

LESSON 2 TODDLER TIME

LESSON 2 PAUL'S CONVERSION

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: The Holy Spirit Changes Us

SCRIPTURE: Acts 9

GOD'S BIG STORY: Jesus confronts Saul on the road to Damascus and miraculously changes him from an

enemy of Christianity into a Christ-follower through the Holy Spirit's transforming power.

INTRO ACTIVITY: Change Up!

ACTIVITY: Things That Change

WORSHIP

God's Big Story

Prayer and Blessing

ACTIVITY: Follow the Path



Designed for families to engage in the wonder of God together at home. This resource includes a video, worship playlists, activities, and more!

Intro Activity: Change Up!

Greet the kids warmly and welcome them to church.

Welcome! Today, we're going to learn about things that change—including us! Let's play a game called Change Up! I'm going to call out a motion for you to do. You are going to do that motion until I say, "Change up!" Then I will give you another motion to do. Are you ready?

Call out a motion for kids to do, such as stand up, crawl, march, walk in one direction, hop, etc. After all the kids do the motion, call out, "Change up!" and name another motion for them to do.

You did a great job changing up the motion you were doing! Let's have some more fun with changes.

Activity: Things That Change

SUPPLIES: scissors (prep only)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Things That Change Sheet

Before kids arrive, print the Things That Change Sheet and cut apart the pictures.

People can change, but so can other things that God has made. Let's see if you can figure out what these things change into. Hold up the picture of the caterpillar. Who knows what this is? It's a caterpillar! Does anyone know what caterpillars change into? Allow kids time to guess.



When they guess correctly, or if they don't know, hold up the butterfly picture next to the caterpillar picture. **Caterpillars change into butterflies!** Repeat with the acorn and tree, and baby and adult pictures.

Caterpillars change into butterflies, acorns change into oak trees, and babies grow into adults! Isn't God's world amazing? God can change us, too, through the Holy Spirit!

Our Wonder Truth today is: THE HOLY SPIRIT CHANGES US.

Encourage the kids to do the following motions while you repeat the Wonder Truth. Older toddlers can say the words with you as they do the motions.

THE HOLY SPIRIT—Point up.

CHANGES—Cover and uncover eyes.

US.—Point at self.

Worship

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: songs from the Transformed Early Childhood Spotify playlist

Today, we're learning that the Holy Spirit changes us. We'll learn in God's big story how God changed Paul's life. We can praise and thank God for how He loves us!

Play songs from the <u>Transformed Early Childhood Spotify playlist</u> and encourage the kids to sing and dance with you.

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible, flashlight (optional)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: God's Big Story Video

In this part of God's big story, we're learning a great story from the Bible about a person named Saul. Encourage the kids to say, "Saul." Let's find out from the Bible what happened to Saul!

Show the kids the God's Big Story Video or read the story from the Bible, or use the script provided.

When the first churches were growing and the message about Jesus was spreading, there was a mean man named Saul who wanted to hurt the people who loved Jesus. Let's pretend to hide from Saul. Guide kids in hiding under a table or in a corner (or just cover your face with your hands).

One day, Saul was walking along a road when he saw a bright light coming from the sky (use a flashlight to flash a bright light or turn the lights on and off). A voice came from heaven asking Saul why he was hurting Jesus' friends.

Suddenly, Saul couldn't see anymore! Can you close your eyes? Pause for kids to close their eyes. That's what it looked like for Saul! Have kids open their eyes again. His friends led him to the city, where he prayed for God to help him. Let's pretend we are praying, just like Saul did. Pause for kids to pretend to pray.

God told a man named Ananias to go to Saul and pray for him. After Ananias prayed, Saul could see again! Then Saul's name was changed to Paul.

Paul was completely changed through the power of the Holy Spirit. Paul was changed from someone who hated Christians into someone who loved Jesus and loved others. He became a missionary who travelled telling others about Jesus. The Holy Spirit can change us too! When we trust Jesus as our Savior, the Holy Spirit comes to live inside us and makes us more like Jesus.

Prayer and Blessing

Let's talk to God. God loves us so much. Can you give yourself a hug? Encourage the kids to give themselves a hug while you pray.

Thank You, God, for loving us. Thank You for sending the Holy Spirit to change us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands were open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

Blessing: May you always remember that God loves you and cares for you. The Holy Spirit lives inside us and changes us into the people that God wants us to be.

Activity: Follow the Path

SUPPLIES: flashlight

Give another leader a flashlight and have him shine the light onto the floor along a path as you guide a toddler down the path. If you can't darken your room to use a flashlight, you could tell the kids to close their eyes at a certain point along the path.

People who are blind can't see. In our story, Paul was blind for a few days after the light shone on him. We can experience a tiny bit of that when we close our eyes. Can you close your eyes? Pause for kids to close their eyes. Let's play a game where we close our eyes.

Choose one kid to go first and take her by the hand to guide her. I'm going to guide you around the path, but when you see the light from the flashlight shining in our path, you can close your eyes. I will keep leading you down the path, and you can walk with your eyes closed so you can understand a little bit how Paul must've felt when he couldn't see. Guide the first kid down the path, pausing at the light and encouraging him to close his eyes for the rest of the walk. Repeat as time allows.