"Clean Up Song": Clean up! Clean up! Everybody, everywhere!
Clean up! Clean up! Everybody do your share!**

Gather and seat children in Praise Time area.

***Today's Whisper Verse:** "My heart is changed," Hosea 11:8. The Whisper Verse is a tool to help the children learn a major point in the lesson. It is coupled with sign language or hand motions as a memory aid. The verse is not necessarily chosen from today's Bible story.



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 “Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God” as children move to that designated area.

It’s Praise Time—our time to sing praise to Jesus. The Holy Spirit changes our hearts to want to be more like Jesus. That reminds me of today’s Whisper Verse. Let’s try it together.

Review Whisper Verse together: “My heart is changed.” Include sign language.



Today, we will hear a story about a man named Saul. Saul did not believe Jesus was the Lord, so God showed Saul a bright light to show him the truth about Jesus. God changed Saul’s heart to want to be more like Jesus. Later, Saul said if anyone belongs to Jesus Christ, he or she is “a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!” Let’s praise the Lord by singing those words in our new Bible Memory Verse Song. Sing Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse Song: “A New Creation.”

As we give our offering, let’s ask God to change our hearts to be more like Jesus.

Sing: “Change My Heart, O God” or “He Is Mighty to Save” while collecting the offering.



Let’s see if Delbert and Lello can teach us more about the day God changed Saul’s heart. Perform *The Adventures of Delbert and Lello* puppet script or read storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 2, Lesson 6.



God changes our hearts because He loves us so much. God will always love each one of you. Sing: “How Wide?”



Jesus spoke to Saul from heaven

THE WORD

Before we begin our Bible Time, let's say our **Classroom Promise with the motions.**

With my eyes on my teacher;

Point to eyes.

My mouth quiet as can be,

Place index finger over mouth as quiet sign.

I will listen to hear,

Cup hand around ear.

How God loves you and me.

Hug self, point to others, and then self.

Last time, we learned Philip told the man from Africa about Jesus. Today, we will see how God changed Saul's heart. Handle Bible as a special treasure, leaving it open to Acts 9:3.

WATCH THE WORD: ACTS 9:1-7

Read the points below or retell the passage in your own words using the points below as a general guide. To illustrate the story, display a flashlight or a picture of a bright sunbeam. Other visual options include the craft sample, Color This Story, or any related picture.

- **Some men were traveling down the road,**
- **The leader was a man named Saul.**
- **He put followers of Jesus in jail,**
- **For he did not like Jesus at all.**

- **Then, a bright light shone down from heaven.**
- **And Saul fell down to the ground.**
- **He heard Jesus calling, "Saul!"**
- **From heaven His voice came down.**

- **Then Saul knew he had been wrong,**
- **For God had changed his heart.**
- **Saul wanted to be more like Jesus,**
- **So God gave him a brand new start.**



What did Saul see shine down from heaven? (A light.) Let's find our answer in the Bible. Read Acts 9:3 from the teacher's Bible.

What did God do to Saul's heart? (He changed Saul's heart.) Do you think God can change our hearts, too? (Yes.) We can celebrate by saying our Whisper Verse, "My heart is changed." Let's try it together now. Include sign language or hand motions.



God can change our hearts

THE WAY

Teacher Tip: Craft and games can be presented at the same time in different areas or one at a time depending on class size and teaching style.

CRAFT: LIGHT-HEARTED FRAME

Purpose: To remind the children that God changed Saul's heart.

Supplies: Sturdy red or pink paper, scraps or 1-inch squares of different colors of tissue paper, wax paper, label or small strip of paper, tape or glue, scissors, crayons or markers

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 a label or strip of paper, print: **"God changed Saul's heart." Acts 9:1-7**

Directions:

1. Glue scraps or squares of tissue paper onto the piece of heart-shaped wax paper.
2. Allow to dry.
3. Decorate the heart frame with crayons or markers.
4. Tape or glue the wax paper heart to the back of the frame.
5. The teacher may want to trim any tissue paper squares that are sticking out from the edges of the frame.
6. Attach the label or paper strip to the heart.

Craft Discussion:

- **At first, Saul did not want others to follow Jesus. Did Saul want to stop Jesus' friends from following Jesus?** (Yes.)
- **When Saul was walking on the road, what did he see?** (A light.) **The light was so bright, he fell down!**
- **Whose voice did Saul hear?** (The voice of Jesus.)
- **When Jesus spoke to Saul, God changed Saul's heart. Do you think God can change our hearts?** (Yes.)
- **That's like our Whisper Verse! Let's say it with our motions right now!** Say the Whisper Verse, "My heart is changed," with the hand motions.
- **Hold up your paper hearts to the light. Do you see how the light changes your paper heart?** (Children respond.) **Hang it in a window at home and let it remind you that God changed Saul's heart to want to be more like Jesus.**

THE WAY *continued...*

GAME: SAUL IN THE LIGHT

Purpose: Children will pretend to be Saul and encounter the light from heaven.

Supplies: Flashlight, paper plates or cut several pieces of paper in the shape of stepping stones

Saul saw a bright light from heaven. It was so bright, Saul fell to the ground. Let's act out our story.

Directions:

1. To create the road to Damascus, place several paper plates or paper stepping stones across the play area.
2. Stand near the middle of the road with the flashlight.
3. Children stand in line at one end of road.
4. The first child in line pretends to be Saul and walks along the road.
5. As Saul passes by you, turn on the light and shine it down on him or her.
6. Saul falls to the ground and says, **"Who are You, Lord?"**
7. Say, **Jesus said, "I am Jesus."**
8. Turn off the light.
9. Saul says and signs, **"My heart is changed."**
10. Optional: Have a helper lead blind Saul to the end of the road.
11. Play until each child has a turn as Saul. You may want to allow the children to take turns shining the flashlight.

GAME: CHANGE MY HEART

Purpose: Children will ask God to change their hearts to want to be more like Jesus.

Supplies: "Light-Hearted Frame" crafts

Teacher Tip: During this activity, you will be encouraging children to share something they have done that is wrong in God's eyes. Reassure children that God still loves them, no matter what they have done.

Saul put many followers of Jesus in jail. Saul did not want anyone to follow Jesus. What he did was wrong in God's eyes. When we hurt others, disobey, or do not tell the truth, we are doing wrong in God's eyes. We are not being like Jesus. When God changed Saul's heart, then he wanted to be more like Jesus. Just like Saul, when God changes our hearts, we want to be more like Jesus. Each of us can think of one thing we've done that is something Jesus would never do. We can ask God to change our hearts and help us be more like Jesus.

Directions:

1. Children sit in a circle and hold their "Light-Hearted Frame" crafts next to their hearts.
2. **What is one thing you have done that is wrong in God's eyes?** (Examples: Told a lie, disobeyed a rule, hurt someone, yelled at a sibling, not shared a toy, etc.)
3. For each child who answers, pray the following, **Dear God, Thank you for always loving us. Please change child's name's heart to want to be more like Jesus. Help him/her to never child's stated wrongdoing again. Amen.**
4. Child raises his or her "Light-Hearted Frame" craft over his or her head. All the children say and sign, **"My heart is changed."**
5. Repeat for each child who volunteers.

THE WAY *continued...*

SNACK: CHANGED HEARTS

Purpose: Children will eat a heart-shaped snack to remind them that God can change their hearts.

Snack Suggestion: Heart-shaped snack

Directions:

1. Serve snack and drink.
2. **Let's sing the "Blessing Song."** Sing to the tune of "Frere Jacques" or other familiar tune.
God our Father, God our Father. Once again, once again.
Thank You for our blessings. Thank You for our blessings. Amen. Amen.
3. Lead discussion below while children enjoy their snack.
 - **In the story, whose heart did God change?** (Saul's heart.)
 - **We all have done things Jesus would never do because they are wrong in God's eyes. What is something you would like to start doing the way Jesus would do it?** (Examples: Being kind, telling the truth, helping others, etc.)
 - **The next time you want to do something that is wrong in God's eyes, ask God to change your heart! Then, celebrate by saying today's Whisper Verse. Let's say it together now.** Say the Whisper Verse: **"My heart is changed"** with the hand motions.



CIRCLE OF PRAYER

God made you and He cares for you. He loves to hear you pray with private words or words you say out loud. Let's fold our hands and close our eyes. As I lift up your name to God in heaven, I will lay my hand on your shoulder. Let's pray together.

Dear God, thank You for making us and loving us. We lift up to You a special prayer for ____, ____, ____ (say each name). We pray for our families and friends. Thank You for teaching us how to love one another. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

COMPLETED CRAFT: Take home your "Light-Hearted Frame" craft. Tell someone God can change your heart to want to be more like Jesus.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY: Distribute Ponder, Pray & Play cards, if available. **Show this card to your family. Talk about how God changed Saul's heart when Saul heard the voice of Jesus.**

COLOR THIS STORY: "Jesus Spoke to Saul." Discuss the Bible story and play the Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse Song, "A New Creation," as children color.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SAY & DO: ACTS 9:1-7

Purpose: This pantomime version of the Bible Story helps children remember the story details.

Supplies: None

Directions: With each phrase, the teacher says the phrase and acts it out with hand motions; then repeats the same phrase and motions with the children.

- **Some men were traveling down the road,** (Walk in place.)
- **The leader was a man named Saul.** (Fold arms across chest as a leader.)
- **He put followers of Jesus in jail,** (Point forcefully to the door.)
- **For he did not like Jesus at all.** (Shake head sadly.)

- **Then, a bright light shone down from heaven.** (Point to heaven.)
- **And Saul fell down to the ground.** (Kneel down.)
- **He heard Jesus calling, "Saul!"** (Cup hand around ear.)
- **From heaven His voice came down.** (Point to heaven.)

- **Then Saul knew he had been wrong,** (Raise index finger.)
- **For God had changed his heart.** (Place hands on heart.)
- **Saul wanted to be more like Jesus,** (Point to heaven.)
- **So God gave him a brand new start.** (Thumbs up.)



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"

2 Corinthians 5:17

GAME: NEW HEARTS

Purpose: Children learn the meaning of the Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: None

Directions:

1. Seat children in a circle.
2. First child stands in the center of the circle with both hands covering his or her own heart.
3. All the children repeat the Bible Memory Verse after you, replacing the word "anyone" with the name of the child standing in the center of the circle.
 - If child's name is in Christ,** (Children repeat.)
 - He/She is a new creation.** (Children repeat)
 - The old has gone.** (Children repeat.)
 - The new has come! Hooray!** (Children repeat.)
4. Child in the center removes his or her hands to uncover his or her heart.
5. Play until each child has a turn.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

GAME: "NEW HEART" MEMORY PASS

Purpose: To help children memorize and review the Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Heart-shaped item (pillow, toy, or sturdy paper cut-out)

Directions:

1. Children sit in a circle.
2. Give the heart to a child. Lead the children in saying the first word of the verse: "If."
3. Child passes the heart to the next child. Lead the children in saying the next word in the verse: "anyone."
4. Continue passing the heart with each word until the children have repeated the entire verse.
5. Play again. Each time you play, try to say the verse faster.



STORY TIME

Gather the children and read a favorite story. This can be a Bible story, a chapter from *The Adventures of Delbert & Lello*, or a story about God changing a person's heart.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY

Unit 2, Lesson 6: God Changes Saul's Heart

PONDER! Read Acts 9:1-7 with your family. Whose voice did Saul hear when the light from heaven blinded him? When God changed Saul's heart, he wanted to be more like Jesus. He began helping Jesus' followers instead of hurting them.

PRAY! Pray this prayer each day this week: "Lord, thank You for changing Saul's heart. Please change our hearts, too. Amen."

PLAY! Play "Shine the Light!" One person holds the flashlight. He or she shines the light all around another person. The person in the light pretends to be Saul, falls down, and says the Whisper Verse: "My heart is changed." Keep playing until everyone has a turn with the flashlight and as Saul. Talk about ways you could be more like Jesus. Pray and ask God to change your heart, too!

Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse:

"If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" 2 Corinthians 5:17