

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**

- Play Stations:
 - Matching Game
 - Play Dough Transformations
 - Paul's Conversion Coloring Sheet
- Curiosity Activity: Transforming Colors
- Word of Wonder: Romans 12:2
- God's Big Story/Snack
- Circle Time: Spin the Light
- LARGE GROUP
- Responding in Worship: Changing Flowers
- Closing Game: What Changed?
- Game: Follow the Path

[Transformed Preschool Spotify playlist](#)



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

Play Stations

SUPPLIES: cardstock (2 sheets), scissors (prep only), play dough (various colors), coloring utensils

RESOURCES: Matching Game, Paul's Conversion Coloring Sheet (1 per kid)

Greet the kids warmly and briefly explain the play stations to them. Invite them to play at any of the stations.

"Welcome to RBKids! While we're getting ready to start, you can play at any of these stations to help you get ready for our lesson today. Do you have any ideas about what we'll be learning today?"

Play Station: Matching Game

Set-up: Before kids arrive, print the Matching Game. Cut the cards apart and lay them out face down on a flat surface.

Play: Kids can take turns trying to match the pictures that go together by turning over two cards at a time. They will be looking for things that go together based on how the pictured items change. If kids choose a caterpillar card, you could ask what a caterpillar changes into—a butterfly! Then let the kids find the butterfly card and put the matching cards together.



Leader Tip: If the matching game is too challenging with the card pictures face down, let kids try to find the matches with the pictures facing up. You can also help kids who are struggling to find matches by telling them to look for the matching colors around the pictures.

Play Station: Play Dough Transformations

Set-up: Set out various colors of play dough.

Play: Allow kids to create any object out of play dough, then encourage them to change the object into something different. If they need ideas, offer prompts, such as ball, tree, bowl, snake, animal.

Play Station: Paul's Conversion Coloring Sheet

Set-up: Print one copy per kid of the Coloring Sheet. Set out the Coloring Sheets and coloring utensils.

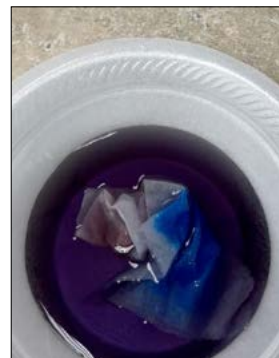
Play: Let the kids color. The kids can also turn the sheet over and draw a picture of a caterpillar and a butterfly.

Curiosity Activity: Transforming Colors

SUPPLIES: white paper towels; red, blue, and yellow washable markers; bowls or clear plastic containers (2); water (enough to fill a bowl)

Before kids arrive, cut or tear paper towels into four small squares that will fit inside a bowl. Set the squares aside. Fill the bowls with water and set the markers and paper towels nearby.

"Let's have some fun with colors! I'm going to hold up a marker, and you will shout out what color the marker is! Hold up a blue marker and encourage the kids to call out, "blue." Great job! This is blue. I need someone to help me color with this blue marker. Choose one kid to come up and color one of the paper towel squares with the blue marker. Next, hold up a red marker and ask what color it is. **Right, this is red! We need two red squares. Can I have two volunteers to help me color with the red marker?** Pick two kids and let them each color a square red. **I have one more marker left. What color is this?** Hold up the yellow marker. **It's yellow! Who wants to color the yellow square?** Call up one kid to color a paper towel square yellow.



You did a great job knowing your colors. Now we're going to do an experiment to see whether we can change these three colors into two other colors. Hold up one of the red paper towel squares and the yellow paper towel square. **What color do you think red and yellow might change into?** Allow the kids to make guesses, then place the red paper towel square into one of the bowls of water. You might need to swish it around a bit to get the color of the water to turn red. **Now our water is red! Next, let's add the yellow square!** Add the yellow square to the same bowl and swish it around so the colors combine. The water in the bowl should turn orange. **Now what color is the water? It's orange! Our red and yellow colors changed the water into orange!**

Let's see what happens with blue and red. Repeat the experiment in the other bowl with the red and blue squares of paper towel. **What color did the water change to when we mixed red and blue? It turned purple!**

We changed this water (point at the orange) **into orange by mixing red and yellow and this water** (point at the purple) **into purple by mixing red and blue!**

It can be fun to mix colors and change them into new colors. Can you think of things other than colors that change? Allow kids to answer. **Did you know the Holy Spirit changes us? We are going to find out more in God's big story today!"**

Word of Wonder

SUPPLIES: Bible

Practice the Word of Wonder with the kids several times. Encourage the kids to do the motions and say the verse with you.

"Our Word of Wonder has the word "copy" in it. If I shake my head like this (shake your head in a no motion), **what would you do to copy me?**

Allow kids to shake their heads. **Right! You would shake your heads too. We're going to play a game with our Word of Wonder that has to do with copying others. Each of you will get a chance to say the verse, and everyone else will have to copy how you say it. You can say it in a silly voice, or do some kind of motion, such as jumping while you say it. Don't worry, if you need help remembering the verse, I will help you!** Allow kids to each take a turn either saying the verse in a silly voice or doing some kind of action while saying it. Then let the other kids say the verse copying the leader's voice or action. Repeat as time allows.

WORD OF WONDER

Don't copy the ways of the world.
Let God transform you.

—from Romans 12:2

You did a great job copying our leaders and saying our Word of Wonder. That was just a silly copying game. But when it comes to following Jesus, our Word of Wonder reminds us that we shouldn't copy the bad things that other people do. Instead, we should let God transform us to become more like Jesus!

This time, everybody will pick an action or voice to do, and we will all say the verse together one more time." Repeat the verse with the kids a final time.

- **DON'T COPY**—Shake head and place open palms together.
- **THE WAYS OF THE WORLD.**—Draw a large circle in the air.
- **LET GOD**—Point up.
- **TRANSFORM YOU.**—Place hand on your heart.
- **ROMANS 12:2**—Hold your hands open, as if holding a book.

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

- **Which word from our Word of Wonder means "change"?** (transform)
- **How does God transform us?**

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."

[Read pages 298-303 in the Laugh and Grow Bible.](#)

Circle Time: Spin the Light

SUPPLIES: flashlight

Leader Tip: If your room is too bright to see the light from a flashlight, play the game so that whomever the flashlight points toward gets to answer the question.

Gather kids together in a circle.

What did Paul see when he was on the road to Damascus? Allow kids to answer. **Right! He saw a bright light!** Turn on the flashlight and dim the lights in the room as much as possible. **It was a lot brighter than this flashlight, but we are going to use this flashlight to play a game to help us remember what we learned. I'm going to pick one of you to spin around in the middle of the circle, and whomever the flashlight is pointing at when you stop spinning will get to answer a question. Let's play!**

Pick one kid to hold the flashlight and spin around in the middle of the circle. You may want to have the kid aim for the feet of those in the circle. Whomever the flashlight is pointing at when she stops will get to answer one of the questions below.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **Before Jesus talked to Paul on the road, what kind of person was Paul?** (*He was not a kind person; he hurt Christians.*)
- **What happened to Paul's eyes when he saw the bright light?** (*He was blinded.*)
- **What did Ananias do so Paul could see again?** (*put his hands on Paul's eyes and prayed.*)
- **How was Paul changed?** (*He now loved God and stopped hurting Christians.*)
- **How can the Holy Spirit change you?**
- **What is one way your life is different because of knowing God?**

Paul was changed by his experience with Jesus on the road to Damascus. We can be changed by the Holy Spirit too. Let's talk to God now in prayer!"

Invite kids to share prayer requests and praises and to pray for each other. Some kids may not be comfortable praying out loud. That's OK! Encourage them to pray silently and to thank God for His help and transformation in our lives.

Head to Large Group!

Responding in Worship: Changing Flowers

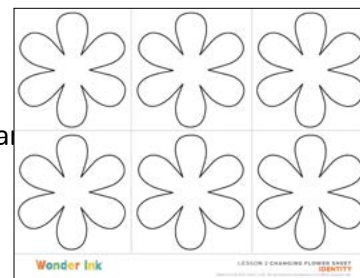
SUPPLIES: scissors (prep only), crayons, shallow tray or bowl (1-2 per SG), water (enough to fill the shallow tray or bowl)

RESOURCES: [Changing Flower Sheet \(1 per SG\)](#)

Before kids arrive, print one copy of the Changing Flower Sheet for every six kids. Cut out the flower shapes so the petals can easily be folded inward. Fill a shallow tray or bowl for each group with water and place it near

"Who knows what a flower starts out as? Allow the kids to respond.

Right! A flower starts out as a little seed, then it grows bigger and bigger. Over time, it grows a stem and leaves and petals, and eventually it may look like this! Hold up one of the flowers you cut out previously.



Similar to flowers, we change as we grow up. You no longer look like you did when you were a baby. But we change in other ways too. The Holy Spirit changes us on the inside.

On your flower, draw a way that God has changed you. Maybe you used to be mean to your brother or sister, but now God has helped you be kind! Or maybe you used to be scared of the dark, but now God has helped you overcome that fear! How has God changed you? Draw that on your flower. When you are done, sit quietly while everyone else finishes. Then we'll do something special with our flowers. Allow the kids time to draw on their flowers.



Leader Tip: Consider playing songs from the [Transformed Early Childhood Spotify Playlist](#) while kids draw.

Once all kids have finished drawing on their flowers, help them fold all the petals into the middle of the flower. The petals should be layered on top of each other. Then gather the kids together around the tray of water you prepared previously.



Hold your flowers in your hands. We are going to say a prayer together and when I say, “Amen,” we are going to lay our flowers in the tray of water and watch what happens.

Say a short prayer thanking God for changing us, then demonstrate how the kids should lay their flowers in the tray of water. Make sure all flowers are placed with the petals on top, and not touching each other. The flowers will begin to open and unfold as the water touches the petals.

Our flowers are changing! The water changes our flowers and causes them to open! This helps us think about how the Holy Spirit changes us."

Closing Activity: What Changed?

"The Holy Spirit changes us on the inside. But sometimes we change on the outside, too! We are going to play a game where you'll try to figure out what has changed. I'm going to go first, then each of you will get a turn to play! Everybody take a good look at me. I'll ask you to close your eyes and I'm going to change one thing about me. When I tell you to open your eyes, see if you can figure out the one thing that changed."

Have kids close their eyes while you change one thing about yourself. You could untie a shoe, take off a hat, roll up a shirt sleeve, etc. When you are ready, tell kids to open their eyes and see if they can figure out what changed.

Once they figure out what changed, pick a kid to be the leader and have the rest of the kids close their eyes while she changes one thing about herself. Repeat as time allows.

Optional Game: Follow the Path

SUPPLIES: blindfolds (1 per kid); chairs, stools, or other objects to create obstacles

Set up a path in your room using chairs, stools, or other classroom items that kids can walk around.

"In God's big story today, Paul was blinded by a bright light on his way to Damascus. When someone is blind, it means the person can't see or has a hard time seeing. Everyone close your eyes. Wait for the kids to do this. **This shows us in a very small way how it feels for people who are blind. Sometimes they can see some shapes, but they can't see clearly like most of us can. People who are blind have several tools that can be helpful. They can read books with their fingers using Braille! You may see them using a special cane to walk around. Sometimes they will hold a friend's elbow and walk with the friend. We are going to play a game where we will get to experience, in a very small way, what it's like to be blind.**

Choose two kids to go first and blindfold one of them. Have the rest of the kids sit nearby and watch. Demonstrate how the kid with the blindfold can hold onto the other kid's elbow. Have the kid without the blindfold slowly guide her partner down the path and around any obstacles. Once they are back at the start, have the partners switch places. Repeat with the rest of the kids, giving each a turn at being blindfolded and being a leader.

What was it like to be blindfolded? What was it like to help someone who was blindfolded? Allow the kids to respond. **Now you know a little more about how Saul felt when he was blind for three days and had to be led to Damascus by his traveling companions."**