



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](#)).

Spark curiosity, encourage exploration, and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

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Curiosity Activity: Things That Change

SUPPLIES: scissors (prep only)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [Things That Change Sheet](#)

Before kids arrive, print the [Things That Change Sheet](#) and cut apart the pictures.

People can change, but so can other things that God has made. Let's see if you can figure out what these things change into. Hold up the picture of the caterpillar. **Who knows what this is? It's a caterpillar! Does anyone know what caterpillars change into?** Allow kids time to guess. When they guess correctly, or if they don't know, hold up the butterfly picture next to the caterpillar picture. **Caterpillars change into butterflies!** Repeat with the acorn and tree, and baby and adult pictures.

Caterpillars change into butterflies, acorns change into oak trees, and babies grow into adults! Isn't God's world amazing? God can change us, too, through the Holy Spirit!

Our Wonder Truth today is: THE HOLY SPIRIT CHANGES US.

Encourage the kids to do the following motions while you repeat the Wonder Truth. Older toddlers can say the words with you as they do the motions.

THE HOLY SPIRIT—*Point up.*

CHANGES—*Cover and uncover eyes.*

US.—*Point at self.*



Guide kids into knowing God, exploring His big story, and marveling at His wonder.

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Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words: **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**

God's Big Story

Pull out the Bible.

Ask: What is this called? *The Bible*

Ask: Why is the Bible important? *Because it is God's word. Everything in it is true. It really happened.*

TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Big Picture Bible p276

Saul on the Road to Damascus

Word of Wonder

WORD OF WONDER

His plan is good and pleasing and perfect.

—from Romans 12:2b NiRV

Repeat the verse with the kids.



Identity

LESSON 2 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Create space for God to remind kids they are known, loved, led, and their lives can tell of God's wonder.

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Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish their activity, pray with them, thanking God for changing us.

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.

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.

Closing Activity: Follow the Path

SUPPLIES: flashlight

Give another leader a flashlight and have him shine the light onto the floor along a path as you guide a toddler down the path. If you can't darken your room to use a flashlight, you could tell the kids to close their eyes at a certain point along the path.

People who are blind can't see. In our story, Paul was blind for a few days after the light shone on him. We can experience a tiny bit of that when we close our eyes. Can you close your eyes? Pause for kids to close their eyes. **Let's play a game where we close our eyes.**

Choose one kid to go first and take her by the hand to guide her. **I'm going to guide you around the path, but when you see the light from the flashlight shining in our path, you can close your eyes. I will keep leading you down the path, and you can walk with your eyes closed so you can understand a little bit how Paul must've felt when he couldn't see.** Guide the first kid down the path, pausing at the light and encouraging him to close his eyes for the rest of the walk. Repeat as time allows.

