



**PRE-K
LARGE GROUP**

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 copy the ways of the world. Let God transform you. —from Romans 12:2

CURIOSITY

BELIEF

FAITH

- Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions
- Declaring God's Wonder
- Prayer of Invitation
- Worship
- God's Big Story
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- Prayer and Blessing





LESSON 2 FOR LEADERS

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: From 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).



Curiosity

Belief

Faith

Identity

LESSON 2 **EARLY CHILDHOOD**

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: From Romans 12:2

Welcome

Slide: Series Welcome Loop

As kids arrive...

Walk around the room and welcome as many kids as possible by showing excitement that they have joined you. Give high-fives, fist bumps, encourage them to sit on the floor in their spots, and ask questions about their week.

Video: Countdown

Welcome kids to worship time. Introduce yourself by name.

Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions

Introduce the kids to Tac, the curious cat.

Leader: Look who has come to visit today. It's Tac, the curious cat! What are you up to today, Tac?

Leader Tip: Use a funny voice to make the cat pretend to talk to the kids.

Tac the Cat: Hi, everybody! I was just outside playing around my grandma's pond. There are lots of fish in it!

Leader: Oh, that sounds like fun! Did you see anything else in the pond?

Tac the Cat: I did! There were some ducks and some plants. Oh, there was something I was curious about! There were these little, green creatures swimming around. Grandma said they were tadpoles. What are tadpoles?

Leader: Oh, I love tadpoles! They are baby frogs. When tadpoles grow up, they change into frogs!

Tac the Cat: Frogs? Ribbit, ribbit! They sure don't look like frogs!

Leader: Tadpoles don't look like frogs, but as they grow up, they change little by little to turn into frogs. When you were a baby, you were just a kitten, but now you are a cat! It reminds me of a story from the Bible about someone who was transformed.

Leader: Oh, I love tadpoles! They are baby frogs. When tadpoles grow up, they change into frogs!

Tac the Cat: Frogs? Ribbit, ribbit! They sure don't look like frogs!

Leader: Tadpoles don't look like frogs, but as they grow up, they change little by little to turn into frogs. When you were a baby, you were just a kitten, but now you are a cat! It reminds me of a story from the Bible about someone who was transformed.

Tac the Cat: That sounds so interesting! I can't wait to hear about it. I've gotta go back to the pond now! I'll see you later, kids!

Leader: Bye, Tac. Our story today is going to be a great one! We'll learn a story from the Bible about how the Holy Spirit changed someone, and how the Holy Spirit can change us too.

"Have you ever been curious about something? Let's take a moment to think: Have you ever seen something other than tadpoles that changes into something that looks completely different? Allow the kids to respond. How do people change? Allow the kids to respond. We all see and hear things that make us curious. Did you ever stop to think about how God can change us too?"

SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

Today's Wonder Truth is **THE HOLY SPIRIT CHANGES US**. Today, we'll discover how the Holy Spirit changes us."

Declaring God's Wonder

SLIDE: DECLARATION

"Let's say these words together.

Thank You, God, that You made me! (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Make prayer hands, then point up to God and to yourself.

And I am Your kid! (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Put your hands on your hips.

Jesus loves me so much; (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Spread your arms out wide to your side one at a time, then pull them in for a hug around your chest.

His love for me is big. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Hold your arms up high and wide above your head.

The Holy Spirit leads me, (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Bring your arms down from the sky, making a path in front of you.

And I can follow You. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

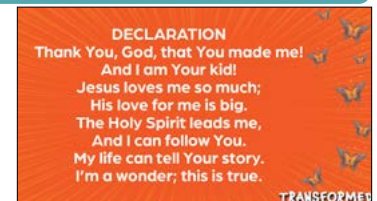
March in place.

My life can tell Your story. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Hold your hands in front of you like an open book.

I'm a wonder; this is true. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Put your hands up, shaking your fingers, celebrating ("praise hands").



Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here as an example: **God, thank You for the Bible. Guide us and speak to us as we hear from Your Word today. May the Holy Spirit speak to us as we listen to what You have for us. May the Holy Spirit change us as we listen to what He has to say to us. We love you. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Worship

"Today, we'll learn about how the Holy Spirit changes us! Let's sing about the Holy Spirit together!"

WORSHIP SONGS: THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE, NEVER BE

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible

Hold up a Bible and show the kids. Tell them today's story comes from the book of Acts in the Bible. Open a Bible and show them where the story is found.

Bible Time Rhyme

Say the Bible time rhyme (with motions) each week with the kids before the Bible story, to remind kids that what they're about to hear is part of God's big story.

I open my Bible and what do I see? (*Hold your hands together, then open your palms, as if opening a book.*)

God's big story, waiting for me! (*Point to yourself.*)

Let's hear part of God's big story, which comes from the book of Acts in the Bible.

VIDEO: GOD'S BIG STORY

GOD'S BIG STORY SCRIPT

SUPPLIES: Bible, mini-flashlights (1 per kid) or several regular-sized flashlights; Bible-times tunic costume; paper chain; spotlight (optional)

RESOURCES: [Paul's Conversion Experience It! Script](#)

Ahead of time, invite an adult leader to play the part of Saul (also called “Paul”). Gather items for a Bible times tunic (or ask the adult volunteer to provide his own). The costume might include a plain tunic and a rope to use as a belt. This Experience It! Script calls for two roles: the leader (you) and Saul. Provide a copy of the Experience It! Script for the person playing Saul and encourage him to familiarize himself with it ahead of time. Create a paper chain by cutting strips of paper and stapling them together to make loops that are looped through one another, creating a chain. Your chain can be as long or short as you want.

Gather kids together. If you have mini flashlights, hand one to each kid. If you have several regular-sized flashlights, distribute them to several kids. Instruct kids to keep the flashlights off and in their laps until the appropriate time in the story. If you don't have enough, only a few kids can have flashlights.

Leader: **"After Jesus went back to heaven following His resurrection, God sent the Holy Spirit to His followers.**

There were people who didn't like Jesus' followers and wanted to keep them from telling others about Jesus.

One of them was a man named Saul, who was sometimes called Paul. Saul tried to arrest some of Jesus' followers. Some followers of Jesus were even killed!"

"Saul" steps near the stage area, if possible, with the paper chain in hand to convey the idea that he is searching for Christians to chain them up.

Leader: **"Saul was on his way to the city of Damascus to capture some of Jesus' followers when, suddenly, he was blinded by a bright light from heaven! Saul keeps walking slowly across the stage area. Invite kids to turn on their flashlights and shine them in the direction of Saul (but not directly in his eyes!). If a spotlight is available, shine it on Saul."**

Saul falls to the ground. "As Saul fell to the ground, a voice said, "Saul! Saul! Why are you opposing me?"" Saul to closes his eyes.

Saul: Crouched on the ground, confused. "Who are You, Lord?"

Leader: **"I am Jesus," he replied. "I am the one you are opposing. Now get up and go into the city. There you will be told what you must do"** (Acts 9:4–6, NIV). Instruct kids to turn off their flashlights and place them back in their laps. If flashlights will be a distraction, collect them. Turn off the spotlight, if applicable.

Saul had to be led into Damascus by others who were with him because the bright light had blinded him." Invite two kids to the stage area to lead the now-blind Saul from one end of the stage to the other.



"For three days, Saul wouldn't eat or drink anything, and he kept praying. Saul's two friends leave the stage area. *Saul kneels in a praying posture.*

Leader: **A follower of Jesus named Ananias was living in Damascus. He could have been one of the very same people Saul had planned to arrest. But Jesus told Ananias to go lay his hands on Saul so Saul could see again.**

Ananias could barely believe that Jesus wanted him to go to Saul, who was famous for hating Christians! But Jesus said to him, "Go! I have chosen this man to work for me." (9:15, NIV).

Jesus had a plan to completely change Saul through the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus would transform Saul into a Jesus-follower! His name would be changed to Paul.

Ananias found Paul and placed his hands on him. Ananias prayed, and something like fish scales fell from Paul's eyes."

Saul: Standing up with eyes wide open. "I can see again!"

Leader: **"Instead of arresting the followers of Jesus, Paul was baptized and became a Christian himself.**

Everyone who knew him was surprised that Saul—a famous enemy of Jesus' followers—was now calling Jesus the Messiah. What a change!

The Spirit of God transformed an enemy of God into a follower of Jesus. *Saul stands in front of the kids, a smile on his face.* The Holy Spirit turned Paul's life around and made him a completely different person. Paul became a missionary who travelled many places telling others about Jesus. The Spirit of God can change us and make us new too. Nothing we do can stand in God's way. When we trust in Jesus, the Holy Spirit changes us. When we believe in Jesus as our Savior, the Holy Spirit comes to live inside us and makes us more like Jesus."

Collect the props and thank kids for their help in telling the story.

Connecting the Wonder Truth

Ask the following question to kids to help them connect the Wonder Truth to God's big story:

SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

"Our Wonder Truth today is **THE HOLY SPIRIT CHANGES US**. Where did you see our Wonder Truth happen in the story? Allow kids to answer freely.

Years after Jesus appeared to Paul on the road to Damascus, Paul wrote, "When anyone lives in Christ, the new creation has come. The old is gone! The new is here!" (2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV). The Holy Spirit changes Jesus-followers and transforms us into new creations! The Holy Spirit lives in us as Jesus-followers, and because of this, Paul says our bodies are temples for worshiping God (1 Corinthians 6:19)."

Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish their activity, pray with them, thanking God for changing us. Use the prayer below as an example if needed.

God, thank You for sending the Holy Spirit to us. Thank You for changing us and molding us into who You want us to be. 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. Speak a blessing in your own words, using the one below as a guide if needed.

Blessing: May you always remember that God loves you and cares for you. The Holy Spirit lives inside us and changes us to become more like God. Go out remembering that the Holy Spirit changes you.