

## Life Changer - Family Lesson I

**Divine Attribute:** God is Life Changer

**Heart Response:** Believe in Him

**Memory Verse:** 2 Corinthians 5:17 “Anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!”

### Points of Emphasis:

1. We are all sinners and need Jesus to change our lives.
2. Only God can change our hearts and lives.
3. When you believe in Jesus, you become a new person.
4. When God changes our lives, we want to tell other people.

### Family Worship

Gather your family and play the [worship video](#) found on the curriculum resource page! Have fun, sing loud, and follow along with the motions!

### Memory Verse

Supplies:

[Memory verse video](#)

Optional printed memory verse poster

Open your Bible to 2 Corinthians 5:17. Show your child that this is where we find today’s verse in the Bible. Watch the memory verse video together. If you printed the memory verse poster, display it for your child to see. Practice the verse and motions with the video. Then, practice it as a family. Consider saying it in funny voices or as you stand, hop, or other fun motions. Maybe even try making it a song!

### Bible Lesson

*\*\*Note to - the lesson is written to be read like a story. Read the bold words aloud. The words in parenthesis give direction to pause, allow for response, or read Scripture.*

Supplies:

Bible

Flashlight

(Open your Bible to Acts 9.) **A long time ago, there was a man named Saul. Saul was a Pharisee. Can you say “Pharisee?”** (Allow your child to repeat.) **Pharisees were a group of people who made a lot of rules about God and how to live. They felt that knowing and keeping their rules made God love them and made them special. Saul and the Pharisees wanted to make sure people around them were obeying the same rules that they obeyed. Saul didn’t feel like he needed help. He thought he was in charge because he knew the rules and followed them.**

**The Pharisees didn’t believe that Jesus was God’s Son. They did not worship Jesus. Pharisees thought that no one should worship Jesus. The Pharisees put followers of Jesus in prison. They thought this pleased God and believed it was the right thing to do.**

**Saul also did not believe Jesus was God’s Son. He thought following the rules was the right way. He believed that following Jesus was the wrong way.**

**Is it right to follow Jesus? YES! Is Jesus God’s Son? YES! Why should we follow Jesus?** (Allow for responses.) **He is our creator. He made us, so he knows what is best for us. He also came to rescue us from sin and death because he loves us so much. Jesus is the only way we can be made right with God and have a relationship with him.**

**Saul was not choosing Jesus. He was choosing his own way, and he hurt a lot of people. Saul decided to go to different places and stop other people from following Jesus. He was even**

putting people in prison if they were following Jesus.

However, God had different plans for Saul. Let's find out how God changed Saul's heart. One day, Saul is on his way to the city of Damascus. He is looking for followers of Jesus to stop them from telling others the Good News that Jesus is God's Son and that he died and rose again to rescue God's people from sin and death. Suddenly, a bright light from heaven shines down. (Shine a flashlight down onto the ground.) Saul falls down onto the ground and hears a voice say, "Saul! Saul! Why are you working so hard against me?"

"Who are you, Lord?" asks Saul.

The voice replies, "I am Jesus, the one you are working so hard against." Then Jesus tells Saul to go to the city and open the eyes of the people there. He says to Saul, "I am sending you to turn them from darkness to light. I want their sins to be forgiven. They will be forgiven when they believe in me." Acts 26:17-18.

Saul gets up from the ground, and when he opens his eyes, he is blind. Blind means he cannot see anything, only darkness. So Saul's friends lead him by the hand to Damascus.

When Saul gets to the city, a follower of Jesus named Ananias is there. Can you say "Ananias?" (Allow your child to repeat.) The Lord told Ananias in a dream to go speak to Saul. Ananias is afraid of Saul because he knows Saul has been so mean to followers of Jesus. But the Lord tells Ananias that Saul is going to obey Jesus. So Ananias obeys God and goes to Saul.

Saul has been blind for three days when Ananias goes to him. Ananias places his hands on Saul's eyes. Ananias says, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit."

Instantly something like scales falls off of Saul's eyes and he can see again. God heals Saul's eyes so he can see again. After that, Saul believes in Jesus and obeys God. He is baptized and starts following Jesus and telling others about him.

God changes Saul's life. He makes him brand new on the inside. Instead of hating Jesus and the people who followed him, Saul falls in love with Jesus. Do you remember our new memory verse? "Anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!" 2 Corinthians 5:17. (Repeat with your child a couple of times.)

When you believe in Christ Jesus, he changes your life and makes you a new person inside. "It is all a gift from God. He brought us back to himself through Christ's death on the cross. And He has given us the task of bringing others back to Him through Christ." 2 Corinthians 5:18.

God is the only one who can change us on the inside. We cannot do it ourselves by trying harder or following all the right rules. We all sin, but the Good News is that Jesus died for us on the cross so we can belong to him. He loves us so much that he had a plan to save us. He can change our lives, and we can be made right with him.

## **Prayer**

Dear Lord, thank you for loving us. Help us to see that you can change our lives like you changed Saul's life. When we believe in you, you will make us brand new. Thank you for sending Jesus. Help me to see I cannot be changed without you. Amen.

## **Zacchaeus Coloring Sheet**

Supplies:

Coloring sheet (found on [Kids Resource Page](#))

Crayons

Have your child color the picture. While your child is coloring, consider asking them the review questions below. These questions can also be

saved for conversations over dinner or while driving.

### **Review Questions**

1. **Where was Saul going when God caused him to be blind?** (He was on the way to Damascus.)
2. **What did Saul plan to do in Damascus?** (Stop followers of Jesus from telling people the Good News and throw them in jail.)
3. **What did Saul believe pleased God?** (Following the religious rules.)
4. **How did God blind Saul?** (He sent a blinding light from heaven and things like scales covered his eyes.)

5. **Who loved Saul and spoke to him?** (Jesus.)
6. **When Saul believed in Jesus and the scales fell off his eyes, what happened?** (Saul could see. He was baptized. He started telling others about Jesus and how he changes lives.)

### **Optional Additional Activities**

#### **I Was Blind**

##### **Supplies**

Bandana

Make a simple obstacle course with your child using chairs or blocks. Blindfold your child and have the rest of your family help them through the obstacle course. Tell your child that when we go through life without Jesus, it is like we are blind. When we believe in Jesus and choose to follow him, he gives us the Holy Spirit to live in us. We cannot see his Spirit, but he is in us directing us and allowing us to “see.” We can then love others with his love and tell others about his love and how he changed us inside. The way we act and talk changes because of God living in us. We cannot change ourselves. We need Jesus to transform us. Now have your child try to go through the course without the blindfold on.

