



## 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

### LESSON 2 **EARLY CHILDHOOD**

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

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#### Curiosity Activity: Change Up

Greet the kids warmly and welcome them to church.

**Welcome! Today, we're going to learn about things that change—including us! Let's play a game called Change Up! I'm going to call out a motion for you to do. You are going to do that motion until I say, "Change up!" Then I will give you another motion to do. Are you ready?**

Call out a motion for kids to do, such as stand up, crawl, march, walk in one direction, hop, etc. After all the kids do the motion, call out, "Change up!" and name another motion for them to do.

**You did a great job changing up the motion you were doing! Let's have some more fun with changes.**



## Belief

### LESSON 2 EARLY CHILDHOOD

*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 NIV

Repeat the verse with the kids.



## Faith

### LESSON 2 EARLY CHILDHOOD

*Help kids see the wonder of God's story and how it connects to their own story.*

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#### 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.**



## 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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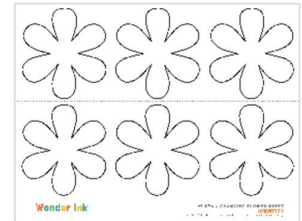
**WORD OF WONDER:** From Romans 12:2

### Responding in Worship: Changing Flowers

**SUPPLIES:** scissors (prep only), crayons, shallow tray or bowl (1 per 6 kids), water (enough to fill the shallow tray or bowl)

**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** [Changing Flower Sheet](#) (1 per every 6 kids)

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 with water and place it nearby.



**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.**



## 10:45 Service

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.**



### 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.