

**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.**WORD OF WONDER:** Don't live the way this world lives. Let your way of thinking be completely changed. Then you will be able to test what God wants for you. And you will agree that what he wants is right. His plan is good and pleasing and perfect. —Romans 12:2**CURIOSITY****BELIEF****FAITH**

- Welcome Question: How does the sun change us?
- Curiosity Questions
- Object Lesson: Truly Changed
- Word of Wonder: Romans 12:2
- Word of Wonder Activity
- Discussion Questions for Younger and Older Kids
- Small Group Prayer Time
- Responding in Worship: Before and After
- Blessing Your Kids

[Transformed Elementary Spotify playlist](#)

### INVITATION

**We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...**

### LESSON AT A GLANCE

**WONDER TRUTH:** The Holy Spirit Changes Us

**SCRIPTURE:** Acts 9

**WORD OF WONDER:** Romans 12:2

My front porch is my most favorite place to talk to God—a cup of coffee and my prayer journal, and I am a happy girl. I spent many mornings praying similar prayers in a rough season of my life. My hurt from the actions of others had begun to morph into frustration with God. Why hadn't He disciplined those who had wronged me? Followers of Christ in the church had acted in sinful, hurtful ways, and I couldn't fathom why God hadn't already dealt out their consequences.

Writing out a prayer that I had been praying for months, the Holy Spirit spoke to my heart; the Spirit changed my heart. He reminded me “even if.” Even if my situation never changed, even if those who had wronged me never suffered any consequences, even if I didn't understand it, God was still worthy of my praise, not my frustration. The Spirit changed my heart with those two simple words.

What is the Holy Spirit speaking to you? The Spirit wants to change your heart and actions, but you have to listen. Look back at how Paul was changed in Acts 9:1–19. Paul wasn't looking for a heart change, but God made sure he listened. Spend some time listening to the Spirit this week. Let God speak to you and transform you to be more like Him.

—Amber Pike

Kidmin Leader and Author

Contributor to Wonder Ink

**DID YOU KNOW?**

**FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS**

**WHO?**

Saul was a prominent member of the Pharisees, elite Jews who were experts in rules of personal holiness. Sometimes the Bible uses his Roman name, Paul. Luke says that Saul had access to the high priest and had previously agreed with the stoning of Stephen, a Jesus-follower (Acts 9:1–2; 7:58; 8:1).

**WHAT?**

An encounter with God, called theophany, is transformative. Moses, Isaiah, Jeremiah, and other prophets were sent on special missions after having a vision of God. But Saul faced the presence of God in Jesus Himself, proving that Jesus is the Son of God.

**WHERE?**

Saul was on the road from Jerusalem—where the temple and priests were located—to the city of Damascus in the north. It would take about a week to traverse more than 100 miles on foot.

**WHEN?**

Luke introduces Saul as the spread of the gospel is continuing from Judea to Samaria and to the rest of the world, which fulfilled the words of Jesus (Acts 1:8). Saul became crucial in spreading the gospel among Gentiles in the 40s and 50s AD.

**CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY**

Through the work of Jesus and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, God can wash a person's sin clean (1 Corinthians 6:11). Because the Holy Spirit dwells in followers of Jesus, Paul calls their collective body a temple (1 Corinthians 6:19).

## Small Group

Spark curiosity, encourage exploration, and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

### LESSON AT A GLANCE

**WONDER TRUTH:** The Holy Spirit Changes Us

**SCRIPTURE:** Acts 9

**WORD OF WONDER:** Romans 12:2

## Pre-Service (15–20 min)

**RESOURCES:** [Coloring Page](#)

Small group leaders should be seated in place in their small group 20 minutes prior to service time. Have play stations with various board games, activities, or use games from the extra Games & Activities Guide to keep children occupied and engaged WITH you. This time is important to build relationships, welcome new kids, and keep structure in the room - you should be an active participant with them!

Learn the kids names, and make sure they all know yours too!

Warmly welcome new friends, and introduce them to your group.

*Allow quieter kids who don't engage with the board games to color. Involve them in the curiosity questions.*

### While kids are playing in their opening activity groups..

Pose the following “I’m curious” questions. Say “I’m curious...” before each question and give kids a chance to think about and answer each one. After each question, consider having kids share their ideas with a neighbor before you call on one or two of them to share with the group.

#### I’m curious ...

- If the sun can change us on the outside, what do you think it means when we say that we can be changed on the inside?
- Who is the Holy Spirit?

## Small Group Begins: Welcome Question 2–3 min

**SUPPLIES:** whiteboard, poster paper, or butcher paper, writing utensils

As kids arrive, invite them to write/draw the answer to the Welcome Question: **“How does the sun change us?”**

Right at your service time, move into Small Group time by sharing your own answers and allowing kids to talk about their answers.

### Large Group

Guide kids into knowing God, exploring His big story, and marveling at His wonder.

### LESSON AT A GLANCE

**WONDER TRUTH:** The Holy Spirit Changes Us

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**WORD OF WONDER:** Romans 12:2

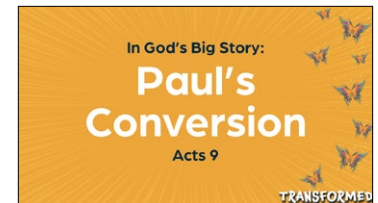
### Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words: **God, thank You for bringing each kid here today. Thank You that Your Holy Spirit changes us as we choose to follow You. Open our hearts and minds to hear Your truth. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

### God's Big Story

#### Hear It, Watch It, Experience It!

This lesson includes three opportunities for your kids to enter the story—each one reinforces the others! **HEAR** it read directly from the Bible. **WATCH** it in a video. **EXPERIENCE** it through the live script.



**SUPPLIES:** Bibles (1 per kid)

**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** Paul Title Slide, [Paul's Conversion God's Big Story Video](#)

Gather kids together and hand out a Bible to each one. Let them know today's portion of God's big story comes from the book of Acts, which is in the second half of the Bible. Help kids find Acts 9. Display the Paul Title Slide. **Let's start by reading part of God's big story directly from the Bible. Afterward, we'll watch and experience more of the story!** Read Acts 9:1–9 as the kids follow along. Then choose two older kids to each read a portion of Acts 9:17–22. Next, do one or both of the following:

- View [Paul's Conversion God's Big Story Video](#)
- Use the following Paul's Conversion Experience It! Script

**Leader Tip:** For Younger Kids. Modify this activity for the younger kids in your group by pairing up younger kids with older kids so the older kids can help the younger ones follow the story as it is read.

#### Make It Virtual!

If leading the lesson through an online platform, consider presenting the Bible passage through an audio Bible recording.

## Small Group Discussion: Younger Kids 5–8 min

Let kids know today's portion of God's big story comes from the book of Acts, which is in the second half of the Bible. Help kids find Acts 9.

Choose a kid to act out the part of Saul as you read Acts 9:1–9. Then choose another volunteer to act out the part of Saul and Ananias as you read Acts 9:17–22.

- What had Paul planned on doing once he reached the city of Damascus?
- What knocked Paul down to the ground as he was traveling?
- How did Paul change after his encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus?
- What was confusing or hard to understand from today's story?
- How does God change us when we trust in Jesus?
- If you have trusted in Jesus as your Savior, what changes have you seen in yourself?
- What's one thing you can do today with the help of the Holy Spirit to become more like Jesus?

"God is so good to make us more like Him through the Holy Spirit! Let's take some time to thank God for His goodness and ask Him to keep changing our hearts and minds to obey Him."

**Leader Tip:** Saul and Paul are two names for the same person! Remind kids of this as needed to alleviate any confusion.

**Leader Tip:** Kids may have different ideas (or none at all) of who the Holy Spirit is. Help them understand that the Holy Spirit is the presence of God in followers of Jesus. The Holy Spirit is part of the *Trinity*—three persons who are all one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God gives the Holy Spirit as a gift to every Jesus-follower!

## Prayer Time: Younger Kids

Invite kids to share one way they would like to become more like Jesus. For example, they might want to show more kindness to a sibling or do a better job obeying their parents. Consider sharing a desired spiritual growth area in yourself as well. Take turns praying for each person, asking God to change hearts day by day through His Spirit.

## Small Group Discussion: Older Kids 8–12 min

**SUPPLIES:** Bibles (1 per kid)

Invite kids to open their Bibles to Acts chapter 20. Let kids know today's portion of God's big story comes from the book of Acts, which is in the second half of the Bible. Help kids find Acts 9.

**Give a brief overview of the history and context using the info on page 3 of this guide.**

Choose one kid to read **Acts 9:1–9** and one kid to act out the part of Saul as they read. Encourage other kids to follow along in their Bibles. Then choose a different kid to volunteer to read **Acts 9:17–22** while volunteers act out the parts of Saul and Ananias.

- **Why was Paul traveling to Damascus?**
- **What happened to Paul on his journey?**
- **How did Paul change after his encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus?**
- **A conversion is a “change from one way of thinking, believing, and acting to another.” What stood out to you about Paul's conversion in God's big story today? Allow kids time to answer. If needed, prompt them with your thoughts too.**
- **What was confusing or hard to understand?**
- **Who is the Holy Spirit?**
- **How does the Holy Spirit change us?**
- **What changes have you seen in yourself since you put your faith in Jesus?**

**Leader Tip:** If needed, help kids understand that the Holy Spirit is the presence of God in followers of Jesus. The Holy Spirit is part of the Trinity—three persons who are all one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God gives the Holy Spirit as a gift to every Jesus-follower!

**"When we put our faith in Jesus, God promises not only to save us from our sins, but to gradually change us through His Spirit and make us more like Jesus. Isn't that amazing? Let's take some time to thank the Lord for this truth and ask Him to change our thoughts, words, and actions."**

**\*\*\*Have kids turn to their RBKids Notes Page and invite them to fill in the questions and spaces. Talk through each section with them, engaging in conversation about their answers. Instruct them to use the bottom "Small Group" section to write any thoughts, prayers, or questions from today that they want to talk to their parents about when they get home.**

## Prayer Time: Older Kids

Invite kids to share one way they would like to become more like Jesus. For example, they might want to show more kindness to a sibling or do a better job obeying their parents. Consider sharing a desired spiritual growth area in yourself as well. If needed, remind kids that doing good things is a response of obedience and faith to Jesus, not a means of salvation, and that God gives us the Holy Spirit to help us! Encourage kids to pray for each other, but if they are not comfortable with doing that, pray for each kid by name.

## Word of Wonder

**SUPPLIES:** Bibles (1 per kid)

**"Today, we're learning about an amazing story that shows how God changed Paul from a sinful man who opposed Jesus to His beloved child through the Holy Spirit. God wants to change us as well! Let's look at our Word of Wonder, Romans 12:2, to understand this wonderful truth better."**

Invite kids to open their Bibles to Romans 12:2. Younger kids or kids who are unfamiliar with the Bible may need help finding it. Read the verse several times together. Consider having kids go around a circle with each kid reading one word of Romans 12:2 until the verse is complete. Do this several times.

Discuss these questions:

- **How should our way of thinking be different from people who don't know Jesus?**
- **Why is God's plan for us always good, pleasing, and perfect?**

## Word of Wonder Activity

**SUPPLIES:** scissors (prep only)

**RESOURCES:** Verse Cards Sheet NIV (1 set)

Ahead of time, print and cut apart the Verse Cards.

Hand the Verse Cards to kids, one card per kid. If your group is small, you can give some kids more than one card as long as their cards include words that appear next to each other in verse order. You can also invite adult or youth volunteers to help. You will want at least several kids to remain in the audience without cards.

Help the card-holding kids get in verse order and have them stand shoulder to shoulder holding their card out for the audience to see. Invite the kids in the audience to recite the verse multiple times. Gently remove one (or more) card-holding kids from the line each time so the audience has to say the verse with fewer and fewer words showing. Eventually, the kids should recite the verse entirely from memory, without any verse cards to look at.

Do not	conform
to the pattern	of this world,
Wonder Ink	LESSON 2 VERSE CARDS SHEET NIV ©2015 WONDERS OF THE WORLD

**Large Group!**



## Responding in Worship: Before and After

**SUPPLIES:** scissors (prep only), writing utensils, coloring utensils, whiteboard, dry-erase marker

**RESOURCES:** [Before and After Hearts Sheet \(1 per kid\)](#), [Transformed Elementary Spotify playlist](#)

Ahead of time, print the Before and After Hearts Sheet (one per kid) and cut out the hearts.

Gather kids together.

Hand out a set of two hearts to each kid, one “Before” and one “After” heart. Explain that these represent Paul before and after Jesus stopped him on the road and became a Jesus-follower. Ask kids to write words that describe Paul at the start of the story (before he met Jesus) on the “Before” heart, and words that describe Paul after Ananias prayed for him and he started following Jesus on the “After” heart. Younger kids can draw how Paul may have looked before and after meeting Jesus.

Play music from the [Transformed Elementary Spotify playlist](#) as kids work. When kids finish writing or drawing on their hearts, turn down the music and discuss the following:

- What was Paul like before he met Jesus?
- What was Paul like after he met Jesus?
- What difference did the Holy Spirit make in Paul?

**"The Holy Spirit made a huge change in Paul! This man went from being an enemy of Christians to one of the greatest missionaries in history. The Holy Spirit completely transformed Paul's heart—his thoughts, actions, and attitudes—kind of like a caterpillar that changes into a beautiful, new creation! Throughout the rest of Paul's life, the Holy Spirit continued to help Paul become more like Jesus. But what about Jesus-followers today? What difference does the Holy Spirit make in us? Let's make a set of Before and After hearts about us.** Using a dry-erase marker and whiteboard, draw two hearts. Write “Before” above one heart and “After” above the other.

Help kids name ways that the Holy Spirit changes us and write those words inside the “After” heart. Then talk about what we are like before the Holy Spirit and write those words in the “Before” heart.

**The Holy Spirit really does change us when we choose to follow Jesus! As you trust and obey Jesus, the Holy Spirit will transform your thoughts, actions, and attitudes throughout your lifetime."**

