



Saul Meets Jesus Near Damascus

Acts 9:1-20

First- and second-graders are no strangers to change. Their world is changing all the time. They've gone from kindergarten, where life was pretty easy, to first and second grade, where more and more is being expected of them. It's also possible that they've had to adjust to a younger sibling arriving on the scene or some other change in family status. You can use this lesson to help kids understand how the changes that Jesus brings are always good for them.



► Bible Point

Jesus changes our lives.

Key Verse

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" (2 Corinthians 5:17).

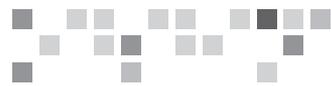
Weaving Faith Into Life

Kids will tell others about Jesus.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	What's Different? <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Play a fun game in which they try to figure out what is different about their partners.	small stickers	
2 Bible Exploration	Who Are You? <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Listen to the Bible passage and hear how and why Saul changed.	Bible, My Bible Fun, scissors, tape, CD player, large sheets of paper Teacher Pack: CD, Bible Timeline, "Saul Meets Jesus" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack) 	Tear out the Lesson 7 pages from each My Bible Fun student book.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	Old to New <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Draw pictures of how they might act differently when Jesus changes them.	Bible, My Bible Fun, markers, crayons, CD player, 1 copy per child of the lyrics page (at the end of the lesson) Teacher Pack: CD	
4 Lasting Impressions	Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	My Bible Fun	
	Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





What's Different? Supplies

small stickers

1 GETTING STARTED

What's Different?

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went.

Gather everyone together.

Have kids form pairs and stand in two parallel lines, with each child facing his or her partner. Give kids 60 seconds to carefully study their partners.

Say: **I want you to look at your partner very carefully. You'll need to remember what you see.**

After partners have studied each other, have them turn around so that they are standing back to back. Then walk down each row of kids and place a sticker on each child. The sticker should be placed somewhere visible but not obvious. After you've placed a sticker on each child, have kids turn around. Each child should look for the change in his or her partner.

Say: **Once you've figured out what is different about your partner, say, "You've changed!" and both of you may sit down.**

When everyone is sitting down, ask for volunteers to share what was different about their partners.

Say: **We only had small changes in our appearances, but in our Bible story today, we're going to learn about a man who changed a lot because of Jesus. We'll also learn that ► JESUS CHANGES OUR LIVES.**



2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Who Are You?

What You'll Do

Open your Bible to Acts 9:1-20, and show the passage to the kids.

Show the Bible Timeline. Say: **Our story today comes from the ninth chapter of the book of Acts. The man in our Bible story today is named Saul. He was very mean to Christians at first because he didn't believe that Jesus was the Son of God. In fact, he wanted all Christians to be put in jail. Our story begins as Saul and his friends are traveling down the road to a city called Damascus. Let's pretend we're traveling down a road, too. Then we'll listen to Saul's story.**

Have kids help you build a "road" in your classroom. Arrange chairs in rows to walk between, or lay sheets of paper on the floor in a steppingstone design. Then have kids stand in single file along the road and walk in place as you play "Saul's Story" (track 10 on the CD).

After the CD segment, have kids form pairs and sit down in the middle of the road you created. Show the "Saul Meets Jesus" poster, and then have kids answer the following questions with their partners. After each question, ask volunteers to share their answers with the rest of the class.

Ask:

- **Why do you think someone would want to put Christians in jail?**
- **Have you ever been in a position in which you were disliked or made fun of because you're a Christian? Tell your partner what happened.**
- **Do you think anyone like Saul could change to love Christians? Why or why not?**

Say: **Let's listen to what happens next.**

Have kids stand and begin walking in place again. Explain that they should each pretend to be Saul and act out what happens to him. Flash the lights in your classroom off and on again as you play "Jesus' Story" (track 11 on the CD).

Ask:

- **How do you think Saul felt when Jesus spoke to him on the road?**
- **How would you feel if Jesus appeared in front of you and asked you why you were hurting him?**

Say: **Saul was probably pretty scared. He was probably even more frightened when he realized he couldn't see!**



Who Are You? Supplies

-
- Bible
 - My Bible Fun
 - scissors
 - tape
 - CD player
 - large sheets of paper
 - Teacher Pack**
 - CD: "Saul's Story" (track 10); "Jesus' Story" (track 11); "Ananias' Story" (track 12)
 - Bible Timeline
 - "Saul Meets Jesus" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)

Who Are You? Easy Prep

-
- Tear out the Lesson 7 pages from each My Bible Fun student book.





Ask:

- **What do you think Saul did?**

Say: **We're going to make something now to help us remember what happened to Saul.**

Have kids move to a work table as you distribute My Bible Fun pages. Have kids turn to the "Blinded by the Light" activity and cut out the glasses on the page. Help them carefully cut on the solid lines of the lenses. Don't cut the dashed line at the top of the lenses. The lenses should flip up. Then help kids attach the earpieces with tape. When the glasses are finished, have kids return to the road and put their glasses on. The lenses should be down, covering the openings.

Ask:

- **How does it feel to be unable to see?**
- **How do you think Saul felt when he couldn't see for three days?**

Say: **Since Saul couldn't see anything, his friends had to lead him by the hand into the city of Damascus. I'm going to lead each of you over to our pretend city. Stand where you are until I come and take your hand.**

Lead each child by the hand to a corner of your room. Have kids sit, still wearing their glasses, as you continue with the story.

Say: **Let's listen to the next part of our story and find out what else happened to Saul.**

Play the "Ananias' Story" segment (track 12 on the CD).

Say: **Okay, you can lift your lenses now so you can see, too!**

Before Saul met Jesus, he hated Christians. But then something amazing happened to change Saul: Saul met Jesus, and Jesus had a powerful effect on Saul. Saul realized that Jesus really is the Son of God. Saul's life was changed because of Jesus.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **Why was Ananias afraid to go see Saul?**
- **What happened to Saul when Ananias put his hands on Saul's eyes?**
- **How did Saul's life change after he met Jesus?**
- **How does Jesus change our lives?**

Say: ► **JESUS CHANGES OUR LIVES.** Even though the change in Saul was very dramatic, Jesus can change our lives without it being so dramatic. Let's take a look at our Key Verse and find out how Jesus can change us.





3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Old to New

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Turn in your Bible to 2 Corinthians 5:17, and read the verse aloud for the class: **“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!”** Have kids repeat the verse with you several times.

Ask:

- What does it mean to be “in Christ”?
- How can people become new creations?

Say: **This verse says that when we believe in Jesus, or when we’re in Christ, we’re new creations. Our old selves are gone, and our new selves that love Jesus are there instead. That’s wonderful news! Even though we all still do wrong things, when we believe in Jesus, he can forgive us for those sins and we can start over. We can spend the rest of our lives trying to be more and more like Jesus because we have Jesus in our hearts. Let’s see how this verse can help us in our lives.**

Have kids turn to “Old to New” in their My Bible Fun pages.

Say: **There are two boxes on your My Bible Fun page. The first box is the “Old” box. I want you to draw a picture of something about yourself that you want Jesus to change. For example, if you have trouble being friendly to new people, you could draw a picture of yourself with a grumpy face. If you have trouble obeying your parents, you could draw a picture of yourself with your hands on your hips saying, “No!”**

Give kids several minutes to draw. Then have children form pairs and explain their pictures to their partners. Ask a few volunteers to display their pictures for the rest of the class.

Say: **The second box is the “New” box. I want you to draw yourself doing what Jesus would want you to do after you’re a new creation in him. For example, if you drew a picture of yourself as not being friendly, you could draw a picture of yourself standing with someone else with smiles on both your faces. If you drew a picture of yourself disobeying your parents, you could draw a picture of yourself smiling at your mom and saying, “Okay, Mom!”**

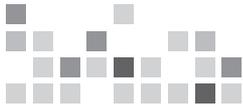
After kids have finished drawing, have them form new pairs to share their pictures. Again, invite volunteers to show their pictures to the rest of the class. Then gather everyone in a large group. Lead kids in repeating the Key Verse with you again: **“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!” (2 Corinthians 5:17).**



Old to New Supplies

-
- Bible
 - My Bible Fun
 - markers
 - crayons
 - CD player
 - 1 copy per child of the lyrics page (at the end of the lesson)
 - Teacher Pack**
 - CD: “A New Creation” (2 Corinthians 5:17) (track 13)





Say: **Our Key Verse is also a song. Let's sing it now.**

Play "A New Creation" (2 Corinthians 5:17) (track 13 on the CD) once or twice until kids are ready to sing along. Then sing the song a few times.

Sing:

 **If anyone** (*if anyone*)
Is in Christ (*is in Christ*),
He is a new creation (*a new creation*);
The old has gone (*the old has gone*),
The new has come! (*The new has come!*)
He is a new creation (*a new creation*);
We have been made new!

If anyone (*if anyone*)
Is in Christ (*is in Christ*),
He is a new creation (*a new creation*);
The old has gone (*the old has gone*),
The new has come! (*The new has come!*)
He is a new creation (*a new creation*);
We have been made new!
We have been made new!

"A New Creation" (2 Corinthians 5:17) by Carol Smith. © 2003 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Say: **Aren't you glad ► JESUS CHANGES OUR LIVES? We can live our lives in a way that makes God happy because of the changes Jesus can make in us.**

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4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do

Say: **Let's think about how ► JESUS CHANGES OUR LIVES.**

Have kids find this week's Daily Challenges in their My Bible Fun pages and choose one to do this week. They can choose one or more of these three options:

- **Take a walk in your neighborhood and pray for people who don't know Jesus.**
- **Tell a friend at school that Jesus can change his or her life.**
- **Sing a song to Jesus each night before you go to bed.**

Daily Challenges
Supplies

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My Bible Fun



Make sure you choose a Daily Challenge as well, and tell kids what you chose. Kids will be more inclined to follow through on their commitments when they see you doing the same.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What’s a practical way you’re going to do your Daily Challenge? Include a time, a place, and other ideas.**

Say: **This week, let’s remember that ► JESUS CHANGES OUR LIVES as we follow through on our Daily Challenges.**

Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about how Jesus changes our lives. Kids can also do the activities in the “HomeConnect” section of their My Bible Fun pages with their families.

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church’s families. Available at group.com/digital.

Have kids form a circle and hold hands, and lead them in prayer.

Pray: **Dear Lord, thank you so much for Jesus, who changes us. Thank you that the old, bad things about us can be taken away and that you can make us new so that we can live lives that make you happy. Thank you! In Jesus’ name, amen.**



**Lyrics** ■■■■**A New Creation (2 Corinthians 5:17)**

If anyone *(if anyone)*
Is in Christ *(is in Christ),*
He is a new creation *(a new creation);*
The old has gone *(the old has gone),*
The new has come! *(The new has come!)*
He is a new creation *(a new creation);*
We have been made new!

If anyone *(if anyone)*
Is in Christ *(is in Christ),*
He is a new creation *(a new creation);*
The old has gone *(the old has gone),*
The new has come! *(The new has come!)*
He is a new creation *(a new creation);*
We have been made new!
We have been made new!

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