

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.

TANGLED WEB

Read the questions and try to answer them. Then follow the path from a question to the answer to find out if you are right.

WHERE WAS SAUL WHEN HE MET JESUS?

WHAT SUDDENLY APPEARED TO SAUL?

HOW DID SAUL GET TO TOWN?

HOW DID ANANIAS FEEL WHEN GOD SENT HIM TO SAUL?

DID ANANIAS GO TO SAUL?

HOW DID SAUL SHOW HE WAS CHANGED?

PREACHED

LIGHT

AFRAID

LED BY FRIENDS

ROAD

YES

IT'S A GIFT!

Close your eyes and try to touch a gift on this page with your index finger. Open your eyes and see how you did. Tell whether the word printed on the gift is true about God's gift of salvation. Take turns with a friend or play by yourself.



EPHESIANS 2:8-9 SAYS THAT GOD FREELY AND GLADLY GIVES THE GIFT OF HIS GRACE FOR SALVATION TO THOSE WHO TRUST JESUS AS SAVIOR AND LORD.



DIGGING DEEPER

In Acts 9, Saul was changed completely when he met Jesus and trusted Him as Savior. In Ephesians, Paul told more about people being changed by trusting Jesus. Read Ephesians 2:1-5. Then choose the correct word to fill in each blank to explain what Paul wrote. (words to use: God, Everyone, saved, Sin, loved)

SEPARATES PEOPLE FROM GOD.
 SINS AGAINST GOD SOMETIME IN THEIR LIVES.
WE ARE SO MUCH BY
 THAT HE MAKES US ALIVE IN CHRIST.
PEOPLE ARE BY GRACE.

DIGGING DAILY

Digging in the Bible means...

- reading Bible verses,
- thinking about what the verses mean,
- discovering what God wants you to know.

At the end of each week’s study, you will have a page to use privately as you talk to God in prayer.

Each day will have a Bible passage for you to read and think about. Each day will also have space for you to journal your thoughts, feelings, and questions to God. Now, get digging!



READ ACTS 9:1-2

What did Saul intend to do? Do you think Saul loved Jesus in these verses? Why or why not?.....

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.....

Read 1 John 4:19. Did God love Saul?

.....

God has always loved you. What are some ways you can tell that God loves you? (Hint: You can start with ways He takes care of you.).....

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Write a prayer here thanking God for what He has done for you.....

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READ ACTS 9:3-9

How might you feel if you suddenly saw a blinding light and heard a loud voice? How do you think Saul felt?.....

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What was different about Saul when the light went away? Circle the right answer.

HE WAS SUDDENLY IN A DIFFERENT CITY.
HE WAS BLIND.
HIS FRIENDS WERE GONE.

Who did Saul hear speaking?



Today we know more about Jesus by reading the Bible and by praying. What are some things you want to pray about today? Note those things here, then spend time talking to God and listening to Him.

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READ ACTS 9:10-13

God wanted Ananias to visit Saul and heal him. Starting with the second letter, cross out every other letter on the line below to find out how Ananias might have felt.

S ~~P~~ C L A I R V E K D

Have you ever needed to do something that was scary to you? Maybe you had to talk to the whole class, face a bully, or stay home alone for a short time. The good news is that God promises to be with us no matter what we face.

List any things that scare or bother you. Then talk to God about helping you....

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DAY

4

READ ACTS 9:17-20

How do you know that Saul was completely changed after trusting Jesus? What might change at school for a kid who trusts in Jesus? At home? At practice?.....

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Saul preached about Jesus in the synagogues. Most kids don't get to preach anywhere. How else might a kid tell about Jesus?.....

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Talk to God about places and people you can tell about Jesus.....

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.....



DAY

5

READ EPHESIANS 2:8-9

Who loves you as much as God loves you? Your mom? Your grandfather? Your best friend? Those people love you so much, but God loves you even more. No one loves you as much as God loves you.

Even though people sinned and broke God's perfect plan, God loved people so much that He sent Jesus to take the punishment for their sin. Jesus paid the price for our sin so we would no longer be separated from God. However, each person must receive God's gift of salvation. You can receive this gift when you admit to God that you are a sinner and are sorry for your sin, wanting to turn away from sin. You must believe that Jesus is God's Son and that Jesus is the only way to be saved from sin. (You can't do it yourself!) Then you tell others that your trust is only in Jesus and what He did for you by His life, death, and resurrection.

Talk to God today about which of these things you have done, want to do, or are just thinking about.....

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