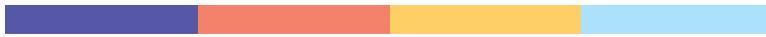


Transformed by the Gospel



TRANSFORMED—
changed completely

When a person trusts Jesus as Savior, he is changed completely. He is forgiven of sins, adopted into God's family, wants to act differently, and is full of God's love.



KNOW

Trusting in Jesus for salvation transforms your identity.



UNDERSTAND

God's salvation is eternal. Nothing can separate believers from God's love.



DISCOVER

God's salvation is a gift that every person needs and can receive.

KEY VERSE: "FOR YOU ARE SAVED BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH,
AND THIS IS NOT FROM YOURSELVES; IT IS GOD'S GIFT—
NOT FROM WORKS, SO THAT NO ONE CAN BOAST."
—EPHESIANS 2:8-9



SAUL'S CONVERSION

Saul was an enemy of those who believed in Jesus. Saul entered house after house and dragged the believers away to prison. He made murderous threats against Jesus' followers, requesting permission from the high priest to travel to Damascus and arrest believers there.

As Saul was near Damascus, a bright light from heaven flashed around him. The light blinded Saul, and he fell to the ground. He heard a voice ask: "Why are you persecuting (hurting) Me?" "Who are You, Lord?" Saul asked.

"I am Jesus, the One you are persecuting," was the answer. "Go into the city. You will be told what to do."

Saul's traveling partners led him to the city. He could not see for three days. God told a man named Ananias, "Go to Saul. He has been praying. He knows you are coming to help him see again."

Ananias replied, "Lord, I have heard how much evil this man has done." God replied, "Go because I have chosen this man to tell the Gentiles about Me!" Ananias obeyed. When he put his hands on Saul's eyes, Saul could see again. Saul was baptized and immediately began to preach in the synagogues about Jesus. "Jesus is God's Son!" Saul announced.

Some Jews were angry with Saul's new message. They plotted to kill him. Saul's friends helped him escape Damascus by lowering him over the wall in a basket. Saul went back to Jerusalem and continued to speak boldly about his faith in Jesus.

—based on Acts 9:1-20





Transformed by the Gospel



When we trust in Jesus, we aren't just saying that we agree with the idea of Jesus as God's Son. Through the gospel, God opens our eyes to who Jesus really is. We put our trust in Him, believing that His death on the cross provides forgiveness for our sins and that because He was raised from the dead, He is King over everything. When we trust in Jesus, He changes our hearts. He removes our identity of sin and gives us a new identity—child of God!

Key Verse: Ephesians 2:8-9

Key Passage: Saul's Conversion
(Acts 8-9)

BIBLE STORY

Together read the Bible story on page 23 of your child's Activity Book and ask the following review questions.

- › **Q1:** What did Saul intend to do in Damascus?
- › **A1:** Arrest Christians (*Acts 9:2*)
- › **Q2:** What happened to Saul on the way to Damascus?
- › **A2:** A light blinded him, and Jesus spoke to him. (*Acts 9:3-6*)
- › **Q3:** God told Ananias He had a plan for Saul. What was God's plan?
- › **A3:** To tell the Gentiles about Jesus (*Acts 9:15*)
- › **Q4:** What did Saul begin to do after he could see again?
- › **A4:** To speak in the synagogues about Jesus (*Acts 9:20*)

DEEPER STUDY

Read Ephesians 2:1-10 together and discuss the following questions.

- › **Q1:** This passage teaches us about sin. What does it mean that we sinned against God?

- › **A1:** God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (*Eph. 2:1-3; Romans 6:23*)
- › **Q2:** What did God provide for us?
- › **A2:** God provided His Son Jesus to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. (*Eph. 2:4-5*)
- › **Q3:** What is God's salvation?
- › **A3:** God's salvation is a gift that every person needs and can receive. (*Eph 2:8-9*)
- › **Q4:** What happens when a person trusts in Jesus for salvation?
- › **A4:** When someone trusts in Jesus as Savior, her whole identity is transformed!

PRAY AND JOURNAL

Pray with your child, thanking God for sending Jesus. Praise Him for rescuing people who are dead in their sin and making them alive.

Encourage your child to complete the daily pages in the activity book this week. Be available to answer any questions about the gospel or trusting in Jesus for salvation.

ODDS OR EVENS

Discover the answers to the words in the blanks. Begin at *Start*. Move only to even-numbered squares that touch. As you go, write the letter printed in each square along the path.

GOD'S IS

21 E 19 X 331 B 104 N 98 R 38 E 6 T
 502 L 444 A 18 E
 28 O 54 N 55 U 22 P
 110 I 56 V 44 A 36 I
 32 M 17 F 31 B 94 T 100 A 70 V
 70 X 75 P 9 E 101 S 32 L
 123 A 60 Z 81 G 19 X 54 A
 5 R 29 N 40 E 6 C 2 S
 1 A 64 E 421 I 11 H 93 T 67 O 5 N **START**
 98 R 97 E 503 T 18 S

Now, begin at *Start* again. This time move only to odd-numbered squares that touch. As you go, write the letter printed in each square in order.

CAN

BELIEVERS FROM GOD'S LOVE.



COMPASS POINTS

Follow the compass directions to find the missing words from these statements about Saul. Follow the directions on each line to get to the next letter. (North is up; South is down; West is left, East is right.) Print it and start the next line of directions.

SAUL WAS ON A
 START AT EAST 3 WEST 3 EAST 2
 WHEN HE MET JESUS.

SAUL WAS
 START AT SOUTH 2 WEST 1 EAST 2 NORTH 2
 AFTER SPEAKING WITH JESUS.

AS SOON AS SAUL COULD
 START AT NORTH 3 SOUTH 1
 HE WAS BAPTIZED.

ANANIAS
 START AT NORTH 1 WEST 3 SOUTH 3 NORTH 3 WEST 1
 GOING TO HELP SAUL.

SAUL BEGAN
 START AT NORTH 3 SOUTH 2 SOUTH 1 WEST 1 SOUTH 1 NORTH 1
 OTHERS ABOUT JESUS.

A
 START AT SOUTH 3 NORTH 2 EAST 2 WEST 1 SOUTH 2
 LIGHT SUDDENLY APPEARED.

B
 START AT SOUTH 3 WEST 1 NORTH 2 EAST 2 WEST 1 SOUTH 2
 LIGHT SUDDENLY APPEARED.

F
 START AT NORTH 1 WEST 3 SOUTH 3 NORTH 3 WEST 1
 GOING TO HELP SAUL.

R
 START AT EAST 3 WEST 3 EAST 2
 WHEN HE MET JESUS.

S
 START AT NORTH 3 SOUTH 1
 HE WAS BAPTIZED.

T
 START AT NORTH 3 SOUTH 2 SOUTH 1 WEST 1 SOUTH 1 NORTH 1
 OTHERS ABOUT JESUS.

TRANSFORMED BY THE GOSPEL

DIGGING DEEPER

Read Acts 9:1 and then Acts 9:20. Notice what Saul was like before meeting Jesus, then what he was like after meeting Jesus.

BEFORE:	AFTER:

When Paul wrote to the Ephesians, he described what people are like before they trust Jesus and what they are like afterward. Read Ephesians 5:1-6. In the *Before* column, write the verse numbers that describe people before trusting Jesus. In the *After* column, write the verse numbers that describe people after trusting Jesus.

MY DAILY JOURNAL

A journal is a place to keep track of your thoughts, feelings, questions, answers, and prayers. During the study, these pages will guide you to use your Bible, to think about what you read, and to give you suggestions for prayer.



READ ACTS 9:1-3

Saul was a religious man. He tried to do everything God's law commanded. Saul did not believe Jesus was God's Son. What bad things was Saul doing?

.....
.....

Why do you think Jesus met Saul on the road to Damascus?

.....

Even though Saul did not love Jesus, Jesus loved Saul. Salvation is a gift every person needs and can receive. Jesus wanted Saul's identity to be transformed from sinful and broken to child of God.

You have God's attention when you pray, and He has your attention. Talk to God about your own actions and whether they honor God or not.

.....
.....



READ ACTS 9:4-9

Jesus called Saul by name. What question did He ask of Saul?

.....

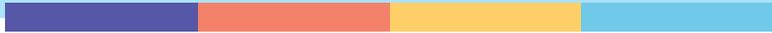
What name did Saul call Jesus?

Saul knew he was talking to someone special. How did Jesus make sure Saul knew who He was?.....

.....

Today, God usually speaks through prayer and the Bible. What are some things you have learned from the Bible that God wants you to do?.....

.....



Ask God to help you always do what He wants you to do. Consider asking Him to teach you more about His plans for you. Talk with God about your feelings. Ask Him questions you may have.

.....
.....
.....



READ ACTS 9:10-14

Ananias was one of Jesus' disciples who lived in Damascus. He didn't seem surprised when the Lord called his name, but he may have been surprised when he found out what the Lord wanted him to do. What was it?.....

.....
Why was Ananias concerned about going to Saul?

Sometimes people are still afraid to do what God wants. They may fear telling others about Jesus, standing up for someone who needs help, or refusing to go along with friends who make wrong choices.

Do you sometimes fear what will happen if you do what God wants you to do? Explain.

.....
God knows how you feel. Talk to Him about your concerns and fears.
.....
.....

Read Isaiah 41:10. Remember that even when you are afraid, God is always with you!





READ ACTS 9:15-20

Even though Ananias was worried about going to Saul, he obeyed God. What clue do you find in verse 17 that Ananias realized Saul has changed? (Need a hint? Look at what Ananias called him.).....

.....
.....

Saul must have been hungry after three days without food, but he didn't eat first. Unscramble these letters to find out what he did do first.



Saul was truly changed. What do you find in verse 20 that proves that?.....

.....

Have you been completely changed by God? If so, thank God for that. If not, talk to God about any questions or uncertainties you have. He is ready to give you answers.....

.....
.....



READ EPHESIANS 2:8-9

These verses have some words that are not always easy to understand:

GRACE is love and acceptance from God. It is free to us. We cannot ever work hard enough to get it.

FAITH is belief or trust in something or someone. In these verses, faith is belief or trust in Jesus.

WORKS means deeds or actions. The Bible tells us that no one can do enough good works to earn God's forgiveness. Only trust in Jesus as Savior will save a person from the punishment of sin.

Memorize Ephesians 2:8-9 and recite these verses to a friend or family member this week.

