



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

"If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation." 2 Corinthians 5:17a

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 12:1-19	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."

TEACHER'S TIP

It's Praise Time! Music cements words and ideas into our memory. A simple tune can help children learn, remember, and love God's Word for a lifetime. As you begin Praise Time, encourage them to participate by mentioning each child by name. Keep them moving! March around the room. Play musical instruments or wave streamers. Create simple motions for the lyrics.



THE WORSHIP THE WORD & THE WAY

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Welcome	Treasure chest, stamp or sticker of a heart
		Coloring Center: God Changes Saul's Heart	Coloring pages of Saul on the road to Damascus, crayons
		Play-Dough Center: My Heart is Changed	Play-dough, cookie cutters, play-dough tools
		Block Center: The Road to Damascus	Blocks
		Music Center: Follow the Leader	Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse Song "A New Creation"
	Up to 5	Prepare for Worship	None
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org.	Praise music, optional: musical instruments Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse Song: "A New Creation" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "Give Thanks to the Lord" "He Is Mighty to Save" "How Wide?" "I Can Do Everything" "Let Everything That Has Breath" "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" "We Love" Additional Song Suggestions: "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 Visuals: Picture of the Bible story, bright flashlight
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, glue or glue sticks, tape, crayons or markers
		Game: Saul in the Light	Flashlight, paper plates or cut several pieces of paper in the shape of stepping stones
		Game: New Creation	Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse Song "A New Creation"
		Snack: Changed Hearts	Heart-shaped snack
	Final 5	Final Five	Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 2, Lesson 6
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Say & Do: Acts 9:1-7	None
	Up to 10	Game: New Hearts	None
	Up to 10	Game: "New Creation" Ball Toss	Soft ball
	Up to 10	Story Time	Any story about God changing a person's heart

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



The Spirit who changes us

THE WELCOME

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.**

Teacher's Note: These activity centers are designed to reinforce the lesson through hands-on learning experiences either individually or in small groups with the guidance of the teacher. Choose the Bible Activity Centers that best suit the children in your class. Set up the activity centers around the room before children arrive. Allow children to move freely among them.

COLORING CENTER: GOD CHANGES SAUL'S HEART

SUPPLIES

Coloring pages of Saul on the road to Damascus, crayons

DO

Children color their picture as they talk about today's story.

TALK ABOUT

A bright light is shining on the man on the road. Can you color the bright light yellow like the sun? The man's name is Saul. Jesus used a bright light to get Saul to stop and listen to Him. Jesus may not use a bright light to speak to us but how can we hear from Jesus? (Prayer, God's Word.)

PLAY-DOUGH CENTER: MY HEART IS CHANGED

SUPPLIES

Play-dough, cookie cutters, play-dough tools

DO

Children play with the play-dough while sharing their favorite Bible stories. Encourage children to make hearts with the play-dough.

TALK ABOUT

Today, our story is about a man named Saul. God helped Saul believe in Jesus; He changed Saul's heart. That means Saul wanted to be more like Jesus. If we want to be more like Jesus, God will help us, too! Can you make a heart with the play-dough to remind you that God can change our hearts?

THE WELCOME *continued...*

BLOCK CENTER: THE ROAD TO DAMASCUS

SUPPLIES

Blocks

DO

Children see how long of a road they can build with the blocks.

TALK ABOUT

A man named Saul was traveling to Damascus when he heard Jesus speak to him. The road to Damascus was long. Let's see how long of a road we can build with the blocks.

MUSIC CENTER: FOLLOW THE LEADER

SUPPLIES

Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse Song "A New Creation"

DO

Play the Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse Song "A New Creation." Children line up behind you. Walk around the room doing various actions for children to imitate as they follow you. You can hop, skip, pat your head, turn in circles, dance, pretend to be various animals, an airplane, a motorcycle and other actions. If time remains, let children take turns being the leader.

TALK ABOUT

God guides us every day through His Word, the Bible, and he guides us through His Holy Spirit. We know if we trust in Him, He will show us what to do. We can play "Follow the Leader" to remember we should follow God.

PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

It's time for Praise Time. Let's sing a "Clean Up Song" as we put things away. Praise children as they help clean.

**Clean up! Clean up! Everybody, everywhere!
Clean up! Clean up! Everybody do your share!**

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SIGN LANGUAGE

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

**"If anyone
is in Christ,**

(one) Index finger is held upright.

(Christ) Make "C" shape with hand. Move "C" from left shoulder to right hip as a royal sash.

**he is a new
creation."**

(new) Back of right hand makes a scooping motion across palm of left hand.

Both fists make a twisting motion as they bounce on top of each other.

2 Corinthians 5:17a

Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.

Adding sign language or motions to the Bible Memory Verse helps children recall what they are learning.



The Spirit who changes us

THE WORSHIP

Supplies: Praise music, optional: musical instruments

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. Before we begin, let's pray. Have the children bow their heads and close their eyes. **Dear Jesus, thank You for loving us so much. Thank You for each child here. Help us all to grow closer to You every day. Amen.**



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

As we give our offering, let's ask God to change our hearts to be more like Jesus. Sing: "We Love" 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.



We have a new memory verse this week. 2 Corinthians 5:17a says, "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation." That means if you have Jesus in your heart, He will help you grow to be more like Him. Let's say our verse together. Say the verse together two or three times.

**"If anyone
is in Christ,**

he is a new

creation."

2 Corinthians 5:17a

(one) Index finger is held upright.

(Christ) Make "C" shape with hand. Move "C" from left shoulder to right hip as a royal sash.

(new) Back of right hand makes a scooping motion across palm of left hand.

Both fists make a twisting motion as they bounce on top of each other.

Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.



Let's praise God by singing those words in our new Bible Memory Verse Song. Sing Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse Song: "A New Creation."



Jesus spoke to Saul from heaven

THE WORD

Supplies: Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Acts 9:3, picture of the Bible story, flashlight

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.

Let's reach deep in our pockets and pull out our listening ears. Reach in your pocket and cup your hands behind your ears as if listening.

If it's possible, dim the lights before beginning Bible Time. Do not completely darken the room. **Sometimes when we enter a room, it's dark. What do we do if we can't see?** (Turn on the light.) **When else is it dark?** (Night time.) **What can we use to see at night?** (Candle, flashlight.)

Today, I brought a flashlight. Turn on the flashlight. Shine it around the room. **This flashlight reminds me of our story today. God uses a light to speak to a man named Saul. Let's listen.** You may want to keep the lights dim and shine the flashlight when it is mentioned in the story. Handle the Bible as a special treasure, leaving it open to Acts 9:3.



WATCH THE WORD: ACTS 9:1-7

Read the story below or retell the passage in your own words. To illustrate the story, show a picture of the Bible story from a children's Bible, the coloring page, or other source.

- **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!"**
- **"Get up and follow Me now!"**

- **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.) **What did God do to Saul's heart?** (He changed Saul's heart.) **Do you think God can change our hearts, too?** (Yes.)



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, glue or glue sticks, tape, 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 and attach it to the heart frame. On a label or strip of paper, print:

God changed Saul's heart.

Acts 9:1-7

Adaptation for Ages 2-3: This craft was developed for ages 4-5. If you are using glue (rather than glue sticks), it will take time to dry. You may want to have a second heart-shaped piece of wax paper ready to cover the glued tissue paper.

Directions:

1. Before using any glue, decorate the heart frame with crayons or markers.
2. Glue scraps or squares of tissue paper onto the wax paper.
3. The teacher may want to trim any tissue paper squares that are sticking out from the edges of the frame.
4. Optional: Attach a second wax paper heart over the top of the tissue paper squares.
5. 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.)
- **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

To create the road to Damascus, place several paper plates or paper stepping stones across the play area.

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

Directions:

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

GAME: NEW CREATION

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

Supplies: Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse Song "A New Creation"

Directions:

1. Children stand in a circle.
2. **Let's play a game to practice our Bible verse. Follow me while the music is playing. When the music stops, stop where you are and we will say our verse together.**
3. Lead the children around the room as you play "A New Creation."
4. Occasionally stop the music and have the children recite the verse together.

"If anyone	(one) Index finger is held upright.
is in Christ,	(Christ) Make "C" shape with hand. Move "C" from left shoulder to right hip as a royal sash.
he is a new	(new) Back of right hand makes a scooping motion across palm of left hand.
creation."	Both fists make a twisting motion as they bounce on top of each other.
2 Corinthians 5:17a	Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.

5. Play until the song ends, or repeat the song as often as you like.

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 another 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. Pray. 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!**



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

Gather children in a circle sitting or standing and practice the words and motions.

"If anyone is in Christ,	(one) Index finger is held upright. (Christ) Make "C" shape with hand. Move "C" from left shoulder to right hip as a royal sash.
he is a new creation."	(new) Back of right hand makes a scooping motion across palm of left hand. Both fists make a twisting motion as they bounce on top of each other.
2 Corinthians 5:17a	Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.

PRAY

Let's pray together. Say a closing prayer with the children.

PLAY

Allow children to play with selected toys or centers or choose a book to read to them.

DISMISSAL

Have children take home their coloring page, craft, and a copy of the Ponder, Pray & Play for 2-3's.



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 leads the children in doing the hand motions.

- **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.)
- **"Get up and follow Me now!"** (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."

2 Corinthians 5:17a

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 CREATION" BALL TOSS

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

Supplies: Soft ball

Our Bible Memory Verse says, "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation." That means if you have Jesus in your heart, He will help you grow to be more like Him.

Teacher Tip: Two and three-year-olds are still learning motor skills such as tossing and catching. You may choose to have the children sit in a circle and roll the ball depending on the age and skill level of the children.

Directions:

1. Children stand in a circle.
2. Toss the ball to the first child.
3. While child holds ball, child recites the Bible Memory Verse: **"If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation."** If a child is uncomfortable saying the verse alone, have the class say it together.
4. Child tosses the ball back to you or to another child.
5. Repeat until each child has at least one turn.



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! Jesus spoke to Saul from heaven (Acts 9:1-7). What did Saul see? (A light from heaven.)

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

PLAY! "Act It Out!" One person holds the flashlight and shines it all around another person. The person in the light pretends to be Saul, falls down, and says: "My heart is changed." Play until each person has a turn with the flashlight and as Saul.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

**"If anyone
is in Christ,**

**he is a new
creation."**

2 Corinthians 5:17a

(one) Index finger is held upright.

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Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.