



HOW?

"LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF APOSTLE PAUL"



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“HOW 2” - LESSON 1

“How 2 Change Your Life”

Main Focus:

God can turn even the worst person's life around



Power Verse:

“...anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!”
- 2 Corinthians 5:17



Watt's Up:

“God Can Turn Your Life Around!”

LEADER'S INFO

We all know people that we tend to put in the “can't be reached” category. In this lesson, the kids will learn from the life of Saul that God's love is SO powerful, it can change ANY life!

So many people struggle with their past. They have lied, stolen, gossiped, etc., and they believe that they are just “too bad” for God to accept them.

God can take even the worst sinners and transform them into powerful children of God. The Apostle Paul began as a violent man who hated and persecuted Christians. God changed his life in a powerful way, and he became one of the most influential leaders in Church history.

The children will learn in this lesson that God can change any life - no matter what their past is like!



“The Spark” Intro Video

Puma MacNcheese



“Watt's Up?” Teaching Video

Skittles teaches “Watt's Up?”



Character Skit

“Helga Heinebocker”



Offering Time



Game On!

“Hot Air Balloon Race”



Bible Story

“Saul Becomes A Christian”



Power Verse Video

“...anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!” - 2 Corinthians 5:17



Call To Action

“How 2 Change Your Life”



Brain Drain

Review Game



Small Group Experience

Main Focus:

God can turn even the worst person's life around



Power Verse:

“...anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!”
- 2 Corinthians 5:17



Watt's Up:

“God Can Turn Your Life Around!”

Lesson 1 Materials Needed:

“The Spark” Intro Video

- “How To” Video

“Watt's Up?” Teaching Video

- “Watt's Up?” Teaching Video
- “Watt's Up?” Trigger Video

Character Skit

- “Helga Heickenbocker” Theme Graphic/Music
- Fake business card

Offering Time

- “Offering Time” Bumper Video

Game On!

- “Game On!” Bumper Video
- “Hot Air Balloon Race” Graphic
- Large balloons (empty)
- Roll of duct tape

Bible Story

- “Saul Becomes A Christian” Graphics
- Bible

Power Verse Video

- “Power Verse” Video

Call To Action

- “How 2 Change Your Life” Graphics
- Several different sound effects

Brain Drain

- “Brain Drain” Bumper Video
- “Brain Drain” Lesson 1 Graphics

Small Group Experience

- Turn Them Around Card
- Turn Around Wheel Print Piece
- Brads
- Scissors
- Crayons or markers

“The Spark” Intro Video

Puma MacNcheese

“Watt's Up?” Teaching Video

Skittles teaches “Watt's Up?”

Character Skit

“Helga Heinebocker”

Offering Time

Game On!

“Hot Air Ballon Race”

Bible Story

“Saul Becomes A Christian”

Power Verse Video

“...anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!” - 2 Corinthians 5:17

Call To Action

“How 2 Change Your Life”

Brain Drain

Review Game

Small Group Experience



CHARACTER SKIT

Character: “Helga Heickenbocker” *(she is a no-nonsense interior designer with a German accent - similar to “Edna” from “The Incredibles”)*

HELGA: *(struts out onstage pointing and yelling at everything)* No! No, no, no! NONE of this will work!

Leader: I beg your pardon?

HELGA: YES!! Beg for Helga’s pardon! That is the ONLY way you will get it. On your knees. Go ahead, Helga is waiting.

Leader: I’m sorry, but -

HELGA: That will work - Helga forgives you, darling. You’re welcome.

Leader: Ok -WHO is Helga??

HELGA: *(motions to herself)* HELGA is Helga! Here, take my card. *(hands a business card to the leader)* You’re welcome.

Leader: *(reads the card)* Helga...HEINEBOCKER?? Designer, Remodeler...and How To Guru? What’s a “How To Guru??”

HELGA: HELGA is a How To guru, and now Helga will teach “How To” to YOU. For instance, Helga has the most DIVINE idea for a new bathtub using nothing more than a shopping cart and 32 rubber bands. That will be \$10,000,000. Helga is Helga, you’re welcome.

Leader: That sounds -

HELGA: *(interrupts)* AMAZING! Helga knows, darling. Helga knows. Now, to take care of whatever... *(looks around, disgusted)* whatever this is.

Leader: Church. This is church.

HELGA: *(laughs)* Helga’s sorry, but no, darling. This just isn’t going to cut it!

Leader: WHAT’S not going to cut it?

HELGA: THIS!! The lighting, the music, *(motions to the leader’s clothes)* whatever you want to call THIS. I mean, what are we, CAVE MEN? We might as well just put on some scuba gear and go roller blading!

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CHARACTER SKIT

(continued)

Leader: I feel like you don't know what a cave man is.

HELGA: HELGA DOESN'T CARE. It is OBVIOUS that this “church” isn't up to snuff. The stage is EW and the music is BLECH and you *(looks to the leader)* - well, you're just...all of that, aren't you? If this is as strong as God's love can get, then it's just not good enough for these kids. They might as well be UNREACHABLE.

Leader: WOAH! Hold it right there, Helga. That's where you are wrong. NO ONE is beyond the love of God! God's love is the most powerful force to have EVER existed! And God will do WHATEVER it takes to get your attention!

HELGA: *(claps excitedly)* That is MUSIC to Helga's ears! If God is willing to do WHATEVER it takes - Helga has some ideas! Instead of these old lights, how do you feel about...flamethrowers?

Leader: FLAMETHROWERS?!

HELGA: YES, DARLING! Flamethrowers! FWOOSH!! *(mimics the sound of fire)* But you know...just...really subtle?

Leader: I'm sorry, but God's ways of getting people's attention is WAY cooler than flamethrowers. It can completely TRANSFORM somebody from the inside out!

HELGA: OOH! Now, you're talking about REMODELING! I say we BULLDOZE the baptistry and put in an OLYMPIC SIZED PIRANHA PIT!

Leader: Are you NUTS? I'm not talking about anything crazy like that! I'm talking about how God does the GREATEST remodel of all! He can ERASE your past and CHANGE your future! He can take a terrible, sinful person and make them brand new again!

HELGA: *(gasps)* HELGA LOVES IT!! Please, tell me more!

Leader: We will, we will! I promise. Just do me a favor, okay? Wait backstage, listen to today's lesson, and please...don't try to remodel or change ANYTHING.

HELGA: *(crosses her arms)* Helga makes no promises. Helga will see you all later, darlings. Take another card. *(hands another business card to the leader)* You need it. Helga is Helga. You're welcome! *(struts offstage as her theme music plays)*



GAME ON!

“Hot Air Balloon Race”

Items Needed For Game:

large balloons (empty); roll of duct tape

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Preparation:

Choose however many players you desire to play the game. Place a strip of duct tape on the floor to signify the start and the finish line.

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How To Play:

Give each contestant a balloon. Have them all start on the starting line. When you say, “Go,” the players must stand firmly in one spot and blow the balloon up (*as much or as little as they desire, they choose*), then let it go. It will fly (*perhaps a little bit forward, perhaps a whole lot backward, you can never tell with balloons*), then they have to run to wherever it landed, pick it up, stand still and blow it up again.

They keep doing this, each time trying to aim it toward the finish line. The first person whose balloon crosses the finish line is declared the winner.



Bible Story

“Saul Becomes A Christian”

Materials Needed:

The graphic slides for Lesson 1; begin with the slide that says “Bible Story”; follow the instructions below, changing the slides to follow along with the story (*as shown*)

Preparation:

Familiarize yourself with the story of Saul in Acts 9:1-21; have your open Bible in your hands as you tell the story

The Story:

Today’s Bible Story is found in the book of Acts, chapter 9. It’s about a young man named Saul. Saul was a very mean man. (*show pic*) Saul was the enemy to a lot of Christians. He traveled from city to city, arresting Christians and putting them into prison. He even had some Christians put to death. He was full of anger and hatred for God’s people.



One day, Saul was traveling down the road towards a city called Damascus, when suddenly a bright light shone in front of him. (*show pic*) It startled him so much that it knocked him to the ground. A voice began to speak to him from inside the bright light. It said, “Saul, I am Jesus. I am the one you are persecuting. Get up and go to Jerusalem, and I will tell you what to do.”



Saul got up, but he realized he was blind. He couldn’t see a thing. He had some men help him to Jerusalem, where he met a man named Ananias. God had told Ananias to go find Saul and lay hands on him, so he could be healed. God told Ananias that Saul was going to become one of the biggest preachers in the world.



Ananias went to Saul, (*show pic*) laid his hands on him, and healed him. Saul could now see. Eventually, Saul changed his name to Paul. He stopped sinning and persecuting Christians. (*show pic*) Instead, he began to preach and teach about Jesus ALL OVER THE WORLD.



How could someone like Saul have such a radical change? How could Saul go from killing Christians to eventually becoming a preacher who helped others become Christians? There’s only ONE way something like that could happen: the POWER of God’s LOVE! God loved Saul so much that He was willing to forgive him of every sin he had committed. He changed Saul’s life!

Today, we are going to learn how the POWER of God’s LOVE can do the same thing for us. If God can forgive Saul and change his life in such an amazing way, there is no doubt He can do the same thing for you and me.



Call To Action

“How 2 Change Your Life”

Materials Needed:

The graphic slides for Lesson 1; several sound effects (can get them online)

Preparation:

Begin with the slide titled “How 2 Change Your Life”

The Message: (title slide)



Have you ever heard any sounds like this? (*Play sound of a train horn, tornado siren, firetruck, school bell*) Do you know what each of those sounds are? Yeah, that’s exactly what they are. Have you ever wondered why they have those sounds? Some of those sounds are really loud and obnoxious, and after listening to them for a while they can get really annoying. But why do those sounds exist? They exist in order to get your attention. When someone wants you to know that a train is coming, they blow the train horn (*play train horn sound fx*). When someone wants you to know that there is tornado in the area, they blow the tornado siren (*play tornado siren sound fx*). When someone wants you to know that a firetruck needs to get by (*play firetruck sound fx*) or that it’s time for school to end (*play school bell sound fx*). Those are all used to get your attention.

Today, in our Bible Story, we met a man named Saul. God wanted to get Saul’s attention. Saul was not a good man. Saul had done a lot of bad things to Christians. So one day when Saul was traveling down a road to Damascus, do you remember what happened? (*allow response*) God sent a blinding light from Heaven, knocked Saul to the ground, and spoke to Saul. He said, “Saul, I am Jesus, the one you are persecuting.” Why did God do this?

God Will Do Whatever It Takes To Get Your Attention (slide)



When you aren’t doing right, God will do whatever it takes to get your attention. God does not want you to sin, but when you do mess up and sin He will do whatever it takes to get your attention. Does that mean God is going to send a blinding light and speak to you in a loud booming voice? Probably not! But God will get your attention in other ways.

So you might ask, “Why would God want to get Saul’s attention? Why didn’t God just kill Saul right on that road?” After all, Saul was a really bad guy. He was going around killing Christians. Well, we can learn a very important lesson from the fact that God didn’t kill Saul, but instead chose to get his attention...

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Call To Action (Continued)



No One is Beyond God's Love (slide)

An important thing to remember is that every soul matters to God. Every soul. Every person in the world. That includes your entire family, everyone in your school, everyone in this country, every person in the world.

Does God really love people in prison? Yes! God loves everyone - even the people who have killed other people. Does God really love the people who don't believe in Him? YES! God loves everyone - even the people who have chosen not to believe in Him.

Sometimes when you've messed up and sinned, you think that God doesn't love you anymore, but He does! If you've cheated on a test, God still loves you. If you've lied to your parents, God still loves you. If you've stole something from the grocery store, God still loves you. No matter what you do God will always love you.

Maybe you have no problem believing that God loves everyone, but you just don't believe that God can USE everyone. For someone as bad as Saul - God can love him, but he isn't ever going to be able to do big things for God, right? Wrong!



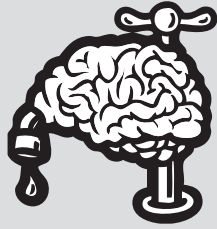
God Can Erase Your Past And Change Your Future (slide)

God changed Saul's life. Saul, the guy who had preached *against* Jesus and even killed other Christians, became known as Paul. Paul went on to lead thousands of people to know God. Paul even wrote most of the New Testament. That goes to show you that God can use anyone to do His work - even the worst of sinners!

What about you? What is God going to use you to do? Maybe you'll be a teacher, a missionary, a pastor, or a chef. Maybe you will lead a bible study at your school and help others to learn about Jesus. I don't know what God will use you to do. What I do know is - no matter how bad you've messed up, God can erase your past and change your future! He can use you to do big things for him! If God can change Saul's life and use him, He can change your life and use you! All you have to do is give your life to Him, ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and just watch how God changes your life!

Altar Response: (play soft music)

Pray for kids to know that God loves them despite their sin. Pray for those who know that God has been trying to get their attention. Pray that they will give their lives to Him, so He can use them to do big things for Him!



BRAIN DRAIN

Materials Needed:

The graphic slides for Lesson 1; “Brain Drain” Bumper Video

Preparation:

Play the “Brain Drain” Bumper Video; Begin with the slide titled “Brain Drain”; there is a slide for each question

1. Watt’s Up today?

Answer: “God Can Turn Your Life Around!”

2. What is the name of the host in our intro video?

Answer: Puma MacNcheese

3. What was Saul doing to the Christians of the early church?

Answer: Killing Them

4. Who appeared to Saul on the Road To Damascus?

Answer: Jesus

5. What type of injury did Saul sustain after the bright light shone on him?

Answer: Blindness

6. What did Saul begin to do after he was healed?

Answer: Preach The Gospel Of Jesus

7. According to our lesson today, “God Will Do Whatever It Takes To Get Your _____.”

Answer: Attention

8. According to our lesson today, “No One Is Beyond The _____ Of God.”

Answer: Love

9. According to our lesson today, “God Can _____ Your Past And Change Your Future.”

Answer: Erase

10. Where was our Power Verse found?

Answer: 2 Corinthians 5:17

FAMILY DEVOTION!

“How 2 Change Your Life”



“God Can Turn Your Life Around!”



“...*anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!*” - 2 Corinthians 5:17

This week, we started our series, “How 2,” and we’re learning that God can turn even the worst person’s life around! From the story of Saul becoming a Christ-follower and, as a result, becoming Paul. Before Saul was known for enslaving Christ-followers, but when he encountered Jesus, his life was changed forever - he then, as Paul, began to preach the Gospel and helped build the Church!

Read:

Acts 9:1-19

Ask:

- What did Saul see on his way to Damascus? Who did it end up being?
- Who told Ananias to go and meet Saul in Damascus?
- What happened when Ananias laid hands on Saul?

Say:

Saul was so against Christ-followers that he went around enslaving them. You could say that he was “beyond God’s love” - totally unreachable by Jesus. But that’s not the case - Jesus met Saul with a bright light on his way to Damascus and changed his life forever. Saul was NOT beyond God’s love. Once he saw Jesus, he followed his directions and Ananias prayed for him. After that he became Paul and became one of the leaders of the Church!

Ask/Discuss:

- Who are some people that you think might seem beyond God’s reach?
- Is there anyone who is beyond God’s reach? Why not?
- What happens when you encounter Jesus and repent?

Pray:

Pray that your children will choose to follow Jesus the way Saul chose to - completely changing his life and plans to serve Jesus. You may even take this opportunity to ask if your children would like to pray for salvation. If so, pray with them that they will receive forgiveness for the sins, change their behavior, and choose to follow Jesus for the rest of their lives!

FAMILY DEVOTION!

“How 2 Change Your Life”



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Small Group Experience

LESSON 1 - “How To Change Your Life”



Watt's Up:

“God Can Turn Your Life Around!”



Power Verse:

“...anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!”

-2 Corinthians 5:17

SUPPLY LIST:

* No additional supplies need

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS:

To review the Bible Story, read the provided lesson excerpt. Tell the kids to listen for the name “Saul.” When they hear the name “Saul,” they should stand and turn in a circle once, and then be seated. Continue on this way until the story is complete. This is a fun way to introduce the concept of the lesson which is that God can **TURN** a **LIFE AROUND**!

Say - What a great **TURN** out we have today! I am glad that you all **TURNED** up for our time together. I would never **TURN** any of you away. Well, I’m betting by now you have noticed that I keep saying the word **TURN**! That is because today is all about **TURNING**. Our Bible Story has a **BIG** turn! I am going to read the story, and I want all of you to listen for the name “Saul.” When you hear me say “Saul,” you should stand, turn in a circle, and then be seated. We will continue this way until the story is complete.

-Read the provided lesson excerpt aloud, pausing when you say “Saul” to allow time for the kids to stand and turn in a circle and then be seated again-

Say - Today’s Bible Story is about a young man named **Saul**. **Saul** was a very mean man and was the enemy to a lot of Christians. He traveled from city to city, arresting Christians, and putting them into prison. He even had some Christians put to death. **Saul** was full of anger and hatred for God’s people.

One day, **Saul** was traveling down the road towards a city called Damascus, when suddenly a bright light shone in front of him. It startled him so much that it knocked him to the ground. A voice began to speak to him from inside the bright light. It said, “**Saul**, I am Jesus. I am the one you are persecuting. Get up and go to Jerusalem, and I will tell you what to do.”

Saul got up, but he realized he was blind. He couldn’t see a thing. He had some men help him to Jerusalem, where he met a man named Ananias. God had told Ananias to go find **Saul** and lay hands on him, so he could be healed. God told Ananias that **Saul** was going to become one of the biggest preachers in the world.

Ananias laid his hands on him, and healed him. **Saul** could now see. Eventually, **Saul** changed his name to Paul. He stopped sinning and persecuting Christians. Instead, he began to preach and teach about Jesus **ALL OVER THE WORLD**.

Say - Great turning! Thank you for listening so well. We are done standing and turning when we hear the name Saul. However, the **TURNING** talk is just getting started.

(Continued on next page)

Ask - How could someone like Saul have such a radical change? What turned Saul's life around?

Game/Activity

SUPPLY LIST:

* Turn Them Around Card (provided; print one set; make sure it is printed on paper thick enough so the designs cannot be seen through the paper)

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS:

Before small group begins, print and cut the Turn Them Around Cards. Once activity time begins, mix up the cards and place them on the ground in a pattern that is similar to how you would lay out cards for the game Memory. Make sure that the cards are face down so that the designs cannot be seen. Divide the group into teams. One at a time, team members should take turns turning over two cards to try and make a match. If they turn over two identical matching faces, they get to keep those cards for their team. If they do not turn over matching faces, the cards should be turned back over and the next team will have a turn. Continue on this way until all of the matches have been made. The team with the most matches wins! This can be played multiple rounds as time allows and is a fun lesson reinforcing concept.

Say - I have a handful of faces. Some of the faces are sweet and nice looking. Some of the faces are NOT so sweet and nice looking. All too often we look at people and are quick to decide, “That person could NEVER change.” Today we are learning that God can turn anyone's life around! I am going to place all of the faces face down on the ground. Once I have done this, I will divide you into teams and explain our game.

-Place the cards on the ground and form teams-

Say - We are ready to play! Have you ever played the game Memory? To play memory, you turn over two cards and see if you have a match. If you turned over matching cards, you get to keep them. If you did not turn over matching cards, you turn them back over and the next player gets a turn. Our game will be played the same way. A player from each team will take turns turning over two face cards. If you turn over matching faces, you get to keep those cards for your team. If you do not turn over matching faces, you must turn them back over and allow the other team to have a turn. We will continue on this way until all of the matches have been found. The team with the most matches wins!

-Play the game, this can be played multiple rounds as time allows-

Group Sharing

SUPPLY LIST:

- * Turn Around Wheel Print Piece (provided; print one per kid)
- * Brads (one per kid)
- * Scissors (several pair for the group to share)
- * Crayons or markers

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS:

Before small group begins, print the Turn Around Wheel Print Piece and prepare a sample. Once group sharing begin, give each kid a print piece and supplies.

(Continued on next page)

Say - I am giving each of you a page that has two circles. Cut out those circles and use them to make something like the one I am showing. Use the provided supplies to make your wheel.

-Allow kids time to complete this task-

Say - We keep using the term, “God can turn a life around.”

Ask - What do you think that means?

-Allow time for the kids to answer, discuss their answers with the group-

Say - Write the words “TURN IT AROUND” on your top circle.

-Allow kids time to complete this task-

Say - As you spin the wheel, you’ll notice that the words of your power verse are displayed. Divide into small groups and read the verse aloud together. Discuss what it means to you.

-Allow kids time to complete this task-

Ask - Would anyone like to share their thoughts on this verse? What does it mean?

-Allow time for the kids to answer, discuss their answers with the group-

Ask - The first word of your verse is, “ANYONE.” Is that true? Can God’s love change anyone and everyone? Why?

-Allow time for the kids to answer, discuss their answers with the group-

Ask - What kind of NEW LIFE do we have with God? What does that mean?

-Allow time for the kids to answer, discuss their answers with the group-

Prayer Time

Say - God’s love is a powerful thing. It transforms people and turns their life around! Let’s thank God for his love and ask him to help us show that love to everyone! (PRAY)

Closing

Say - Saul was living a rough life. Wait, who are we kidding? Saul was living an awful life. He killed and tortured people. He tore families apart and left children without their mothers and fathers. He hated and hurt as many Godly people as he possibly could. His life was racing down a path of destruction. Saul had no intentions of changing course until one day he met Jesus. He met a loving heavenly Father who was full of forgiveness. He met God and his life was turned around. He was no longer racing down a path of destruction. He was walking towards life! What an amazing transformation! God has done the same for me and you. Our sin had us racing down a path of destruction. Our loving heavenly Father, full of forgiveness, changed our life. He turned us around and set us walking towards LIFE! What a transformation! He did this for Saul, for you and me, and for anyone who comes to Him. God’s all powerful love turns lives around! Thank you for coming today! I will see you again soon!

