Lesson B4.4 - Jesus Changes Us



Teacher's Pages with Step-by-Step Lesson Plan

For Lower Elementary Students and Classes

Recommended for students in Preschool, Kindergarten, and Grades 1-2.

Quick Facts for the Teacher

Lesson Summary: Acts 6:1-15

▶ Bible Characters: Saul, Jesus, Ananias

Saul was a respected Jewish leader, but he had the wrong idea about Christians. Because of this, he persecuted them. One day, as he traveled to Damascus for this purpose, he was knocked to the ground. Jesus spoke to Saul, and he was blinded. When the Christian Ananias prayed for him, Saul's eyesight returned and he was forever changed.

Brief Bible Background

▶ Today's Lesson is from the New Testament

▶ Scripture Section: Understanding

God used the apostles to bring the message of Jesus to many people across the ancient world. The Holy Spirit created faith through the power of God's Word, and people's lives were changed. The early Church continued to grow.

For More Information

The primary role of a Sunday School teacher for Preschool, Kindergarten (pre-readers), and Early Elementary (new readers) is to simply tell children the stories of Scripture and introduce them to the major characters of the Bible.

Teachers who want to know more about the lessons for their own familiarity with the story are encouraged to read the information in the SEED Upper Elementary and Youth Teacher's Pages.

a. Classroom Greeting

Teachers should arrive 10 to 15 minutes before class and greet students and parents by name. Write the day's Bible Message on the white board or poster board for all the kids to see. Have kids gather on a rug or in a dedicated meeting space. Encourage the children to learn each other's names.

b. Opening Prayer Song

This same opening prayer song should be sung every week with young kids. The words are sung to the tune, "The Wheels on the Bus." No accompaniment needed.

We're all gathered here to thank you, Lord, thank you Lord, thank you Lord! We're all gathered here to thank you Lord, for all you do!

We're all praying that you'll teach us Lord, teach us Lord, teach us Lord! We're all praying that you'll teach us Lord, more about you!

c. Introduction to Today's Message

*Teacher's Script (student responses are in **bold**).*

Sometimes, we get off track and make bad choices. What are some examples of bad choices? (Call on volunteers). When we are on the wrong track, who can help turn us around? (Jesus). How? **Jesus changes us!**

- Name one way **Jesus changes us**. (When we learn how much Jesus loves us, we see things differently. We *want* to be good to others, as he has been good to us.)
- Can Jesus change anyone? (Call on volunteers)

In today's story, a man named Saul had made many terrible choices. But Jesus didn't give up on Saul. In fact, just as **Jesus changes us,** Jesus changed *him!* How? Let's hear the story and find out!

d. SEED Bible Story Video

The teacher may introduce the lesson by playing the video clip from the SEED website. This may be displayed simply on a laptop computer or tablet. If the classroom is equipped with a computer video monitor or video projector, the video can be displayed in a larger size.

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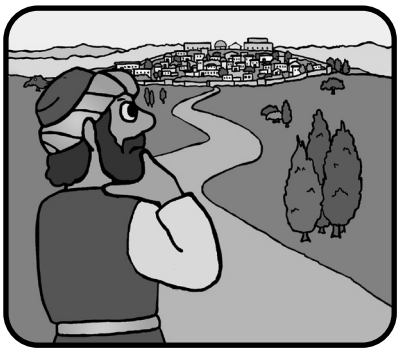
e. Read the Story with Poster Pictures

The Bible Story has been divided into four parts, each with an accompanying Poster Picture. The teacher should hold up or point to the relevant Poster Picture while reading the individual part of the story, asking questions while reading.

Posters may be printed on letter-sized paper, or enlarged and printed on ledger-sized paper if a bigger printer is available. Poster pictures may also be opened as a PDF on a computer screen, scrolling through each of the four pages.

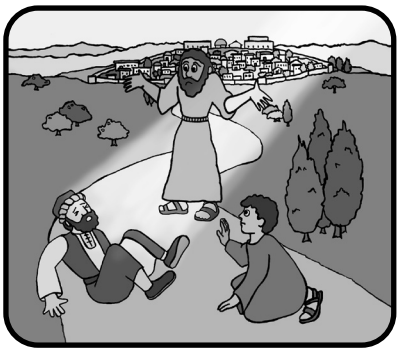


Picture 1

Tell the children: Long ago, there was a very serious man named Saul. He thought everyone who believed in Jesus was wrong. He decided he would punish them.

Read the caption: Saul was traveling to a big city. He planned to find people who believed in Jesus. He wanted to put all of them in jail!

- *Look at the city in the picture. Can you guess its name? [This city is called Damascus. It still exists today in a country called Syria.]*
- *How do you think Saul would find the Christians? [His plan was to search in places of worship, like synagogues, or anywhere Christians might meet.]*

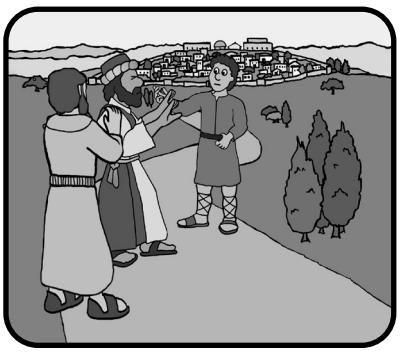


Picture 2

Tell the children: Saul felt sure he was doing the right thing. He was even proud of himself. But his thoughts were not God's thoughts.

Read the caption: God did not like Saul's plan. As Saul walked, a light flashed in the sky. Jesus called, "Saul, why are you hurting me?" Saul fell down.

- *What is happening in this picture? [A light is shining on Saul and he is down on the ground. His eyes are closed.]*
- *Look at the man in yellow and the one in blue. Are they affected like Saul? [No]*



Picture 3

Tell the children: Saul was knocked to the ground. As he lay there, he realized who was speaking to him. Suddenly Saul understood that he had been wrong.

Read the caption: When Saul got up, he was blind. Jesus had told him to still go to the city. So Saul's friends had to lead him the rest of the way.

- *Look at Saul in this picture. What is he doing? [He cannot see. He is holding his hands out in case he falls.]*
- *What are the other men doing? [They are trying to lead him to the city. They are helping him find his way there.]*



Picture 4

Tell the children: Meanwhile, in Damascus, Jesus appeared to a Christian man named Ananias. Jesus told him to find Saul and help him. Ananias was scared of Saul, but he did what Jesus asked him to do.

Read the caption: Ananias found Saul and touched his eyes. Suddenly, Saul could see! From that day on, Saul (now called "Paul") served God.

- *Point out Ananias in this picture. [The man in purple] What is he doing? [Praying over Saul and touching his eyes.]*
- *How do you think Ananias felt about helping Saul? [Scared, uncertain]*

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f. Bible Story Rhyme (optional)

The Bible Story Rhyme below is the same one found on the Upper Elementary Student sheet. The teacher can read the beginning of the line and see if the children can finish the last rhyming word of the phrase.

Saul was quite an angry man.
He had a very rotten plan:
Find the Christians, make them wail,
and throw them, one and all, in jail!

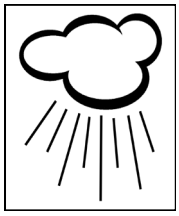
But the Lord had other plans.
Jesus came to change the man.
"Saul," he said, "Now that's enough!
You have simply been too rough!"

Saul was shaken, but he knew
just what he should start to do:
Help the Christians after all!
And from that day on his name was Paul.

h. Young Children's Activity (optional)

Simple in-class crafts or activities may be completed by the children if there is time left at the end of class. *(Note: For the youngest children, simply providing crayons and letting them complete the Coloring Page may serve as the "craft" for the day.)*

Craft: Paul's Vision Picture



Materials Needed:

Glow in the dark paint, heavy paper, pencils, paint brushes, cups of water

Instructions:

Give each person a cup of water, paintbrush, paper plate, pencil and piece of heavy paper. Explain that in today's story, a bright light shone around Saul, and fellow travelers heard the voice but didn't see anything.

What might Saul have seen in that light? Jesus looking down at him? White rays of light? A mesmerizing swirl of color? Have kids use their imaginations and draw what they think Paul saw. When kids have sketched out their pictures lightly in pencil, have them paint over that with glow-in-the-dark paint. Make sure kids use enough paint so it will be visible later in the dark. Let pictures dry. Most glow-in-the-dark paints will have you expose the picture to bright light, and then turn off the light to see it glowing in the dark.

Follow the directions on your particular paints, then shut off the classroom light so kids can see their images glowing in the semi-darkness.

h. Song (optional)

This children's song has motions that can be found online on YouTube, Vimeo, or other sites.

This Little Light of Mine!

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Hide it under a bushel (No!),
I'm gonna let it shine. (Repeat 2 x)
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Won't let Satan blow it out,
I'm gonna let it shine... (Repeat 2 x)
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

i. Story Review: Then What Happened?

Then What Happened is a learning game that helps kids retell the story and remember the flow of events. The teacher reads the starting sentence and then chooses a student to continue the story. There are two rules: each student may only add one sentence or say one new thing, and events in the story need to be in the right order.

- *Start:* **Long ago, a man named Saul thought that everyone who followed Jesus was wrong. Then what happened?**

If the younger kids have trouble, cut a Take-Home Page into four pieces (with no words) and let the kids put the illustrations in order while they tell the story.

j. Closing Prayer

Send the children home with the Take-Home Page, and tell them to ask their parents to read the story to them again (or, perhaps, they can read it to their parents).

End class with this closing prayer, repeated each week for memorization.

O God, we praise you and we know,
you care for us and help us grow.

We thank you for our friends today
With whom we learn, and laugh and play.

Please help our world to know your Son,
Who loves us--each and every one. Amen.

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