



Saul Meets Jesus Near Damascus Acts 9:1-20

Preschool children understand the concept of change in very concrete ways. Use concrete examples to point out the changes that occur around them. As they see and understand the concrete examples of change, they'll begin to understand the ways that God can change them.



► Bible Point

Jesus changes our lives.

Key Verse

"The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective" (James 5:16).

Weaving Faith Into Life

Children will ask Jesus to change their lives.

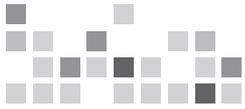
LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started <i>about 10 min.</i>	Welcome and Celebrate Welcome each other, and praise God through music.	CD player Teacher Pack: CD, whistle	
2 Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i>	Caterpillar, Butterfly See a "caterpillar" change into a "butterfly."	Bible, 1 empty bathroom tissue tube, bathroom tissue Teacher Pack: twisty worm, butterfly	
3 Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i>	Puppy Pointers Help Theo change from a spotted puppy into a not-so-spotted puppy.	CD player, Theo puppet, dot stickers Teacher Pack: CD	Cover Theo's face with dot stickers.
	Bible Time: Watch Saul Change Meet Saul and hear how Jesus changed him.	Bible, flashlight Teacher Pack: "Saul Meets Jesus" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p style="text-align: center;">4 Weaving Faith Into Life <i>about 20 min.</i> (Choose 2 centers.)</p>	<p>Center 1: Butterflies! Change caterpillars into butterflies.</p>	My Bible Hugs, markers	Remove the Lesson 7 pages from each My Bible Hugs student book, and write children's names on them.
	<p>Center 2: Change Snack Change a cream cheese face from sad to happy.</p>	plates, craft sticks, bagels, cream cheese, cereal	
	<p>Center 3: Change Me Sing a song about how Jesus changes us.</p>	CD player Teacher Pack: CD, glow-in-the-dark cross	Set the glow-in-the-dark cross under a bright light at the beginning of class so it will glow later.
	<p>Center 4: Butterfly Beauty Create paper butterflies.</p>	three 8-inch squares of colorful tissue paper per child, one 12-inch chenille stem per child	
<p style="text-align: center;">5 Lasting Impressions <i>about 5 min.</i></p>	<p>Daily Challenges Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.</p>	My Bible Hugs, crayons	
	<p>Action Prayer Hold a butterfly and ask Jesus to change them.</p>	Teacher Pack: butterfly	
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



Welcome and Celebrate Supplies

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "We Welcome You" (track 9), "God Is Listening" (track 6)
whistle

1 GETTING STARTED

Welcome and Celebrate

 **Tip** Consistently use the same signal to announce a transition to the next activity. You could flip the lights off and on, use a train whistle, have a puppet rustling inside a bag, or sing cleanup songs. Keep it simple, consistent, and fun.

What You'll Do

As the children arrive, greet each one with a smile. When it's time to begin, use your whistle to gather the children together in a circle on the floor.

Lead children in singing "We Welcome You" (track 9 on the CD) to the tune of "Angels Watching Over Me." Encourage children to follow the motions in parentheses.

 **We welcome you to church today,** *(Shake hands with someone.)*
Church today, church today. *(Nod head.)*
We welcome you to church today. *(Shake hands with someone.)*
We're so glad you've come. *(Smile and point to corners of mouth.)*
(Repeat 2x.)

Say: **I'm glad you're here at church today. We're going to see how ► JESUS CHANGES OUR LIVES. Let's sing one more song first.**

Lead children in singing "God Is Listening" (track 6 on the CD) to the tune of "Did You Ever See a Lassie?" Encourage children to follow the motions in parentheses.

 **God is listening when we talk to him,** *(Put hand to ear.)*
Talk to him, talk to him. *(Cup hands around mouth.)*
God is listening when we talk to him. *(Put hand to ear.)*
God hears our prayers. *(Nod head.)*
He listens when I pray; he listens when you pray. *(Point to self, then to others.)*
God is listening when we talk to him. *(Put hand to ear.)*
God hears our prayers. *(Nod head.)*
(Repeat 2x.)





2 KEY VERSE
ACTIVITY

Caterpillar, Butterfly

What You'll Do

Keep the butterfly and twisty worm out of sight. Have the children form a circle and sit down. Open your Bible to James 5:16, and show the children the words.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible is James 5:16. This verse says, “The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.” That means that prayer is powerful. Let’s say this together.** Lead children in repeating this simplified version of the Key Verse with you: **Prayer is powerful.**

Say: **We’re learning today that ► JESUS CHANGES OUR LIVES. Prayer is a powerful part of Jesus changing our lives. Let’s see how Jesus changes something in nature in a powerful way.**

Hold up the twisty worm. Say: **Let’s pretend that this is a real live caterpillar.** Pass the “caterpillar” around the circle so each child gets a chance to pet it. **A caterpillar goes through an amazing change just like we do when we decide to love Jesus.**

First the caterpillar starts building a cocoon around itself. A cocoon is like a soft blanket that the caterpillar wraps around itself to go to sleep.

Place the twisty worm inside the empty bathroom tissue tube. Tear off a long piece of bathroom tissue, and wrap it once around the tissue tube containing the worm. Have each child come to you and wrap the tissue paper once around the tube. Be sure not to cover one end of the tissue tube.

Say: **After the caterpillar builds its cocoon, it’s as if it goes to sleep for a little while inside the cocoon. Why don’t you curl up where you are and pretend to be a sleeping caterpillar?**

Encourage the children to lie down and close their eyes like little caterpillars. As they do, remove the twisty worm from the tissue tube and put it out of sight. Place the butterfly inside the tissue tube.

Say: **Okay, it’s time to wake up now! You know, the caterpillar wasn’t really sleeping at all. It was actually going through an amazing change. The same thing happens to us when we decide to love Jesus. Christ makes us a new creation. And prayer is a powerful part of that change. As we unwrap the cocoon, let’s say our Key Verse to remind us how powerful prayer is and how powerful Jesus is as he changes our lives.**

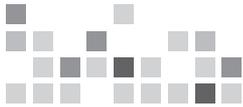
Give each child a chance to unwrap the tissue paper as he or she repeats the Key Verse. Then remove and hold up the butterfly.



Caterpillar, Butterfly Supplies

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- Bible
 - 1 empty bathroom tissue tube
 - bathroom tissue
 - Teacher Pack**
 - twisty worm
 - butterfly





Say: **Wow! The caterpillar turned into a beautiful butterfly! When we decide to love Jesus, our hearts change kind of like the caterpillar did. It's almost like we become new persons—new creations.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What are some ways you have changed?**
- **How has prayer helped you to change?**

Say: **We change when we grow taller or get smarter. Jesus helps us change on the inside by helping us be nicer to our friends and family and share our toys with others. When we pray to Jesus and ask him, he helps us change. Prayer is powerful!**

3

BIBLE EXPLORATION

Puppy Pointers

Puppy Pointers Supplies

CD player
Theo puppet
dot stickers
Teacher Pack
CD: "Here, Theo"
(track 2)

Puppy Pointers Easy Prep

Cover Theo's face with
dot stickers.

What You'll Do ■■■■

Say: **Listen, everyone, Theo's coming! He has something to show us. Let's find out what it is.** Play "Here, Theo" (track 2 on the CD), and bring out Theophilus the FaithRetriever.

Theo: Hi, everybody!

Teacher: Theo! What do you have all over your face?

Theo: I put spots on my face because I wanted to be like my friend Spotty the Dalmatian. But now the dots are stuck, and I want to change back to the way I was! What should I do?

Teacher: Children, do you think we can help Theo?

(Let children respond. Then allow them to take the stickers off Theo.)

Teacher: How's that, Theo?

Theo: Thank you! I'm so glad to be changed back to a puppy without spots!

Teacher: This reminds me of the change a caterpillar goes through. Friends, can you tell Theo our Bible Point for today?

*(Have children repeat the Bible Point: ► **JESUS CHANGES OUR LIVES.**)*

Theo: That's great! Well, I'm going to go tell my mom that I changed back into my own self. Goodbye!

Teacher: Goodbye, Theo.

Encourage kids to wave or say goodbye to Theo. Then put Theo away in a safe place for next week's use.



Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- How did Theo change?

Say: **Just as we helped Theo change from a spotted dog into a not-so-spotted dog, ► JESUS CHANGES OUR LIVES when we decide to love him. Let's find out about one man whose life Jesus changed.**

Bible Time: Watch Saul Change

What You'll Do

Have the children sit in a semicircle around you. Open your Bible to Acts 9:1-20, and show the children the words. Open the "Saul Meets Jesus" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack), and have a child help you hold it so all can see the picture.

Say: **Today's Bible story tells us that ► JESUS CHANGES OUR LIVES. We're going to learn about a man named Saul. Jesus changed Saul's life.**

Point to Saul in the picture.

Say: **Saul was a mean man. Let's all growl and make mean faces.** (*Let children respond.*) **I'll pretend I'm Saul for a minute.**

I'm Saul, and I don't like Christians. They love Jesus, but I don't like Jesus. I want to make the Christians stop talking about Jesus to everyone. Begin speaking in your normal voice again.

One day Saul was going to a city. He planned to find all the Christians there and put them in jail. Suddenly, a bright light shone all around Saul. Choose a child to shine a flashlight on the poster. **That light was Jesus. Jesus said, "Saul, why are you hurting me?" Saul was so surprised! He didn't know it was Jesus, so he asked, "Who are you?"**

Jesus said, "I'm Jesus. You're hurting me and hurting my people. I want you to love me, Saul. I want you to be one of my followers, too."

Ask:

- How do you think Saul felt then?

Say: **Before Jesus spoke to Saul, Saul didn't believe Jesus was real. Then Saul met Jesus, and Saul changed his mind.** Turn off the flashlight.

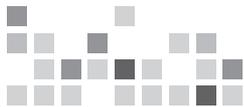
Saul decided to believe Jesus was God. Saul decided to love Jesus. Jesus changed Saul's life. Saul changed from a mean, angry man into a man who loved others. He went all over the world to tell other people about Jesus.



Bible Time: Watch Saul Change Supplies

-
- Bible
 - flashlight
 - Teacher Pack**
 - "Saul Meets Jesus" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)





Have the children show smiling faces to show the change God made in Saul.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was Saul like before he met Jesus?
- What was Saul like after he met Jesus?

Say: **Jesus changed Saul from a mean man to a kind man. Jesus wants to change our lives, too.**

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4 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Choose at least two of the learning centers to help reinforce today's Bible lesson. Gather the needed materials, and put the supplies in an out-of-sight area until you're ready for them. Allow the children to choose which center they'd like to explore first. Then circulate among the children as they create and explore. Encourage them to make connections between their activities and the Bible by asking them the questions included with each center's description.

■ CENTER 1:

Butterflies!

What You'll Do ■■■■

Give each child a Lesson 7 page from My Bible Hugs, and have the children point out the caterpillars they see on the page. Show children how to draw circles on the page next to the caterpillars. Children should draw two circles on each side of a caterpillar to change the caterpillar into a butterfly. As children work, remind them that just as caterpillars become butterflies, ► **JESUS CHANGES OUR LIVES.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- How do you feel when you change from sad to happy?
- How do you feel when you change from doing something wrong to doing something right?
- How has Jesus changed you?

Say: **Caterpillars change into beautiful butterflies. In the same way, when we decide to love Jesus, Jesus changes our hearts to kind and loving hearts. Jesus shows us right from wrong. Jesus teaches us how to love others. When**

Center 1: Butterflies! Supplies

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My Bible Hugs
markers

Center 1: Butterflies! Easy Prep

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Remove the Lesson 7
pages from each My
Bible Hugs student
book, and write
children's names on
them.





► **JESUS CHANGES OUR LIVES**, our lives become more beautiful just as the caterpillars became beautiful butterflies.

■ **CENTER 2:**

Change Snack

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have the children clean their hands and then sit down to prepare their snack. Give each child a plate and half of a bagel. Have children use craft sticks to spread cream cheese on their bagels. Then show children how to place pieces of cereal as eyes. Next have the children make a frowning mouth with a few cereal pieces.

Say: **Saul had an unhappy and mean heart before he decided to love Jesus. When Saul decided to love Jesus, Jesus changed Saul's heart. Saul changed into a kindhearted man who loved others.**

Encourage the children to change the frown into a smiling mouth by rearranging their cereal pieces.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- How do you think Saul felt after he met Jesus?
- How did Jesus change Saul?
- How can Jesus change us?

Say: ► **JESUS CHANGES OUR LIVES.** He changed Saul from mean to kind, and he changes us, too. Let's thank God for changing us and for providing our snack. Invite one child to pray for the snack.

■ **CENTER 3:**

Change Me

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have the children form a circle, and set the glow-in-the-dark cross inside the circle. Turn off the lights, and ask children how the cross has changed. Turn the lights back on, and ask children how the cross has changed again. Remind children that just as the cross changes, ► **JESUS CHANGES OUR LIVES.**

Sing "Change Me" (track 10 on the CD) to the tune of "Angels Watching Over Me." Turn off the lights while you sing.



Center 2: Change Snack Supplies

-
- plates
 - craft sticks
 - bagels
 - cream cheese
 - cereal



Center 3: Change Me Supplies

-
- CD player
 - Teacher Pack**
 - CD: "Change Me" (track 10)
 - glow-in-the-dark cross

Center 3: Change Me Easy Prep

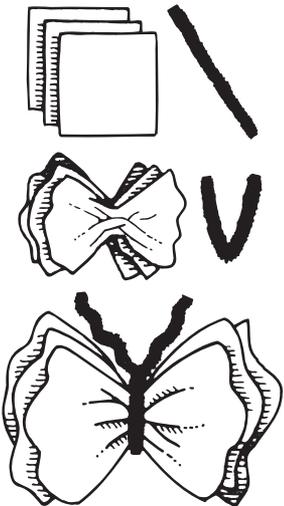
Set the glow-in-the-dark cross under a bright light at the beginning of class so it will glow later.





Center 4: Butterfly Beauty Supplies

three 8-inch squares of
colorful tissue paper
per child
one 12-inch chenille
stem per child



 **Jesus, change me.**
Help me do what you would do.
Jesus, change me.
Help me do what you would do.
Jesus, change me.
Help me love as you would love.
Jesus, change me.
Help me love as you would love.
(Repeat.)

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Have you ever been mean or unkind to someone?
- How did you feel? How did the other person feel?

Say: **Just as the cross changed into a glowing cross, ► JESUS CHANGES OUR LIVES.** He changes our hearts so that we show love to others.

CENTER 4: Butterfly Beauty

What You'll Do

Allow children to choose three squares of tissue paper and one chenille stem. Show children how to stack the three squares, and then gather them together along an imaginary vertical line down the center of the square (see diagram).

Fold the chenille stem in half, like a V. Insert the gathered section of the tissue into the fold of the chenille stem. Twist the chenille stem to hold the gathered tissue in place and form two antennae, each about four inches long. Separate and arrange the tissue to form the wings of the butterfly.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What's different after a caterpillar changes to a butterfly?
- What was different when Saul changed?

Say: **The change from a caterpillar to a butterfly is exciting. When Jesus changes us it's exciting, too. When we see butterflies outside, we can remember that ► JESUS CHANGES OUR LIVES.**



5 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

After the children have cleaned up their centers, bring everyone back to a circle area on the floor. Review the lesson activities and the Bible Point, and then encourage the children to share what they remember about what they learned from the Bible today.

Also use this time to challenge kids in their faith. Encourage them to choose a Daily Challenge for applying today's lesson to their lives this week. Use this challenge for encouraging your children's growing relationships with Jesus.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: **Today we learned that ► JESUS CHANGES OUR LIVES. I would like each of you to choose a way to remember that Jesus changes your life this week.**

Give kids these two challenges to choose from:

- **Draw a picture of a butterfly, and hang it in your room. Each time you see it, pray and ask Jesus to change your life.**
- ■ **Each night when you change into your pajamas, thank Jesus for changing your life.**

Say: **If you want to draw a picture, circle the choice with one dot. If you want to change your pajamas, circle the choice with two dots.** Check that each child circled a choice on his or her My Bible Hugs page. Make sure you tell kids the challenge you choose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as in theirs!

Action Prayer

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Hand one child the butterfly. Have the child holding the butterfly say, "Jesus, change my life." Then have that child give the butterfly to the next child so he or she can pray. Continue until all children have had a chance to pray.

Pray: **In Jesus' name, amen.**



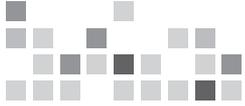
Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Hugs
crayons

Action Prayer Supplies

Teacher Pack
butterfly





Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their My Bible Hugs pages whether they worked on them or not. Have the children tell their parents the challenge they committed to in the “Daily Challenges” activity. Encourage the parents to help their kids fulfill this commitment during the week. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

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

