



## 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

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#### 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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## Play Stations

**SUPPLIES:** cardstock (2 sheets), scissors (prep only), play dough (various colors), coloring utensils

**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** [Matching Game](#), [Paul's Conversion Coloring Sheet](#) (1 per kid)

Greet the kids warmly and briefly explain the play stations to them. Invite them to play at any of the stations.

**Welcome to church! While we're getting ready to start, you can play at any of these stations to help you get ready for our lesson today. Do you have any ideas about what we'll be learning today?**

### Play Station: Matching Game

**Set-up:** Before kids arrive, print the [Matching Game](#) onto cardstock (or regular printer paper). Cut the cards apart and lay them out face down on a flat surface.

**Play:** Kids can take turns trying to match the pictures that go together by turning over two cards at a time. They will be looking for things that go together based on how the pictured items change. If kids choose a caterpillar card, you could ask what a caterpillar changes into—a butterfly! Then let the kids find the butterfly card and put the matching cards together.



**Leader Tip:** If the matching game is too challenging with the card pictures face down, let kids try to find the matches with the pictures facing up. You can also help kids who are struggling to find matches by telling them to look for the matching colors around the pictures.

## 9:00 Service

### Play Station: Play Dough Transformations

**Set-up:** Set out various colors of play dough.

**Play:** Allow kids to create any object out of play dough, then encourage them to change the object into something different. If they need ideas, offer prompts, such as ball, tree, bowl, snake, animal.

### Play Station: Paul's Conversion Coloring Sheet

**Set-up:** Print one copy per kid of the Coloring Sheet. Set out the [Coloring Sheets](#) and coloring utensils.

**Play:** Let the kids color. The kids can also turn the sheet over and draw a picture of a caterpillar and a butterfly.

9:00 Service



## Belief

### LESSON 2 EARLY CHILDHOOD

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

#### LESSON AT A GLANCE

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

#### 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

## 9:00 Service

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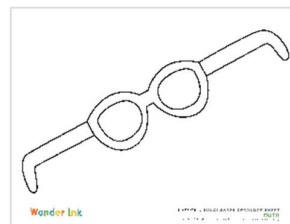
**WORD OF WONDER:** From Romans 12:2

#### Craft: Sunglasses

**SUPPLIES:** cardstock (1 sheet per kid), kid-safe scissors, crayons, tape, stickers (optional)

**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** [Sunglasses Resource Sheet](#) (1 per kid)

Before kids arrive, print one copy per kid of the [Sunglasses Resource Sheet](#) on cardstock (or regular paper). You will need one sheet for each kid. If you have a younger group, cut out the sunglasses before kids arrive. Leave the center of the glasses intact so that when kids wear the glasses, they will be “blinded.”



**In our story, Paul saw a really bright light! What happened to Paul after he saw the bright light?** Allow the kids to respond. **Right, he was blinded! There is a bright light in the sky in the daytime that we shouldn't look at or it could hurt our eyes. What is it called?** Allow the kids to respond. **That's right—the sun! We shouldn't ever look directly at the sun because it could hurt our eyes. Some people wear sunglasses to protect their eyes from the sun.**

Allow kids to color their sunglasses. They could even add stickers on them. Once they have completed decorating their glasses, have them cut out the glasses if you did not already do so before they arrived. They can fold the “arms” of the sunglasses to make them look more realistic.

**Take your sunglasses home as a reminder of how God changed Paul's life and how God can change us!**



## 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: What Changed?

The Holy Spirit changes us on the inside. But sometimes we change on the outside, too! We are going to play a game where you'll try to figure out what has changed. I'm going to go first, then each of you will get a turn to play! Everybody take a good look at me. I'll ask you to close your eyes and I'm going to change one thing about me. When I tell you to open your eyes, see if you can figure out the one thing that changed.

Have kids close their eyes while you change one thing about yourself. You could untie a shoe, take off a hat, roll up a shirt sleeve, etc. When you are ready, tell kids to open their eyes and see if they can figure out what changed.

Once they figure out what changed, pick a kid to be the leader and have the rest of the kids close their eyes while she changes one thing about herself. Repeat as time allows.



## 9:00 Service