

Paul Begins to Follow Jesus

Lesson 4



Scripture: Acts 9:1-22; 22:12-16













Bible Memory: 2 Peter 3:18

Focus: ♥ We should learn about Jesus.

Heart to Heart Teacher Devotion

Take time to remember how and when you learned about Jesus. Were you a young child and your parents told you about Jesus? Maybe you were a teen when a friend shared with you about Jesus. Did an adult Bible teacher help you come to know Jesus as your Savior in the last few years? However and whenever you learned about Jesus, thank God! Then pray and prepare so that the children in your class will remember *you* as a person who taught them about Jesus.

Lesson 4 at a Glance

<p>1 FOCUS IN Use one or more of these activities to help children <i>explore ways to learn something new.</i></p>	<p> Quick Step Listen, Look, Do</p> <p> Option Learning Stations</p> <p> Bible Memory Introduce the Bible Memory verse.</p>	<p>HeartShaper Materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Resources</i> sheet 6 Listen, Look, Do Word Cards • none • none 	<p>Other Materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reusable adhesive • pictures and facts about bugs, paper, marker, modeling dough, resealable plastic bags • Bible
<p>2 EXPLORE HIS WORD Use these activities to help children <i>tell what happened when Paul learned that Jesus is God's Son.</i></p>	<p> Bible Exploration Acts 9:1-22; 22:12-16</p> <p> Bible Review Activity</p> <p> Bible Memory 2 Peter 3:18</p> <p> Optional Bible Skill Builder</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Resources</i> sheet 5 Map of Paul's Travels and add-ons 4a-4c, <i>Teaching Picture 4</i> • <i>Activities</i> p. 15 • <i>Resources</i> sheet 8 Unit 2 Bible Memory Strips 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • whiteboard, dry-erase marker, Bibles, reusable adhesive • pencils, whiteboard, dry-erase marker • Bibles, whiteboard, dry-erase markers, reusable adhesive
<p>3 MAKE IT REAL Use one of these activities to help children <i>understand that learning about Jesus can change their lives.</i></p>	<p> Quick Step Changed Reactions</p> <p> Option Job Changes</p> <p> Option Story from <i>Weekly Bible Reader</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Activities</i> p. 16 • Interview questions (see activity) • <i>Weekly Bible Reader</i> issue 4 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • none • guest speaker • none
<p>4 LIVE IT OUT Use one of these activities to help children <i>choose a way to learn about Jesus.</i></p>	<p> Quick Step Learning About Jesus</p> <p> Option Listen, Look, Do 2</p> <p>Saying Good-bye</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning About Jesus reproducible page • <i>Resources</i> sheet 6 Listen, Look, Do word cards • <i>Weekly Bible Reader</i> issue 4, <i>Activities</i> p. 13 Unit 2 Bible Memory Poster and stickers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • colored pencils, scissors, jumbo paper clips • reusable adhesive, poster board, marker • none

Focus In (10-15 minutes)

- 1 Use one of these activities to help children **explore ways to learn something new**. Use the Bible Memory activity to introduce the memory verse.

Welcome

- Welcome each child by name.
- Engage early arrivers by offering one or more of the activities described on the Additional Activities for Unit 2 page.

Quick Step Listen, Look, Do

Have children gather in a circle.

ASK: **What is something new you have learned recently?** Give each child an opportunity to share. They may have learned a new fact or learned how to do a new activity.

How do you learn new things? (read about it in a book or on the Internet, listen to teachers, watch a video, do an experiment)

Display the word cards on a wall (or whiteboard). Ask volunteers to read the words. SAY: **We can learn by listening, looking, and then doing. When you learn to ride a bike, you might *listen* to an adult tell you how to get on the bike, pedal, and use the brakes. You *look* at each part of the bike so you know where the brakes and pedals are. But to really ride the bike, you have to get on and *do* it yourself. ♥ We should learn about Jesus. We can *listen, look,* and *do* as we learn about Him too.**

Option Learning Stations



Have children gather near the prepared centers. SAY: **Today's Bible story is about a man who learned something new. Let's learn something new right now.** Explain that the children will visit each of the stations you have set up. At the first station, they will listen to you describe (or read about) various kinds of bugs. At the second station they will look at the samples displayed. At the third station they will make their own models of bugs. (Note: Be sure children do not have allergies that would be aggravated by the modeling dough.) Children do not need to visit the stations in any particular order, but they should visit each station for a couple of minutes. After the children are finished, ask what they have learned.

ASK: **How did you learn to make a bug from modeling dough?** (listened as bugs were described, looked at samples, did it themselves)

SAY: **We're going to find out that ♥ we should learn about Jesus. We can listen, look, and do as we learn about Him too.**

Bible Memory 2 Peter 3:18

Read 2 Peter 3:18. SAY: **Our Bible Memory comes from the book of 2 Peter. Peter was one of Jesus' followers. Peter knew it is important to keep learning about Jesus. That's why Peter wrote this book of the Bible. He wanted others to grow as they learned about Jesus. ♥ We should learn about Jesus too. Let's say the Bible verse and grow in Jesus!** Read the verse again, having children repeat it after you in short phrases.

Focus

♥ We should learn about Jesus.

Materials

Resources sheet 6
Listen, Look, Do word cards, reusable adhesive (or whiteboard and self-adhesive magnetic strip)



Teaching Tip

To display the word cards on a whiteboard, attach small pieces of self-adhesive magnetic strip to the backs of the cards.

Materials

pictures and facts about bugs, paper, marker, modeling dough, resealable plastic bags



Before Class

Set up the following centers. Center 1: pictures and facts about bugs; Center 2: samples of bugs made from modeling dough; Center 3: a sign that reads "Make your own bug" and small balls of modeling dough in resealable bags, one per child.

Teaching Tip

Search the Internet for images and fun facts about bugs. You'll find lots of resources there!

Materials

Bible



Transition to Explore His Word

See the Resources CD Transition Tips printable file. As children gather, make sure you have all the materials you need.

Focus

♥ We should learn about Jesus.

Explore His Word (20 minutes)

2 Use all of these activities to help children **tell what happened when Paul learned that Jesus is God's Son.**

Bible Background for the Teacher

Saul of Tarsus (later named Paul) did not become a Christian by accident. God met him in a dramatic way on the road to Damascus, because God had a purpose for Paul's life—taking the gospel to the Gentiles. God prepared Paul in specific ways for this job: Roman citizenship, stellar education, religious training, tent-making to support himself, preaching and writing gifts, boldness of personality.

Ananias was a wise choice to help Paul. Ananias was a man of God and was willing to do what God said, even at the risk of his own safety. Paul's beginning ministry was not without its troubles. People could not believe the startling change in the man who used to persecute Christians. Even though Paul was strongly proclaiming Jesus as Lord, he met opposition to the message.

Worship Time

If you want to offer a time of worship, see the Unit 2 Worship Time Ideas printable file on the *Resources* CD.

Materials

whiteboard, dry-erase marker, Bibles, *Resources* sheet 5 Map of Paul's Travels and add-ons 4a-4c, reusable adhesive (or pushpins or self-adhesive magnetic strip), *Teaching Picture 4*



Before Class

Display the map on a wall, a bulletin board, or a whiteboard to use throughout units 2 and 3. Press out Bible story add-ons 4a-4c. If you plan to use a whiteboard, put a piece of magnetic strip on the back of each add-on figure.

Bible Exploration Acts 9:1-22; 22:12-16

Write "Acts 9:1" on the board. SAY: **Today's Bible story comes from the New Testament book of Acts.** Help the children find Acts in the table of contents in their Bibles. Then help them turn to the book of Acts and find chapter 9, verse 1. Ask for a volunteer to read the verse. Explain that Saul was later named Paul.

SAY: **We're going to be finding out how Paul learned to follow Jesus. Since Paul did a lot of traveling, this map will help us see where he went.** Point to the map. **Make sure you listen for how Paul learned to follow God's Son, Jesus.**

Paul was proud of the way he followed God's laws. But Paul hated all Christians. He thought they were not doing what God wanted. He threatened to kill them. He even went to the high priest in Jerusalem to ask if he could go to the city of Damascus to find Christians and take them as prisoners. Have a child attach the Paul 4a between Jerusalem and Damascus on the map.

When Paul got close to Damascus, a bright light suddenly shone from the sky. Attach light rays 4b by Paul. **Paul fell to the ground. He heard a voice say, "Paul, why are you trying to hurt me?" Paul didn't know who was talking to him.** Show *Teaching Picture 4*.

The voice said, "I am Jesus. Paul, you are trying to hurt me." Jesus then told Paul to go into Damascus and wait for what to do next.

Other men who were traveling with Paul heard a voice, but they didn't see anyone. When Paul got up and opened his eyes, he realized he couldn't see. So the men led him the rest of the way to Damascus. Move Paul 4a to Damascus. **Paul didn't eat or drink for three days. And he still couldn't see.**

In Damascus, there was a follower of Jesus named Ananias. Attach Ananias 4c by Damascus. **Jesus spoke to Ananias too. Jesus told Ananias to go talk to Paul. Ananias was afraid to go because he knew Paul had**

hated Christians. But Jesus told Ananias, “I have chosen this man to tell others about my name.” So Ananias did what Jesus said and went to the house where Paul was. Move Ananias 4c by Paul 4a.

Ananias told Paul that Jesus had spoken to both of them. Ananias placed his hands on Paul. Immediately Paul could see again! Ananias told Paul that God wanted Paul to be filled with His Spirit. Then Paul got up and was baptized.

Paul stayed in Damascus a few days. He went to the synagogues and told the people, “Jesus is the Son of God.” Instead of taking followers of Jesus as prisoners, Paul told people that they needed to follow Jesus. The people were surprised. They said, “Isn’t this the same man who hated Christians and Jesus? What happened?” Paul continued preaching about Jesus. Paul told many people about Jesus.

Bible Review Activity

ASK: **How did Paul learn about Jesus, God’s Son?** (Jesus appeared to Paul on the road. Ananias taught Paul about Jesus.)

Distribute the activity pages and pencils, and let the children work the maze. Answer the questions and decode the message at the bottom of the page. (Answer: “Jesus is the Son of God.”) Print on the board the following questions: Who? What? When? Where? Why? SAY: **I am going to ask some questions about the Bible story. When you know the answer to one of these W questions, raise your hand with the middle three fingers in the shape of a W.** Demonstrate this.

ASK: **Where was Paul going?** (Damascus)

Why did Paul want to go to Damascus? (to take Christians as prisoners)

What happened when Paul got close to Damascus? (A bright light shone from the sky. Jesus spoke and told Paul to go into Damascus and wait.)

Who did God tell to go and talk to Paul? (Ananias)

When was Paul baptized? (immediately after Ananias told Paul about Jesus)

What did Paul tell people about Jesus? (Jesus is God’s Son.)

SAY: **Ananias helped Paul learn about Jesus. ♥ We should learn about Jesus too.**

Bible Memory 2 Peter 3:18

“Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.”

Write “2 Peter 3:18” on the board. SAY: **Second Peter 3:18 is our new Bible Memory. Second Peter is the name of the book, 3 is the chapter number, and 18 is the verse number.** Help kids find 2 Peter 3:18 in their Bibles. Ask for a volunteer to read the verse aloud.

Ask a couple of children to put the Bible Memory verse strips on the board in the correct order. When the strips are in place, lead the children in saying the verse. SAY: **Let’s crouch down and slowly stand and “grow” as we say this Bible verse one more time.** Lead the children in doing so.

Materials

Activities p. 15, pencils, whiteboard, dry-erase marker (optional: *Resources* CD lesson 4 Review Questions printable file)



Teaching Tip

Use the *Resources* CD review questions for more questions about the story.

Materials

Bibles, whiteboard, dry-erase markers, *Resources* sheet 8 Unit 2 Bible Memory Strips, reusable adhesive (or self-adhesive magnetic strip)



Before Class

Separate the Bible Memory strips. If you want to display the strips on a whiteboard, attach a small strip of magnet to the back of each piece.

Optional Bible Skill Builder

Print copies of the unit 2 Optional Bible Skills activity from the *Resources* CD. Distribute the pages and let the children work with partners to complete the activity.



Focus

♥ We should learn about Jesus.

Make It Real (10–15 minutes)

3 Use one of these activities to help children **understand that learning about Jesus can change their lives.**

Materials

Activities p. 16



Added Fun!

If you have children who like to act, have them act out the pictured situations. The other children can tell what the ending should be if the person is following Jesus.

Materials

guest speaker, copy of interview questions (optional: slips of paper, pencil, toy microphone)



Before Class

Ask a person who is on staff in your congregation to visit your class. Give the list of interview questions to the person ahead of time. If you want the children to ask the questions, write them on separate slips of paper. The kids might also enjoy using a toy microphone when they conduct the interview.

Materials

Weekly Bible Reader issue 4



Quick Step Changed Reactions

SAY: When Paul learned that Jesus is God's Son, he changed from a person who wanted to hurt Jesus' followers to a person who wanted everyone to follow Jesus. Let's learn about Jesus. Then we'll look at some situations and tell how knowing Jesus can help us change.

Distribute the activity pages and read the paragraph about Jesus. Then discuss the pictured situations.

**ASK: When you think about Jesus, are you mad or glad?
When you think about Jesus, do you want to hurt people or help people?
When you think about Jesus, do you want to keep everything for yourself or give something to someone else?**

SAY: ♥ We should learn about Jesus. Then we will please God, and we will please others!

Option Job Changes



SAY: When Paul learned that Jesus is God's Son, his job changed. Paul had spent time trying to arrest followers of Jesus. Now Paul traveled to different places telling people about Jesus. Many people work in our congregation so that others can learn about Jesus. Let's interview one of those people to see how following Jesus makes a difference in what they do. Introduce the guest. Let the kids take turns asking the questions below.

**ASK: How did you learn about Jesus?
How has knowing about Jesus changed your life?
How did your life change when you started working for our congregation?
What is the hardest part of your job? the best part?
Is there anything we can do to help you or help others learn about Jesus?**

After the interview, thank your guest. Talk about jobs the children could do to help others learn about Jesus. **SAY: ♥ We should learn about Jesus. And we should help others learn about Him too.**

Option Story from Weekly Bible Reader

**ASK: What are some ways you learn about Jesus?
When you know about Jesus, how does that change the way you act or what you do?** Let children share their ideas.

SAY: Let's read about a boy who learned about Jesus. Read the rebus story "Reading Ride." Pause whenever you come to a picture, and let kids call out the pictured word. **SAY: ♥ We should learn about Jesus. There's a lot to learn!**

Live It Out (10 minutes)

- 4** Use one of these activities to help children **choose a way to learn about Jesus.**

Focus

♥ We should learn about Jesus.

Quick Step Learning About Jesus

Before class, make a sample of the Learning About Jesus wheel. SAY: **We know that ♥ we should learn about Jesus. Let's play a game and talk about ways to learn about Jesus. Then you can choose a way you want to learn about Jesus.**

Hand out the reproducible pages and supplies. Tell children to color and cut out the wheels. When their wheels are finished, the children should find partners. Show how one partner can hold a paper clip on the wheel, using the point of a pencil that is placed on the dot in the center of the wheel. The other partner can flick the paper clip to make it spin. Partners should take turns holding the pencil and spinning the paper clip. SAY: **When the paper clip stops, read what is written in the space where it lands. Tell whether or not that is a way you like to learn about Jesus.**

After everyone has had time to play the game, have the children bring their wheels to a closing prayer circle. Have each child hold the wheel on the space that tells what the child will do to learn about Jesus in the coming week. Pray, asking God to help the children as they learn more about His Son, Jesus.

Option Listen, Look, Do 2

Display the Listen, Look, Do word cards as three column headers on a poster board. To make the activity more manageable for kids with disabilities, draw pictures of the things kids name that they can listen to, look at, or do to learn about Jesus.


SAY: **We know that ♥ we should learn about Jesus. And we know we can learn new things by listening, looking, and doing. Let's list specific ways we can learn about Jesus. Then you can each choose a way you want to learn about Jesus.** Begin at the Listen card and ask children to name things they can listen to so that they can learn more about Jesus. Write or draw the things they name in that column. Move to the other two columns, listing things the children can look at and activities they can do to learn about Jesus.

When you have listed several choices under each heading, ask the children to line up near the heading that describes or pictures their favorite way to learn about Jesus: listen, look, or do. Encourage the kids to pray silently and ask God to help them learn new things about His Son, Jesus.

Saying Good-bye

- Make sure children have projects and activity pages they have done and the *Activities* page 13 unit 2 Bible Memory poster and stickers. Stickers are in the middle of *Early Elementary Activities*. Encourage kids to complete their posters at home.
- If you have time before parents arrive, use some of the activities on the Additional Activities for Unit 2 page.


Materials

copies of Learning About Jesus reproducible page,  colored pencils, scissors, jumbo paper clips (1 per child)

Note

See the teacher contents page for the location of reproducible pages. The Learning About Jesus activity is also provided with the lesson 4 printable files on the *Resources* CD.

Materials


Resources sheet 6 Listen, Look, Do word cards,  reusable adhesive, poster board, marker (or self-adhesive magnetic strip, whiteboard, and dry-erase marker)

Ways to Learn About Jesus

Listen (Christian CDs, parents, teachers)
Look (Christian videos, Bible storybooks)
Do (attend Sunday school, sing songs about Jesus)

Weekly Bible Reader

Give each student a *Weekly Bible Reader* to take home.

Be sure parents know about the *Faith & Family*  pages available online to print and use with their children at home. Go to www.heartshaper.com.