

## Lesson 12

### Family Sunday School Helps

Sunday May 24, 2020

#### Enduring Faith Unit 3 - Lesson 12 Acts 9:1-31

**AN ENEMY CONVERTS:** On the road to Damascus, Saul encounters the risen Lord, who converts him from a persecutor of the Church to its greatest missionary—Paul. God sends Ananias to lay hands upon the temporarily blinded Saul, baptizing him in the name of the Living God. Despite the disciples' distrust of Saul's motives, Barnabas speaks boldly on Saul's behalf.

**BIBLE TRUTH:** Jesus chooses us, even when we are enemies of God.

**BIBLE VERSE:** If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. 2 Corinthians 5:17

**LEARNER GOAL:** I understand that God chooses me to be His own child and makes me a new creation in Jesus through my Baptism.

**LAW & GOSPEL:** Born in sin, we are enemies of God. God chooses us to be His own in Baptism and makes us a new creation in Christ Jesus, our Savior.

**ARCH BOOK:** video link

**BIBLE READING:** See below

**ACTIVITY SHEET FOR REVIEW:** See below

**OPENING PRAYER:** Heavenly Father, it is such a blessing to be able to gather together and study Your Word. Guide us to know how much You love us and help us to learn how to love one another. In Your name we pray. Amen.

**SING:** Ask Your children what is their favorite Jesus song ("This Little Gospel Light of Mine"; "Jesus Loves the Little Children"; "Jesus Loves Me")

**BIBLE NARRATIVE FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN:**

**STORYTELLING SUGGESTION:** Do the action rhyme at the end of the story with children.

Jesus had gone back to heaven. But He kept on helping His friends. He helped them show love to one another. They shared their homes and their money. They gave food and clothing to poor people. They told many people that Jesus loved them and died on the cross to pay for their sins. Many people came to believe in Jesus as their Savior and love Him too.

But there were some people who didn't love Jesus. One of these was a man named Saul. Saul was mean! He grabbed Jesus' friends and put them in jail. Jesus' friends were afraid of him!

One day, Saul left Jerusalem with some of his friends. He was going on the road to Damascus. He wanted to catch more of Jesus' friends and throw them in jail. All of a sudden, Saul saw and heard something to surprise him.

First, Saul saw a bright light coming down from heaven. The light was so bright that Saul was afraid. He fell down to the ground. Then he heard a voice calling his name. It said, "Saul, Saul, why are you trying to hurt Me?"

Saul asked, "Who are You?"

Who do you think it was?

The voice answered, "I am Jesus!"

Saul was surprised and afraid. He asked, "What do You want me to do?"

Jesus said, "Go into the city of Damascus and wait. You will find out what I want you to do."

Saul opened his eyes, but he could not see! He was blind. So Saul's friends led him by the hand to the city. Saul waited and waited. For three days he didn't eat or drink. He thought and prayed, asking God to forgive him.

After three days, Jesus sent His helper Ananias to talk to Saul. Ananias told Saul, "The Holy Spirit is with you. Jesus wants you to be His special helper. He wants you to travel to many places around the world and tell people how He is their Savior

who takes away our sins." Ananias touched Saul and right away he could see again. Saul was so happy Jesus forgave him. He got up and was baptized right away.

Later, people called Saul by his other name, Paul. Paul loved Jesus and told many people about Jesus' love and forgiveness. He was not mean anymore but happy because Jesus was his friend, his helper, and most of all his Savior!

**Do this action rhyme together:**

I can tell, I can tell. (Point to mouth.)

Listen closely; I can tell. (Cup ears. Point to mouth). Jesus loves you and me. Hug self; point.

Can you hear me? I can tell. (Cup ears. Point to mouth.)

Jesus died, rose again. (Make finger cross.)

What good news! I can tell. (Point to mouth.)

## **BIBLE NARRATIVE FOR OLDER CHILDREN**

Saul believed Jesus was a false teacher who taught lies about God and pretended to be God's Son. He wanted to stop the Christians from telling other people about Jesus, so he went from house to house through Jerusalem, dragging off the people who believed in Jesus and putting them in prison.

Saul wanted to attack the Christians in Damascus, so the high priest wrote letters for him so that if he found any believers in Jesus, he could tie them up and bring them back to Jerusalem.

When Saul came near Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven shone around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice calling, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?" Saul asked, "Who are You, Lord?" The voice answered, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do."

The men traveling with Saul heard the voice, but they didn't see anyone. Saul got up off the ground, but when he opened his eyes he couldn't see anything. The men took his hand and led him into Damascus. For three days, Saul was unable to see. He didn't eat or drink anything during this time.

Then, Jesus told a Christian in Damascus named Ananias to go and lay his hands on Saul so he could see again. Ananias was scared of Saul, but he obeyed Jesus. He went and laid his hands on Saul, and Jesus gave Saul back his sight. Ananias baptized him.

Right there in Damascus, Saul began teaching that Jesus was the Christ, the Savior of the world. Some Jews got angry and made plans to kill Saul. But Saul found out and had his disciples lower him down in a basket through an opening in the wall.

Saul returned to Jerusalem, but the Christians there were afraid of him. A devout Christian named Barnabas took Saul to the apostles and described how Jesus had appeared to Saul on the road to Damascus. The apostles welcomed Saul, and he became known as Paul.

## **TALK ABOUT IT**

Choose the questions that best fit the learning level of your children.

- What was Saul like at the beginning of the story?
- How did God change Saul?  What did Jesus want Saul to do?
- God was at work in Saul (who became Paul), one of the greatest missionaries of all time. How is God at work in your life?

## **KEY DISCUSSION POINTS**

Guide discussion using these key points.

- Saul had been persecuting Christians for at least a year, jailing people for following Jesus. He was the last person one would expect for Jesus to choose. So

his proclamation that Jesus is Lord was shocking—so shocking that some of the Jews wanted to kill him.

- We are no more deserving of Christ's love than Saul. We may not openly persecute God's people like Saul did, but we are still sinners who break God's Law every day. It is only through the redeeming work of Jesus on the cross and with the help of the Holy Spirit that we can share the love of Jesus with our neighbor.

## CHRIST CONNECTION

Christ has called us to faith because of His great mercy and grace to us.

### ACTIVITIES:

#### Go and Tell

God called Saul to tell people far away about Jesus. God calls people today to be missionaries too. Have children pretend to travel far away to tell about Jesus. Pretend to fly in airplanes and ride in boats to go to different countries. Act out being hot walking in Uganda, riding over bumpy roads in the Philippines, or being cold in Alaska. Use a digital device to show pictures of the places you pretend to go.

#### Old and New

Show items depicting old and new (e.g., old and new shoes, dead and fresh flowers, withered and fresh carrots, pictures of old person and baby).

*Ask if we can make the old/dead item into a new/alive one? No. Jesus is the only one who can make things new again. Jesus changed Saul from an enemy into a friend. Show a Bible and Baptism picture. Jesus calls us through Baptism and His Word. He changes us, too, and gives us new life as His forgiven children, His new creation.*

#### Something New:

Give children a lump of play dough. Show them how to make a pinch pot by pressing a thumb in dough, then pinching the edges to make the sides. Talk about how they

changed the dough into something new. God changed Saul's heart, and He changes ours too.

□ **Learn the Bible Verse:** Read the Bible Verse and say it together, 2 Corinthians 5:17: "*If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.*" He made Saul a new creation.

Saul couldn't see Jesus was his Savior. He hurt Christians. But Jesus gave Saul eyes of faith to see Him as his Savior. Now Saul wanted to tell others about Jesus. The Holy Spirit changes us on the inside so we can live as His children. God changed Saul from an enemy to a friend.

Jesus chose Saul in a very dramatic way. Jesus chooses us to be His children and His witnesses too.

**CLOSING PRAYER:** Dear Jesus, thank You for calling Saul to spread Your Gospel message to the world. Thank You for calling me to be Your child in Baptism. Help me to share Your Gospel message to all the people in my world. In Your name we pray, Jesus. Amen.

**BIBLE READING: ACTS 9:1-31 (ESV)**

### **THE CONVERSION OF SAUL**

*9 But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest 2 and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. 3 Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven shone around him. 4 And falling to the ground, he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" 5 And he said, "Who are you, Lord?" And he said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. 6 But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." 7 The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one. 8 Saul rose from the ground, and although his eyes were opened, he saw nothing. So they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. 9 And for three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.*

10 Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord." 11 And the Lord said to him, "Rise and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying, 12 and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." 13 But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem. 14 And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name." 15 But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. 16 For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." 17 So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." 18 And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized; 19 and taking food, he was strengthened.

### **Saul Proclaims Jesus in Synagogues**

For some days he was with the disciples at Damascus. 20 And immediately he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God." 21 And all who heard him were amazed and said, "Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem of those who called upon this name? And has he not come here for this purpose, to bring them bound before the chief priests?" 22 But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Christ.

### **Saul Escapes from Damascus**

23 When many days had passed, the Jews[a] plotted to kill him, 24 but their plot became known to Saul. They were watching the gates day and night in order to kill him, 25 but his disciples took him by night and let him down through an opening in the wall,[b] lowering him in a basket.

## **Saul in Jerusalem**

*26 And when he had come to Jerusalem, he attempted to join the disciples. And they were all afraid of him, for they did not believe that he was a disciple. 27 But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles and declared to them how on the road he had seen the Lord, who spoke to him, and how at Damascus he had preached boldly in the name of Jesus. 28 So he went in and out among them at Jerusalem, preaching boldly in the name of the Lord. 29 And he spoke and disputed against the Hellenists. But they were seeking to kill him. 30 And when the brothers learned this, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus.*

*31 So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied.*

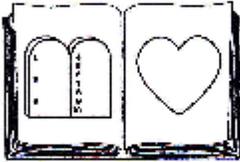
**ACTIVITY SHEET:**

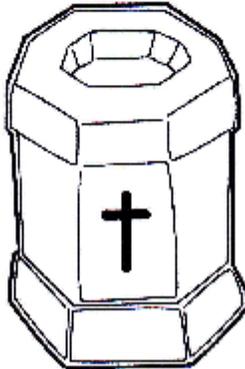
## AN ENEMY CONVERTS—SAUL

### Unit 3, Lesson 12

## Baptism Changes Us

**Directions:** Through Holy Baptism, God changes us. As you review the Bible account of Saul and as you think about your own Baptism, fill in the chart below with the ways that God changes us through water and His Word.

OLD ME		NEW ME
Enemy of God		_____
Sin-filled heart		_____
Holy Spirit-less		_____
Without faith in the triune God		_____
Eternally dead		_____



**If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. (2 Corinthians 5:17)**