



Saul Meets Jesus Near Damascus Acts 9:1-20

Usually third- and fourth-graders can read and write well. They also like to succeed when presented with a challenge. In this lesson, you'll challenge kids to investigate today's Bible story. Because third- and fourth-graders need to feel independent, don't be too quick to jump in and give them answers. Allowing kids to discover the answers on their own will help build their confidence and self-esteem.



► 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).

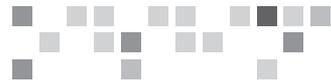
Weaving Faith Into Life

Kids will ask Jesus to change their lives.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Guess the Changes <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Form two groups and create designs with toothpicks. Then try to guess changes made to their designs by the other group.	toothpicks (regular and colored)	
	The New Has Come <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Learn the Key Verse, and sing about how Jesus changes their lives.	Bible, CD player, copies of the lyrics (at the end of this lesson) Teacher Pack: CD	
	2 Bible Exploration	Saul Investigation <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Act as "private investigators" to examine the Bible story.	Bibles, Bible Truth Sleuth, pencils, crayons, markers Teacher Pack: Bible Timeline 
	Evidence Notebooks <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Create notebooks to record evidence of Jesus changing their lives.	small notepads, glue, markers, crayons, stickers, glitter, scissors, construction paper Teacher Pack: "Evidence Stamps" poster 	Cut apart the "Evidence Stamps" poster.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.

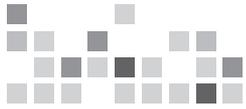




LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	Change Celebration <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Celebrate specific ways Jesus has changed their lives.	balloons, felt-tip pens, CD player, party decorations, copies of the lyrics (at the end of this lesson) Teacher Pack: CD	
4 Lasting Impressions	Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	Bible Truth Sleuth	
	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.





Guess the Changes Supplies

toothpicks (regular and
colored)

1 GETTING STARTED

Guess the Changes

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went. Have children form two groups, and give each group a box of plain wooden toothpicks.

Say: **Today we're going to play a game called Guess the Changes. Your group must create some kind of design or picture with your toothpicks.**

Have groups work on their toothpick designs on a table. When groups have finished their designs, have kids look carefully at their designs so they'll remember what they look like. Then have the groups switch places so that they're looking at the other group's toothpick design.

Say: **You'll make changes to the other group's design. You can't just mess it up, though. And don't make the changes too difficult to find, because the other group will have to guess what changes you've made.**

After groups have made changes, have groups return to their original designs. Have one group try to guess what changes were made.

As group members state the changes they see, have the group that changed the design confirm or deny the changes. If kids have a hard time identifying changes, ask the changing team to give some hints.

When all the changes have been identified, have the other team guess what changes were made to its design.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What made this game easy or difficult?**
- **How did you decide what kinds of changes to make to the other group's design?**

Say: **Now I'm going to make some changes to both groups' designs, and we'll see if you can guess those changes.**

Have groups turn away from their designs, and then add colored toothpicks to each design. When you've finished, have kids turn around and tell you what changes you've made.





Ask:

- Was it easier or harder to see the changes this time? Explain.
- What are some ways people change?
- What kinds of changes in people are easiest to notice?

Say: We all go through changes all through our lives. But when we believe in Jesus, he changes us in drastic ways, ways that other people notice. Jesus helps us to follow him. ► JESUS CHANGES OUR LIVES!

2 BIBLE
EXPLORATION

The New Has Come

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: As we've just learned, Jesus changes our lives when we believe in him. He helps us follow him. In fact, that's just what our Key Verse for today says. Our Key Verse today is about Jesus changing our lives when we believe in him.

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

Pass out copies of the lyrics, and play "A New Creation" (2 Corinthians 5:17) (track 12). Have kids sing the song one time, referring to the copies of the lyrics. When the song has finished, stop the CD.

 **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!**

(Repeat from the beginning.)

We have been made new!

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



The New Has Come Supplies

- Bible
- CD player
- copies of the lyrics (at the end of this lesson)
- Teacher Pack**
- CD: "A New Creation" (2 Corinthians 5:17) (track 12)





Saul Investigation Supplies

Bibles
Bible Truth Sleuth
pencils
crayons
markers
Teacher Pack
Bible Timeline

Saul Investigation Easy Prep

Tear out the Lesson 7
pages from each Bible
Truth Sleuth student
book.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What does it mean to be “in Christ”?
- How does Jesus change our lives?

Say: **When we believe in Jesus, or when we’re “in Christ,” ► JESUS CHANGES OUR LIVES by helping us follow him. He makes us like new people. And he continues to change us for the rest of our lives. Let’s see how Jesus helped a man named Saul follow him.**

Saul Investigation

What You’ll Do

Hold up the Bible Timeline and show kids the “Saul Meets Jesus” picture. Say: **Today’s Bible story talks about the changes Jesus made in the life of one person named Saul. Let’s discover what happened.**

Saul hated Jesus and his followers. After Jesus went back to heaven, Saul made murderous threats against Christians. When one man, Stephen, was killed, Saul helped the people who killed him by keeping watch over their coats while they threw rocks at Stephen. Saul traveled around, finding Christians and putting them in jail. He wanted to stop them from following Jesus.

As we explore this Bible story together, let’s pretend we’re detectives. All we know at this point is that Jesus changed Saul’s life. We’ve been hired to investigate what happened to Saul and how he was changed. We’ll form three teams of detectives to conduct our investigation.

Have kids form three groups. Assign each group one of the following Scripture passages: Acts 7:54-60 and 9:1-2; Acts 9:3-17; and Acts 9:18-20.

Say: **With your team of detectives, you’ll explore your Scripture passage and come up with some clues and evidence that will show us how Jesus changed Saul.**

Distribute the Bible Truth Sleuth pages, and have kids turn to the “Detectives” activity. Give kids pencils, crayons, and markers.

Say: **With your group, read the part of the story that I’ve assigned to you. Then on your student book pages, write the clues you find and any discoveries you make. Use the questions on your student book page to help you find clues and information. And because detectives always need some photographs as evidence, each person in your group should create a photograph in the box marked “Evidence” on the student book page.**

When you’ve finished, you’ll share what you’ve discovered with the other two teams of detectives.





As children work, circulate among the groups to help children understand the Scripture passages, find information, and create their pictures.

When groups have finished, ask them to present to one another what they've learned. Be sure groups make their presentations in the order of the Scripture passages they were assigned. To help groups make their presentations, ask the questions below:

Ask:

- **What happened in your Scripture passage?**
- **What kind of person was Saul at this time?**
- **As detectives, what kind of photographs did you come up with?**

Have everyone who wants to share his or her photograph do so. When all the groups have made their presentations, thank them for their hard work.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **Why did Saul change?**
- **Why do you think Jesus wanted to change Saul's life?**
- **How has Jesus helped you follow him?**

Say: **From your investigations, it's obvious that his experience with Jesus changed Saul. Jesus changed Saul into a completely different person. Saul began following Jesus, and he even became a friend to other Christians. In fact, he became one of their most important leaders. Have you ever heard of Paul? Saul later changed his name to Paul, and he traveled around, telling people about Jesus. Jesus really changed Saul's life! And**
► JESUS CHANGES OUR LIVES.

Evidence Notebooks

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **When we believe in Jesus, he changes us into new people. But those changes aren't always sudden, as they were in Saul's life. Jesus changes us and helps us follow him for the rest of our lives.**

Give each person a small notepad and a segment of the "Evidence Stamps" poster from the Teacher Pack. Make available glue, markers, crayons, stickers, glitter, scissors, construction paper, and other art supplies.

Say: **We're going to create notebooks to help us keep track of the evidence that Jesus is changing us. These will be like the evidence notebooks detectives use to keep track of clues and discoveries. You can use this notebook to keep track of ways Jesus changes your life by helping you follow him.**



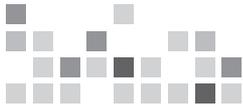
Evidence Notebooks Supplies

- small notepads
- glue
- markers
- crayons
- stickers
- glitter
- scissors
- construction paper
- Teacher Pack**
- "Evidence Stamps"
poster

Evidence Notebooks Easy Prep

- Cut apart the "Evidence
Stamps" poster.





Instruct kids to glue their “Evidence Stamps” on the covers of their notepads. Then, to personalize them, encourage kids to decorate the notepads with their names and anything else they’d like.

Say: **Now I want you to open your notepads to the first page and write one way you think Jesus already has changed you.**

When kids have finished working, invite them to display their notepads for one another.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What are some ways Jesus has changed your life to help you follow him?
- How can we use these notepads to keep track of how Jesus changes us?

Say: **I encourage you to take your notepad home with you and use it to record the evidence that Jesus is changing your life. As you realize ways he helps you follow him, write them in your notebook. Over time, you’ll have a notepad full of evidence of how ► JESUS CHANGES OUR LIVES!**

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Change Celebration

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Give each person a balloon and a felt-tip pen. Instruct kids to inflate their balloons, and help them tie them off.

Say: **Begin thinking of some ways Jesus has changed your life by helping you follow him. For example, maybe he helped you obey your parents when you didn’t want to. Or maybe he helped you say no to some friends who were trying to get you to do something wrong. Maybe he helped you be kind to someone you don’t like. As you think of ways Jesus has helped you follow him, write those things on your balloon.**

Give children several moments to write on their balloons. Then instruct children to drop the balloons on the floor and scatter them around the room, being careful not to pop them.

Say: **Now we’re going to have a little party to celebrate the ways Jesus changes our lives. Let’s decorate our room and celebrate with some songs!**

Cue your CD to “A New Creation” (2 Corinthians 5:17) (track 12), and have kids sing the Key Verse song again as they decorate.

Change Celebration Supplies

balloons
felt-tip pens
CD player
party decorations
copies of the lyrics (at
the end of this lesson)

Teacher Pack

CD: “A New Creation”
(2 Corinthians 5:17)
(track 12), “Let Your
Light Shine” (Matthew
5:16) (track 2),
“Confess With Your
Mouth” (Romans 10:9)
(track 9)

! BALLOON ■ WARNING

To avoid choking hazards, be sure to pick up pieces of any broken balloons promptly. Balloons may contain latex.





**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!**

(Repeat from the beginning.)

We have been made new!

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

When the song has finished, ask a few specific kids to pick up some of the balloons on the floor around them.

Ask:

- **How does Jesus change our lives?**

Encourage kids to read aloud some of the items written on the balloons.

Say: **Let’s sing another song of celebration.**

Cue your CD to “Let Your Light Shine” (Matthew 5:16) (track 2), and play the song. Lead kids in singing along, using the lyrics handouts.



**Hey! Hey! Yeah!
Hey! Hey! Yeah!
Let your light shine before men that
They may see your good deeds and
Praise your Father in heaven.
Let your light shine before men, yeah,
Let your light shine before men.**

(Repeat.)

**Let your light shine before men that
They may see your good deeds and
Praise your Father in heaven.
Let your light shine before men, yeah,
Let your light shine before men.
Let your light shine before men, yeah.
Let your light shine before men.
Hey! Hey! Yeah!
Hey! Hey! Yeah!**

“Let Your Light Shine” (Matthew 5:16) by Carol Smith. © 2003, 2006 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.





When the song has finished, ask a few more kids, who didn't pick up balloons the first time, to pick up some of the balloons from the floor around them. Encourage kids to read aloud what's written on the balloons.

Say: **Let's sing one more song of celebration.**

Cue your CD to "Confess With Your Mouth" (Romans 10:9) (track 9), and play the song. Lead kids in singing aloud, referring to the lyrics handout.

 **For if you confess,
Confess with your mouth
That Jesus is Lord,
If you believe,
Believe in your heart
That God raised him from the dead...**
(Repeat.)

(Chorus)

**You will be saved; you will be saved; you will be saved; o-o-oh.
You will be saved; you will be saved; you will be saved; o-o-oh.
You will be saved; you will be saved; you will be saved; o-o-oh.
You will be saved; you will be saved; you will be saved; oh—YOU WILL BE SAVED!!!**

(Repeat from the beginning; then repeat chorus.)

**Oh—YOU WILL BE SAVED!!!
Oh—YOU WILL BE SAVED!!!**

"Confess With Your Mouth" (Romans 10:9) by Jay Stocker. © 2005 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

When the song has finished, ask the remaining kids to pick up the rest of the balloons on the floor around them. Encourage kids to read aloud some of the items written on the balloons.

Say: **Wow! Jesus has changed our lives! Let's clap and cheer to celebrate and to praise Jesus for helping us follow him!**

Pause and encourage kids to bat the balloons around and to clap and cheer.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **How does Jesus change our lives?**
- **What can we do to welcome Jesus' changes in our lives?**

Have each child find his or her balloon and pick it up to take home.





4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do

Say: **Let's each choose a Daily Challenge for the week to help us remember that ► JESUS CHANGES OUR LIVES.**

Have kids find this week's Daily Challenges on the Bible Truth Sleuth 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 Jesus to change your neighbors' lives.**
- **Tell a friend at school that Jesus changes our lives.**
- **Sing a song to Jesus each night before you go to bed.**

Make sure you choose a Daily Challenge as well, and tell the 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: **► JESUS CHANGES OUR LIVES, just as he did for Saul. Let's see how he changes our lives as we follow through on our Daily Challenges this week.**

Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about Jesus changing our lives. Kids can also do the activities in the "HomeConnect" section of their Bible Truth Sleuth pages with their families.

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

Close in prayer. Say: **Let's pray now to thank Jesus for changing our lives.**

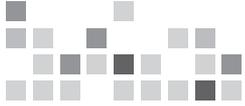
Pray: **Dear Jesus, thank you for changing our lives. Thank you for being our friend and helping us follow you. Help us welcome your changes in our lives. In your name, amen.**



Daily Challenges Supplies

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Bible Truth Sleuth



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

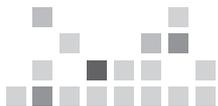
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He is a new creation (a new creation);
We have been made new!**

(Repeat from the beginning.)

We have been made new!

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

**! OK
■ TO COPY**



Lyrics ■■■■

Let Your Light Shine (Matthew 5:16)

Hey! Hey! Yeah!

Hey! Hey! Yeah!

Let your light shine before men that
They may see your good deeds and
Praise your Father in heaven.

Let your light shine before men, yeah,
Let your light shine before men.

(Repeat.)

Let your light shine before men that
They may see your good deeds and
Praise your Father in heaven.

Let your light shine before men, yeah,
Let your light shine before men.

Let your light shine before men, yeah.

Let your light shine before men.

Hey! Hey! Yeah!

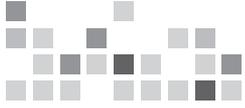
Hey! Hey! Yeah!

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Lyrics

Confess With Your Mouth (Romans 10:9)

For if you confess,
 Confess with your mouth
 That Jesus is Lord,
 If you believe,
 Believe in your heart
 That God raised him from the dead...
(Repeat.)

(Chorus)

You will be saved; you will be saved; you will be saved; o-o-oh.
You will be saved; you will be saved; you will be saved; o-o-oh.
You will be saved; you will be saved; you will be saved; o-o-oh.
You will be saved; you will be saved; you will be saved; oh—YOU WILL BE SAVED!!!

(Repeat from the beginning; then repeat chorus.)

Oh—YOU WILL BE SAVED!!!
Oh—YOU WILL BE SAVED!!!

"Confess With Your Mouth" (Romans 10:9) by Jay Stocker. © 2005 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

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