



11

Saul Is Converted

Key Theme

- Jesus will build His church.

Key Passages

- Acts 9:1–9, 9:13–15; 2 Corinthians 5:17

Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Describe how Saul was converted.
- Contrast Saul (Paul) before and after his conversion.



Lesson Overview



Come On In

Students will practice the memory verse by working on the Memory Verse Review Sheet and reciting the verse to a friend.



Activity 1: Saul Is Converted Class Notes

Students will fill out the Saul Is Converted Class Notes as you study the lesson.



Studying God's Word

Jesus appeared to Saul in a bright light. When confronted with the truth of who Jesus is, Saul became a believer. His life changed from a persecutor to a preacher of the gospel of Jesus Christ, and he endured many trials for preaching truth by the grace of God.



Activity 2: Truth Be Told Review Game

Students will review the lesson by playing the Truth Be Told Review Game.

Lesson Preparation

WHAT YOU WILL DO

WHAT YOU WILL NEED



COME ON IN

- Print the Memory Verse Review Sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.
- Print and cut the Memory Verse Review Signs from the Resource DVD-ROM.
- Tape the signs randomly around the room at students' eye level.

- Memory Verse Poster
- Memory Verse Review Sheet for each student
- Memory Verse Signs taped around the room
- Tape
- Pencils



SAUL IS CONVERTED CLASS NOTES

- Print one Saul Is Converted Class Notes from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student. Keep the answer key for your use.

- Saul Is Converted Class Notes for each student
- Saul Is Converted Answer Key
- Pencils



STUDYING GOD'S WORD

- Print the four Lesson Illustrations from the Resource DVD-ROM.
- Study the Prepare to Share section.
- Go Before the Throne.

- Lesson Illustrations
- Poster putty
- Student Take Home Sheets



TRUTH BE TOLD REVIEW GAME

- Assemble the Truth Be Told Game Board Posters found in your curriculum kit.
- Print the Truth Be Told Game Components from the Resource DVD-ROM. Keep the Truth Be Told Question Answer Key for your use.
- Cut apart the Truth Be Told Number Cards. These will determine how many spaces to move. OR bring in dice or a game spinner to be used to move teams around the board.
- Cut apart the Truth Be Told Question Cards.
- Bring buttons or other small items to use as game pieces for each team and poster putty for adhering game pieces to the game board.

- Truth Be Told Game Board
- Truth Be Told Number Cards OR use dice or a game spinner
- Truth Be Told Question Cards
- Truth Be Told Question Answer Key
- Buttons or other small items as game pieces for each team
- Poster putty



MEMORY VERSE REVIEW GAME (OPTIONAL)

- This is an optional activity to use in some or all of the lessons to review the memory verse if time allows.

- Memory Verse Poster
- Optional: popcorn snack



Memory Verse

Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.



Prepare to Share

SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the key passages listed above with this background.

All believers who heed the words of Jesus Christ to repent and believe in the gospel (Mark 1:15) become new creations in Christ Jesus—the old is gone and the new has come (2 Corinthians 5:17). Believers are born again to a living hope through the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead (1 Peter 1:3). How this happens in the hearts of each individual is a work of God. Each transformation is dramatic in that God seals the soul of the believer for eternity (Ephesians 1:13–14).

However, some circumstances that surround the conversion of each believer may not seem as dramatic as others. God redeems some at a very young age from a Christian family, others attend church all their lives, trying to live lives honoring to God, and then one day they understand the truth of the gospel as they repent and turn to Christ as Savior. Still others live lives of darkness, sin, and rebellion—and God reveals His truth to them suddenly and unexpectedly, bringing them out of the darkness and into the light (John 8:12).

But there have been few conversion experiences that would top that of the Jew, Saul of Tarsus, who boasted of his confidence in his life and background. He had been circumcised according to Jewish law. He was a Hebrew of Hebrews, a descendant of Benjamin, of the house of Abraham—a true son of Israel. As a Pharisee, he was zealous for the Jewish law and openly and passionately persecuted the church—those who proclaimed Jesus as Lord (Philippians 3:4–6).

And yet, he was dramatically transformed into a new creation in Christ and then used by God to start numerous churches and write much of the New Testament. How did the Lord Jesus Christ get this murderous Pharisee's attention? It happened on the road to Damascus where Saul fully intended to find men and women of the Way (followers of Jesus) and bring them bound to Jerusalem for persecution and trial (Acts 9:1–2).

Jesus literally knocked Saul to the ground as he journeyed. He saw a bright light and heard a voice speaking to him, the Lord Jesus Himself, asking, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?" (Acts 9:3–4). Saul was astonished and afraid—to the point of asking what the Lord would have him do. The Lord had something for him—and it would start in the city of Damascus, the very city he was headed to in order to further destroy the church and the people of Christ. But the Lord's plan was far different than Saul's plan. Saul had been struck down and humbled and was afraid. The Lord had made

him blind, and Saul was helplessly led by the hand into the city (Acts 9:8).

The zealous Pharisee, Saul, had met the risen Christ who called him into ministry in a spectacular way. The Lord declared that Saul (who was also known as Paul) was His chosen vessel, and he would bear the name of Christ to the Gentiles, to kings, and to the children of Israel (Acts 9:15). Jesus had plans for Saul, and Saul's heart was dramatically changed so that "immediately he preached Christ in the synagogues, that He [Jesus] is the Son of God" (Acts 9:20)!

Saul was a new creation in Christ. This Hebrew of Hebrews who had persecuted the Way by binding and then delivering both men and women to prison (Acts 22:4); this Saul who had held the clothes of the murderers as they dragged the very first martyr for Christ, Stephen, out of the city and stoned him because of his faith and love for Jesus (Acts 7:57–59); this man now suffered for His Lord through beatings, stonings, shipwrecks, peril, robbers, weariness, toil, sleeplessness, hunger, thirst, cold, nakedness, and many other things (2 Corinthians 11:25–27). The Lord Jesus Christ had made Paul a new creation. And after meeting the living Jesus, he would no longer boast except in the Cross of the Lord Jesus Christ (Galatians 6:14).

HISTORICAL/APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

If anyone deserves to be punished and to pay for his sins, it would be a person who has persecuted believers, hunted them down, imprisoned them, assisted with their murder, and blasphemed the name of God. Right? That may be how we think sometimes, but the truth is that all of us have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). All sin is an affront to a holy God, no matter how small we think it may be, or how vile. The fact is, God's grace is greater than all our sin—than any sin. No sin is too vile that God cannot forgive it, and no sinner is so bad that God cannot redeem him.

We see this played out in the life of Saul of Tarsus. Saul was a fervently religious Jew who thought he was serving God by persecuting members of a new sect. They called themselves the Way (Acts 9:2, 19:9), and they claimed that their leader, who had been crucified for claiming to be God, had risen from the dead. Further, they were preaching that only by faith in this Man's name—Jesus—could anyone be saved. Saul would not believe the Man's "lies" and was zealously persecuting the followers of Jesus, even to the point of entering houses and dragging off men and women to prison (Acts 8:3).

It was in the context of Saul's ongoing, zealous persecution of the church that he encountered the risen Christ on the road to Damascus (Acts 9). After his vision of Jesus and sudden conversion, the blinded Saul was told to go into the city of Damascus and to wait for instructions. Several days later, Jesus appeared to a disciple named Ananias and told him to go lay his hands on Saul so that he would receive his sight. Ananias responded as we might respond. He said something like, "What? You mean the Saul of Tarsus who has been persecuting the church and killing the saints?! You mean the guy who came here with the purpose of imprisoning believers?!" And Jesus replied to him, "Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name's sake" (Acts 9:15–16).

Years later, while writing to his young disciple Timothy, Saul, also called Paul, would recount his conversion experience:

And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry, although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant, with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life (1 Timothy 1:12–16).

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ is "exceedingly abundant" toward sinners—all sinners. That was the reason Jesus came to earth, lived a perfect life, and then suffered and died—to save sinners. There is no sin too great that God cannot forgive, and no sinner so bad that God cannot change. God delights in taking persecutors and turning them into worshippers.

Paul said that he had obtained mercy that he might be an example of the great patience of Christ for those who would believe. And he serves as an example for all of us who do believe. If we think that God will not forgive us or someone we know and love for some sin, we can think of Paul. And remember that Jesus is all-forgiving; His death on the Cross is sufficient payment for ALL the sins of those who repent and turn to Him.

All sinners will be judged. As Paul told the Corinthians:

Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites,

nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God (1 Corinthians 6:9–10).

But, we can thank God that those who have repented of their sins and trusted in Christ—in His perfect life, His substitutionary death, and His powerful Resurrection—are forgiven, washed, cleansed, and made righteous because of what Jesus did on the Cross. Paul followed this bad news of judgment to the Corinthians with the good news of forgiveness.

And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God (1 Corinthians 6:11).

There is no sin we might commit that is so great that it is beyond the reach of God's forgiveness in Jesus Christ. And there is no person who is so wicked that the grace of God may not touch his heart to convert him. No! Jesus is exceedingly abundant in grace. He died that men could be forgiven. As the writer of this hymn so elegantly wrote:

Marvelous grace of our loving Lord,
Grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt!
Yonder on Calvary's mount outpoured,
There where the blood of the Lamb was spilt.

Grace, grace, God's grace,
Grace that will pardon and cleanse within;
Grace, grace, God's grace,
Grace that is greater than all our sin!

For more information on this topic, see the Online Resource Page.



BEFORE THE THRONE

Jesus, you are glorious! The incredible way you reached down to Saul the Pharisee and used him for your glory reveals your grace and mercy. Saul's life of faith after his conversion is an example for me. He willingly suffered in order to preach the name of his Lord. Circumstances didn't deter him from a life of faith. He kept his eyes on the eternal. Lord, I pray for such faith. Even little things distract me and cause me to feel sorry for myself. Grow in me, Holy Spirit, a heart joyfully surrendered to your will—one that is content in suffering. And may my students learn from Paul. Give them an understanding of what it means to be a new creation in Christ, that they would live their lives unashamedly surrendered to you and your Word, no matter the sacrifice.



COME ON IN

As students arrive . . .

- They will complete the Memory Verse Review Sheet. If time allows, have the students recite the verse together, to each other, or to you.

This time at the beginning of class should be used to review the memory verse. We have provided an activity sheet on the Resource DVD-ROM for you to use. You may have other ideas and ways to encourage your students to memorize the verse.



After all the students arrive, pray with them before beginning the lesson.



REVIEW

Using the Lesson Theme Posters provided with each lesson, quickly review the previous lesson(s) with your students. Take 5 to 10 minutes to reinforce the important truths the students have heard so far in your class.

Ask the children questions about the previous lessons as you display the Lesson Theme Posters. Reflect briefly on the passages you read, bringing the objectives and themes back into focus. This will refresh the truths in your students' minds and maintain continuity as you teach through the lessons.



Saul Is Converted Class Notes

MATERIALS

- Saul Is Converted Class Notes for each student
- Saul Is Converted Class Notes Answer Key
- Pencils

INSTRUCTIONS

Print the class notes for each student. Pass them out at the beginning of class. Have students fill in the blanks as you study the lesson.

The class notes are designed and written simply. Please encourage and help your students to read them as the class progresses. They are an excellent means to review important lesson principles.

We will be working on these class notes as we study the Bible verses. Do not work ahead. I'll let you know when to fill in something.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

As we complete the class notes today, we will see what happened when Jesus appeared to a man who didn't believe He was the Son of God.



Studying God's Word

READ THE WORD

Refer to Lesson 9 Lesson Theme Posters. The Christians in Jerusalem were being persecuted, put in jail, beaten, and even killed for their faith. This persecution was meant to STOP the Christians. But God used it to spread the gospel to more people. The believers would not stop preaching in the

► Because of the age and ability of 1st and 2nd graders to read and comprehend, we have written these lessons for you to read the Scriptures to the students. However, please encourage your students to bring Bibles to class. And if you have strong readers, by all means have them participate by reading God's Word.

Acts 9:1-2

► Re-read the verses or the portion of the verse(s) that answer the questions you are asking of the text.

name of Jesus! And as they ran from their homes, they shared the truth about Jesus to those they met.

Refer to Lesson 10 Lesson Theme Poster. The truth about Jesus was going into different nations! God sent Philip to Samaria to preach. And later, He sent Philip to the Ethiopian man to explain the truth about Jesus to him. The man heard, believed, and was baptized. And when he went back to his own country, he probably talked about Jesus to his family and friends. And since he worked for the queen of Ethiopia, he might have told her about Jesus, too!

While all of this persecution was going on, there was one Jewish man named Saul who really wanted to get rid of the Christians. He was very religious, and he knew the Jewish law really well. And Saul believed that what Jesus said went against the law. So, Saul made it his mission to have the Christians arrested and put in jail—or even killed! This man was hated and feared by the Christians.

Today we are going to see what the Bible has to tell us about this powerful Jew named Saul, and we'll see how God had something good planned even in the middle of what looked like a terrible situation.

I'm going to pass these pictures out to some of you. When we get to this part of the lesson, you will put these up on the board. I'll tell you when to bring them up and put them on the board for us. *Pass out the four Lesson Illustrations.*

I'm going to turn to Acts 9:1-2. We are going to read about this man named Saul and the amazing thing God did to him! Listen carefully. *Read the verses enthusiastically.*

EXAMINE THE WORD

Observe the Text

? **What was Saul doing against the disciples of the Lord?** *Acts 9:1. Breathing threats and murder!*

Saul was angry. He was threatening to arrest and even murder the Christians.

? **Who did Saul go to for permission to arrest the Christians?** *Re-read Acts 9:1. The high priest.*

? **Saul was looking for men and women who were "of the Way." What does that mean, "of the Way"?** *Allow discussion.*

It means Christians. Saul was looking for men, women, and even children who said they were Christian.

? **What did Saul want to do with them when he found them?** *Acts 9:2. Bring them bound to Jerusalem.*

? Who has the first picture? It shows Christians with a soldier being arrested and led away. Bring it up and put it on the board for us. *Have the student bring up Lesson Illustration #1 and attach it to the board with poster putty.*

Saul hated Jesus's followers. He wanted to be rid of them! So he got permission from the high priest to find Christian men and women, arrest them, and bring them to Jerusalem to be persecuted, put in prison, or maybe even killed!

Let's keep reading. Listen to what happened next! This is what happened to Saul as he traveled to Damascus. Listen carefully! *Read Acts 9:3–5.*

? Wow! What did Saul suddenly see on the road to Damascus? *Acts 9:3. A bright light from heaven.*

? And what did Saul do when he saw this bright light? *Re-read Acts 9:4. He fell to the ground.*

? Right! Who has Picture #2? It shows Saul on the ground—knocked over by the bright light of the Lord! Put that up on the board, please. *Allow student to attach Lesson Illustration #2 to the board.*

? Saul heard a voice along with seeing the bright light. What did the voice say? *Re-read Acts 9:4. Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?*

? What did Saul ask the voice? *Re-read Acts 9:5. Who are you, Lord?*

? Who was speaking to Saul? *Acts 9:5. It was Jesus!*

? That's right. Jesus was talking to Saul. Saul was on his way to persecute the followers of Jesus, but Jesus told him that he was persecuting the Lord!

? How did Saul feel about all this? Listen to the next verse. *Read Acts 9:6. He was trembling and astonished!*

Saul was probably afraid. He was trembling and astonished!

? Saul asked the Lord something. What did he ask? *Re-read Acts 9:6. Lord, what do You want me to do?*

? Right. And what did the Lord tell Saul to do? *Acts 9:6. Arise and go into the city. You will be told what to do.*

Wow! Saul was suddenly surrounded by a bright light from heaven. He fell down on the ground and heard the voice of the Lord speaking to him! And the Bible says the men who were with Saul just stood there, speechless. They heard the Lord's voice, but couldn't see anyone!

? Let's keep reading. Listen to Acts 9:8–9. *Read the verses.*

? So, Saul got up to go and opened his eyes. But what had happened to him? *Acts 9:8. He couldn't see!*

Yes. Saul was blind! He couldn't see! He had to be led by the hand into the city where the Lord told him to go.

Acts 9:3–5

► Use the New Testament History Poster included with your teacher kit as you teach the lesson. Emphasize that Jesus ministered only 3 years, and He lived only about 35 years. Yet His life changed the world forever and brought eternal life to all who believe.

Acts 9:6–7

Acts 9:8–9

Acts 9:13–15

- ? Who has Picture #3? It shows Saul being led by his servant into the city. Bring that up, please, and put it on the board. *Allow student to attach Lesson Illustration #3 to the board.*

So the Lord wanted Saul to go to the city of Damascus. Suddenly, things were different for him. He had seen and heard the Lord and he was blind! But this was all God's plan for Saul.

God is always working! We can't forget that. We see it all the time in the Bible! While Saul made his way to Damascus, God was speaking to a man named Ananias. God told Ananias to go and meet Saul.

Ananias was a Christian and he knew that Saul hated Christians. I am going to read what Ananias said to the Lord about meeting Saul! It's in Acts 9:13–15. Listen carefully! *Read Acts 9:13–15 enthusiastically.*

- ? What did Ananias know about Saul? What had Saul done? *Acts 9:13. He had done harm to the saints in Jerusalem.*

Oh, yes! Ananias had heard of Saul. He had heard about the terrible things Saul had done to the Christians in Jerusalem. And he knew that Saul was coming after the Christians there in Damascus, too!

But the Lord answered Ananias and told him that He had His own plan for Saul. Saul would tell many people about Jesus.

- ? Who would Saul tell? *Re-read Acts 9:15. He would tell Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel, the Jews.*

Saul would become God's servant and tell others about Jesus! Of course, Ananias obeyed and went to Saul. And the Lord used Ananias to give Saul his sight back.

- ? Who has the fourth picture? It shows Ananias and Saul. God sent Ananias to help Saul get his sight back. Will you put it on the board, please? *Allow student to attach Lesson Illustration #4 to the board.*

Discover the Truth

Refer to Lesson Illustrations on the board. God's plan for Saul was far different from what Saul had thought! But God was in control of everything! He stopped Saul with a bright light and spoke to him! Saul was blind for three days until Ananias came and talked to him. The Lord Jesus had a plan for Saul, and Saul was now a believer! This man, who was trying to destroy Christians, was now a Christian, too, and would preach the gospel to Gentiles, Jews, and kings. Saul was very different. Saul's new faith in Jesus completely changed him.

? Let's work on our class notes now. We'll match the shapes and the words with the same shapes in the sentences. Someone read #1 for us. Who was persecuting those who believed in Jesus? *Assign a reader. Saul. Have students complete #1 on the class notes.*

? OK. Who will read #2? Why was Saul going to Damascus? *Assign a reader. Persecute. Have students complete #2 on the class notes.*

? Right. And what does persecute mean? Someone read #3 for us. *Assign a reader. Faith. Have students complete #3 on the class notes.*

Yes. Saul didn't believe Jesus was God's Son. So he persecuted those who did believe and put their faith in Jesus.

? How about #4? Who will read that one for us? What stopped Saul? *Assign a reader. Heaven. Have students complete #4 on the class notes.*

? Someone read #5. What did Saul do? *Assign a reader. Fell. Have students complete #5 on the class notes.*

? Who will read #6? Saul heard a voice. Who was it? *Assign a reader. Jesus. Have students complete #6 on the class notes.*

? Go back to the class notes. Who will read #7 for us? What happened in Saul's heart? *Assign a reader. Believed. Have students complete #7 on the class notes.*

Discover the Truth

Refer to Lesson Illustrations on the board. Saul was completely different. This powerful, Jewish religious leader who had wanted to KILL Christians and destroy the church had met the living Jesus Christ! He was knocked to the ground by a bright light. At that meeting with the Lord, Saul lost his sight and he had to be led by the hand into the city. There he met with Ananias whom God had sent to Saul to heal his blindness! Saul was now an apostle of Jesus Christ. And he began his travels from city to city preaching and praising the name of Jesus.

One more thing, Saul was also known as Paul. From now on we will read about Paul the apostle. But we need to remember that Paul is the same man—Saul—who hated the Christians but was completely changed when he met Jesus Christ. I don't want you to forget that!

? So will someone read #8 on the class notes? What was Saul's other name? *Assign a reader. Paul. Have students complete #8 on the class notes.*

If time allows, do a quick review of each point on the class notes.





Truth Be Told Review Game

MATERIALS

- Truth Be Told Game Board
- Truth Be Told Question Cards
- Truth Be Told Question Answer Key
- Truth Be Told Number Cards (or dice or spinner)
- Buttons or other small items as game pieces for each team
- Poster putty

INSTRUCTIONS

Divide your class into teams. Teams will take turns drawing a Truth Be Told Question Card. Team members will take turns answering the questions. They will quickly determine an answer and give it. If they are correct, they will draw a Truth Be Told Number Card and move that number of spaces on the game board. As play proceeds, follow the directions on the game board. Alternate between teams as long as time permits.

We are going to review now by playing “Truth Be Told.” I’ll put you into teams. Teams will take turns picking a question card

and answering the question. If the answer is correct, you will draw a number card and move your game piece that many spaces. All directions on the board must be followed. **Place used cards underneath the stacks.**

Answers to the questions are provided on the Truth Be Told Question Answer Key on the Resource DVD-ROM.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

Paul persecuted Christians until Jesus appeared to him in a bright light. When Paul met Jesus, everything changed for him. He became a believer and a preacher of the gospel. He suffered greatly for his new faith. But because of God’s grace, he was able to live a new life in Jesus.

If you find you have extra time, please consider reviewing the memory verse with your class using the activity below.





Memory Verse Review Game (Optional)

Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

MATERIALS

- Memory Verse Poster
- Optional: popcorn snack

INSTRUCTIONS

Divide students into two or more groups. Have them all squat down so they can stand up quickly. Each group will say a word in the memory verse. Have each group “pop” up as they say the next word, then squat back down. Continue through the whole verse taking turns “popping up.” Repeat.

We’re going to see if we all remember the words to our memory verse. We’ll divide into groups. Now all of you squat down like

this. *Show example of squatting down so you can pop up quickly then back down.* We’re going to pretend that we are popcorn getting ready to pop! The first group will start by saying the first word in our memory verse together while they all “pop” up then go back down quickly. Then the other group will say the next word in the verse and “pop” up. And we’ll keep going back and forth, popping like popcorn, until we are done with the verse. Okay, are you ready?

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

God used Paul to preach the gospel to Gentiles AND Jews. The gospel is for everyone who believes, just like our memory verse says.



Applying God’s Word

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

Refer to Lesson 11 Lesson Theme Poster. Saul started out on a journey to seek out and arrest the men and women who were following the way of Jesus Christ. His plan was to arrest them and take them to Jerusalem. Saul thought this was pleasing to God, because he believed the disciples of Jesus were against God.

Then suddenly, Jesus appeared to Saul in an amazing way. A bright, blinding light appeared from heaven, and Saul fell to the ground. It was Jesus calling Saul to serve Him! Saul, who was also called Paul, was changed from being a man who wanted to kill believers, into a believer of Jesus Christ himself. God had a plan for Saul to preach the gospel to the Jews, to the Gentiles, and even to kings!

- You may want to have a popcorn snack during the Applying God’s Word review section.

GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

It is amazing to think that someone like Saul, who was totally against Jesus, could be changed into a man who loved Jesus so much that he was willing to give up his life to preach the gospel to many people. Saul became a totally different person after Jesus appeared to him.

? What do you think caused him to change so much? *Allow discussion. Jesus changed him!*

2 Corinthians 5:17

Yes! Jesus changed him. And the Bible tells us that Jesus can change anyone who turns to Him! Listen as I read 2 Corinthians 5:17. *Read 2 Corinthians 5:17 enthusiastically.*

? What happens to anyone who is in Christ? What do believers become? *2 Corinthians 5:17. New creations.*

? What things pass away from new believers in Christ? *2 Corinthians 5:17. Old things.*

Yes! The Bible tells us that when sinners repent and turn to Jesus for forgiveness, they become new creations. The old things they did that did not please God pass away.

That is what happened to Paul. When he came face to face with Jesus, he realized he had been wrong—REALLY wrong. He had hated the one person who was the way, the truth and the life. Paul realized that Jesus really was God, and he was sorry for the way he had acted. And God's grace allowed Paul to turn from sin and became a new creation in Christ. The old things passed away. And everything—Paul's actions and his thoughts—all changed. He now loved Jesus and wanted to serve Him.

The same thing happens to all who believe in Jesus—they become new creations in Christ!

? Look at #9 on the class notes. What happens when we believe in Jesus Christ? Who will read that for us? *Assign a reader. New. Have students complete #9 on the class notes.*



► Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind the children to practice the memory verse this week.



MEMORY VERSE

Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.



GROUP PRAYER TIME

- Praise God, for He makes all things new in the lives of sinners when they turn away from their sins and turn to Him.
- Ask God to save the lost people that we know—giving them new life in Christ.
- Ask God for the courage to be unashamed of the gospel and to tell others about Jesus.