

12. Paul Is Changed (Acts 9:1-19)

“As for us, we can’t stop speaking about what we have seen and heard.” (Acts 4:20)



PLAN

Session Outline

1. Gather

Greeting
Paul Is Changed
What Changed?
Transition to Explore

2. Explore

Sacred Conversation
Hear and See the Bible Story
Interact with the Bible Story
Say the Bible Verse
Transition to Respond

3. Respond

Colors Change
Turn Hate to Love
Loving God,
Loving Neighbor
Transition to Bless

4. Bless

Inviting
Praising
Blessing
At Home with God

Supplies

Basic Supplies: CD player | DVD player | Projector or screen | Television | Craft glue | Crayons | Markers | Offering basket | Paper | Paper plates | Pencils | Scissors | Tape

Gather: Bell | Carpet squares

Explore: Bell

Respond: Bell | Candle | Carpet squares | Coffee filters | JWCC pictures | Multipurpose lighter | Spray bottles | Water

Bless: No additional supplies

Before You Teach

Born in Tarsus, a major center for Greek education and culture, Paul was a Jew and had studied with Gamaliel, a leading teacher in Jerusalem. Paul (Hebrew name: Saul) was a Pharisee. The Pharisees were Jewish leaders who believed the best way to serve God was to strictly obey the Law of Moses.

In Acts 9, we see Paul living out his beliefs. His strong beliefs as a Pharisee resulted in his determination to make trouble for the followers of Jesus. Paul was traveling to Damascus, armed with letters to the synagogue leaders, to arrest Jesus’ followers and take them back to Jerusalem.

As Paul traveled to Damascus, he acted in a manner consistent with his current beliefs, and was determined to act on those beliefs. However, on the road Paul had a life-changing encounter: he met Jesus. Paul was blinded and had to be led into Damascus by others, not the entry he had planned! As a result of his meeting with the risen Christ, Paul was changed. Paul ultimately showed the same determination in recruiting Jesus followers as he had shown persecuting those followers.

Paul’s conversion story is an example of God’s ability to use anybody to carry out God’s work. With his history of persecuting Christians, Paul seemed an unlikely candidate to spread God’s Word. When Ananias, a follower of Jesus, received instructions to go to talk to Paul, he questioned this direction, saying, “Lord, I have heard many reports about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem.” But God had a plan to use Paul to spread the news of Jesus to the Gentiles, kings, and the people of Israel. God was able to use Paul’s zeal and determination in a positive way. Prior to his encounter with Jesus, Paul was living out his beliefs; after his encounter, Paul lived out his belief in God and shared the news of Jesus’ love with others.

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GATHER

Greeting

Before class: Display your choice of an attendance chart (Class Kit—pp. 16-17 or pp. 18 & 15).

- Play “Changed” (Annual Music CD).
 - Welcome and greet each child as they enter the room.
 - Indicate the location of the offering basket.
 - Help children mark their attendance inside the building on the Community Attendance Chart (opt.).
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A—Paul Is Changed (Activity Sheet)

Before class: Obtain Activity Sheets (Session 12).

- Distribute “Hate to Love”/“I Am Different” (pp. 25-26).
 - Encourage the children to follow the journaling prompt and complete the activities.
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OR

B—What Changed? (Game)

- Choose one child to be IT. IT must leave the room for one minute. While IT is outside of the room, let the children decide something they will change in the classroom.
- When IT returns, he or she must guess what has changed in the room.
- Continue play, giving other children a turn to be IT.
- Play the game as long as time allows.

SAY: In today’s Bible story, there will be a big change.

Transition to Explore

Before class: Obtain bell and carpet squares.

- Ring the bell to acknowledge that it is time to transition.
- Direct the children to choose carpet squares (or equivalent items), then sit in a circle on the floor.

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EXPLORE

Sacred Conversation

- Ask a few wondering questions.

ASK: I wonder:

- What made you laugh this week?
 - How did you help someone this week?
 - What are you grateful for?
 - Was there a difficult part of your week, and what made it better?
 - Where did you see God this week?
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Hear and See the Bible Story

Before class: Prepare television and DVD player.

- Read the Bible story (*CEB Deep Blue Kids Bible—Acts 9:1-19*).
- Watch the Deep Blue Adventure DVD Session 12.

ASK: What has changed in your life?

Interact with the Bible Story

Before class: Obtain Bible Story Sheets (Session 12).

- Distribute the Bible Story Sheets and draw attention to Bible Story Retelling (p. 1).
 - Assign the two roles, then present “Paul Is Changed.”
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Say the Bible Verse

Before class: Display Poster: Unit 3 Bible Verse (Class Kit—pp. 14 & 19). Review Unit 3 sign language (Leader Guide—p. 96).

- Recite the Bible verse: “As for us, we can’t stop speaking about what we have seen and heard” (Acts 4:20).
 - Invite the children to say and sign the Bible verse with you.
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Transition to Respond

Before class: Obtain bell.

- Ring the bell, then invite the children to put away their carpet squares.

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RESPOND

A—Colors Change (Art)

Before class: Obtain coffee filters and spray bottles of water.

- Distribute coffee filters. Show the children how to fold the filter into fourths. Using markers, fill the coffee filters with colorful designs. Encourage creativity.
- Place the decorated filter on top of a paper plate. Then allow the children to spray the filter with the water. Spray thoroughly, so colors soak all the way through.
- Unfold the filter and allow to dry. Let children notice how the designs and colors changed.

SAY: In today’s Bible story, Paul was changed.

OR

B—Turn Hate to Love (Logical)

Before class: Photocopy “Turn Hate to Love” (Leader Guide—p. 78), one for each child.

SAY: At first, Paul hated the followers of Jesus and was not nice to them. But one day Jesus spoke to Paul and everything changed.

- Distribute photocopies of “Turn Hate to Love” and direct the children to solve the puzzle.

SAY: You can only change one letter at a time. Three of the letters will stay the same, and the empty box is the letter you need to change.

Loving God, Loving Neighbor

Before class: Obtain Map 7: Deep Blue Shores (Class Kit—p. 8) and the cut out Figures/Pieces: Deep Blue Shores Map 7 (Class Kit—p. 25). Display Mission Poster (Class Kit—p. 5). Look at the website for the Wesley Centre. Select a few pictures to show the children and print. (<https://www.jwcc.co.za>)

- Display the Deep Blue Shores Map 7 on the floor or table. While the children interact with the map and figures, talk about the mission. Share the information on the mission poster. Show pictures.

SAY: We are learning about the John Wesley Community Centre. The mission organization helps children and families in South Africa. These pictures are of some of the people who are a part of the John Wesley Community Centre.

- Let the children display the pictures around the room.

Transition to Bless

Before class: Obtain bell, candle, multipurpose lighter (or battery-operated candle), carpet squares.

- Ring the bell to signal transition.
- Direct the children to choose carpet squares, then sit in a circle on the floor.
- Light a candle to symbolize that this is a special time together (*optional*).

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BLESS

Inviting

Before class: Continue to display Poster: Unit 3 Bible Verse (Class Kit—pp. 14 & 19) where it is easily accessible for children. Obtain envelope containing cut out Poster Pieces: Unit 3 Bible Verse Poster (Class Kit—p. 27).

- Gather the children around the Bible-verse poster.
- Display the poster pieces.
- Invite a child to attach to the poster the “Paul Is Changed” poster piece.

PRAY: Dear God, thank you for helping us to know it is OK to change and for showing us your way. Amen.

Praising

Before class: Obtain CD player and Deep Blue Song Sheets.

- Distribute the song sheets for “Changed” (Annual Music CD).
 - Sing the song “Changed” (Annual Music CD).
 - Collect the song sheets and store until the next session.
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Blessing

SAY: This month the Bible stories are about spreading the message of Jesus.

ASK: Who remembers today’s Bible verse?

SAY: Together let’s shout out our love for Jesus.

- Invite the children to follow your instructions.
 - Whisper: “I love Jesus.”
 - Turn to your neighbor and say, “I love Jesus.”
 - Shout: “I love Jesus.”
 - Say, “Amen.”
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At Home with God

Before class: Obtain Bible Story Sheets leaflets.

ASK: What is one thing that you learned today? Can you share with your family what you learned?

- Send home with each child Bible Story Sheets—Session 12 leaflet.

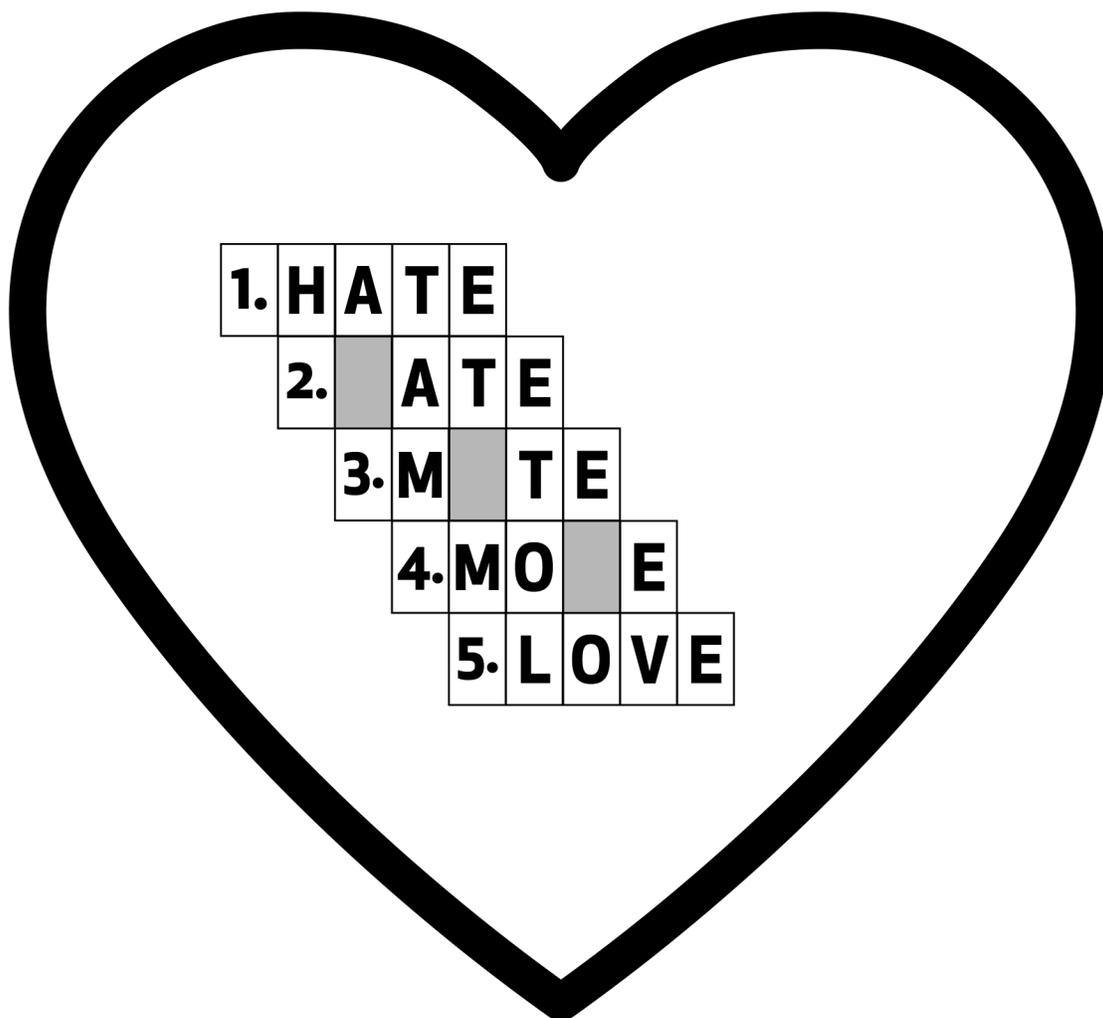
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Turn Hate to Love

Paul hated the followers of Jesus, and he was very cruel to them. But one day, Jesus spoke to him and everything changed.

Change the word "hate" into "love." You can only change one letter at a time. Three of the letters will stay the same, and the empty box is the letter you need to change.



Tip: For #3, read Matthew 7:3-5 in your Bible. The word for #3 is another way of saying the word "splinter" in Matthew.