



HEROES OF THE FAITH

Large Group

LESSON 9: LARGE GROUP

Paul

MAIN IDEA:

God has the power to turn his enemies into his friends. When we surrender what we have to him, he can transform something broken into something beautiful.

BIBLE PASSAGES:

- Acts 9:1–32

MEMORY VERSE:

“But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.”

Romans 5:8, NLT



Prepare your heart to teach.
Plan for the lesson.



Introduce the story of the Gospel.
(10-15 minutes)



Play large group games.
(25 minutes)

Prepare



Prepare your heart to teach.
Plan for the lesson.

QUESTIONS:

- How can you be praying for the student this week? Are there any specific students or requests you can pray for?
- Are there any changes and additions needed for the Large Group Lesson?
- Is there anything specific you need to communicate to the small group leaders?

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Bible
- 1 rock
- (Optional) 1 goldfish cracker
- Printout 1, 4 copies

Large Group



Introduce the story of the Gospel.
(10-15 minutes)



"Who is Jesus"
Call and Response

INTRODUCTION:

Welcome the students to Crossroads and tell them you are glad they came this week.

(Optional) Go through the "Who is Jesus" call and response.

(Optional) As a group, say the memory verse for this week.

Open with prayer for the students.

OBJECT LESSON: THE ROCK AND THE GOLDFISH CRACKER

Ask for one student volunteer to come forward. Give this student a rock.

Say: **I would really like it if you would please make this rock into a goldfish because the rock is pretty ugly and useless.**

After a few seconds, thank the student for the help, and ask him or her to sit down again.

Ask:

- **Why couldn't this rock change into a goldfish?**
- **Do you think that God could change it into a goldfish?** (The answer, of course, is that he could if he wanted to because God can do everything that he desires to do.)

(Optional: You will have to pre-arrange this part before club.) Have an adult volunteer interrupt and say that they can turn the rock into a goldfish. Have them try to hide the rock in their pocket and pull out a goldfish cracker.

Say: **Today's hero is Paul. God worked through Paul to do amazing things. Originally, his name was Saul, but when he encountered Jesus, his life was transformed, and God gave him the new name, Paul. Before his transformation, Saul was a man who hated Christians, even traveling to different cities to arrest them for sharing the message of Jesus.**

Saul started out as an enemy of God. But God can take one thing and make it into something completely different. (Remember that rock?) Let's read about Paul's change now from Acts Chapter 9.

Read Acts 9:1–20 in parts. Consider having volunteers read the following parts—Narrator, Saul, God, Ananias.

Scripts are provided in Printout 1.

WRAP IT UP

Paul was burdened with great concern for all the churches. Paul was completely dedicated to serving Jesus no matter what the cost to him personally, and this is why we have chosen him as a hero.

God can take one thing (or person) and make it (or them) into something (or someone) completely different—and radically better. Paul was a fearless servant of God, but he didn't start out that way. He started out fighting against God until God changed him. So, no matter how much you have fought against God or how unworthy you feel you might be, God can use you! Will you turn to him and allow him to transform your life into something truly beautiful?

Games



Play large group games.
(25 minutes)

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- 1 playground ball
- 4 bases
- Rope or bandana
- Plastic spoons
- Ping pong balls
- Soft dodgeballs

LARGE GROUP GAME: KICKBALL

Materials: 1 playground ball and 4 bases to create the field

Object of game: Make it to home base without getting out.

How to play: Set up the field like a baseball field, with four bases set in a diamond pattern. Divide the students in two teams. One team will kick first, while the other team fields. Have the kicking team line up in order of birthday behind home base, and have the fielding team spread out in the field in front of the kicker. A pitcher will roll the ball to the kicker, who will then kick the ball between first and third bases. Any ball that goes to the left of third base or to the right of first base will be fouled, and the kicker will be given another chance to kick. Once the ball is kicked, the kicker will run around the bases while the fielders will try to touch the ball to the runner or throw the ball at the runner while he or she is not on base. If the runner is hit or if the ball is caught before it hits the ground, that is one out, and after three outs, the fielders and kickers will switch. Each time that both teams have had a chance to kick is called an inning. The game ends when time runs out or when seven innings have been completed. Runs are scored when a kicker makes it all the way around the bases without getting out.

If the ball goes out of bounds, it is returned to play by the nearest player using a foot pass or kick. The game can be played for a set amount of time (e.g., 10-15 minutes) or until a predetermined number of goals are scored.

Variations: Allow every player to kick each inning before switching sides.

LARGE GROUP GAME: RELAY RACES

Materials: Rope or bandana, plastic spoons and ping-pong balls, soft dodgeballs

Object of game: Be the first team with all players sitting

How to play: Have the students divide into their small groups and line up single file, behind a starting line. Then decide on the type of race to run. Have the students that finish the race sit down. The first team with all players sitting down is the winner.

Three-Legged Race: Two students tie one leg each together using rope, a bandana, or any other piece of cloth. They must work together to run to the end and back before the next pair can go.

Sprint: No equipment is needed at all for this race – students simply run as fast as possible to the end and back before the next player can go.

Backwards Sprint: Same as above, but students must run backwards.

Spoon Carry: Each team will need a plastic spoon and a ping-pong ball. The students must carry the spoon with the ping-pong ball to the end and back as fast as possible.

Chicken Egg: Each team needs a ball. As an alternative, you could give each student an inflated balloon for this race. They must put the ball between their knees and carry it to the finish line, where they can either drop it and run back or carry it back if the next person needs it.

Barefoot Relay: Have all the students take off their shoes. Make sure there are no duplicate shoes, and if so, mark one set with masking tape. Then place all the shoes in a big pile at the end of the race. Students must run barefoot to their shoes, where they will find them in the pile and put them on before running back.

LARGE GROUP GAME: NINJA TAG

Materials: None needed

Object of game: Be the last player in the circle

How to play: Players stand in a circle. Players begin with their hands in a “ninja” pose: feet shoulder-width apart, hands held out in front with fingers spread wide. Players take turns moving in an attempt to tag others’ hands while trying to avoid being tagged themselves.

On their turn, a player makes one move, which can be a jump, slide, or step while trying to tag another player with one quick hand movement. A tag must be a controlled and deliberate touch, not a full swing or wild motion. The tag must also be above the waist and should avoid hitting other players too hard. When a player is tagged, they are out and must leave the circle. They should stand off to the side but not interfere with the game.

The last player remaining in the circle is the winner and may be declared the “Ninja Master” for the next round. Players should not reach out or lunge aggressively. Tags should be quick and controlled. If space is limited, designate a small “safe zone” where players cannot move to avoid being tagged. This adds an extra challenge and keeps the game more dynamic.

Variations:

- Players are eliminated if they try to evade an attack when the attacker was really attacking someone else.
- To increase difficulty, allow a player to tag others with two hands instead of one.



HEROES OF THE FAITH

PRIMARY
Small Group

LESSON 9: PRIMARY SMALL GROUP

Paul

MAIN IDEA:

God has the power to turn his enemies into his friends. When we surrender what we have to him, he can transform something broken into something beautiful.

BIBLE PASSAGES:

- Acts 9:1-32

MEMORY VERSE:

“But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.”

Romans 5:8, NLT



Prepare your heart to teach.
Plan for the lesson.



Connect with the kids and make them feel heard and cared for. (15 minutes)



Facilitate activity and study to help kids know and love Jesus. (20-25 minutes)



Lead kids to live out the mission of the Gospel. (5-10 minutes)

Prepare



Prepare your heart to teach.
Plan for the lesson.

QUESTIONS:

- How can you be praying for the students this week?
- Are there any specific students or requests you can pray for?
- Are there any adaptations that you can make to the lesson this week to better serve the kids in your small group or make your small group more effective?
- How can you connect with the students outside of the club over the next few weeks?
- Is there a sporting event or performance you can go to? Can you plan a casual park or fast-food meet-up with them and their families (as a group or individually)?

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Bible
- Name tags
- Snacks, 1 per child
- Scissors, several pairs
- Pencils, 1 per child
- Markers and crayons, 3-4 per child
- Printout 2, 1 per child (printed on cardstock)
- Clear adhesive tape, 1 roll per small group
- Pennies, 2 per child
- Cross or picture of a cross
- Large paper or whiteboard
- (Optional) Blindfolds, 1 per child
- Index cards or small pieces of paper
- (Optional) Various textured objects (e.g., sandpaper, cotton balls, sponge, smooth stone)
- (Optional) Small items with distinct smells (e.g., orange peel, cinnamon stick, lavender)
- (Optional) Objects that make different sounds (e.g., keys, bell, maracas)

Connect



Connect with the kids and make them feel heard and cared for.
(15 minutes)

Small Group Session 1

ICE BREAKER:

Distribute name tags and snacks. Choose one of the following icebreaker activities to do together while children eat their snack:

- Option 1: Ask the children to share their highs and lows (the best and worst things that happened to them either today or from the past week).
- Option 2: Ask the children to take turns sharing how they're feeling today using the "How Are You Feeling?" chart (from the CKC Games Bag).

PRAY TOGETHER:

Collect prayer requests from the students. The leader or a student can pray for the entire group or a leader can pair up students and invite them to pray for one another.

INTRODUCTION:

Start by discussing with the class what it means to be blind and how people who are blind navigate the world.

Say: **Today we will participate in an activity to help us understand what it might be like to experience the world without using our eyes.**

Pick one of the three options below.

OPTION 1: EXPERIENCING THE WORLD BLIND

Have students put blindfolds on, and make sure they cannot see. Consider having students do this activity one at a time if you do not have blindfolds for each student. Provide various items for the students to feel, smell, and listen to. Allow them to guess what each item is.

- **Touch:** Various textured objects (e.g., sandpaper, cotton balls, sponge, smooth stone). Students will be blindfolded and will try to identify the objects just by feeling them.
- **Smell:** Small containers with items that have strong smells (e.g., orange peel, cinnamon stick, lavender). Students will try to guess the items by scent alone.
- **Sound:** Different objects that make distinct sounds (e.g., keys, bell, maracas). Students will try to identify the objects by listening carefully.

OPTION 2: PAPER BAG MYSTERY SENSORY ACTIVITY

Place each textured object into its own paper bag. Ensure the bags are opaque so students cannot see the contents.

Various textured objects, such as:

- Sandpaper
- Cotton balls
- Sponge
- Smooth stone
- Feathers
- Rubber ball
- Pinecone
- Fabric scraps (e.g., silk, velvet, burlap)
- Plastic toy with ridges or bumps

Divide students into small groups, or let them take turns one by one if you prefer a more controlled experience. Have each student reach into the paper bag and feel the object without looking inside.

Encourage the student to describe how the object feels in their hand (e.g., rough, soft, bumpy, smooth) and try to guess what the object might be based on the texture. Allow each student to guess the object before revealing what it is. Rotate the bags among the groups or students until everyone has had a chance to feel each item. After all the items have been revealed, discuss the different textures and how they help us recognize and understand things in our environment.

Ask:

- How did it feel to rely on your other senses without using your eyes?
- Did you find it easy to figure out what each item is?
- Which item was the hardest to figure out?
- Which item surprised you the most?
- Can this activity help you relate to someone who is blind?

OPTION 3: WALKING BLIND

Have the students get into pairs. One student will be blindfolded. The other student will take their hand and lead them around the room/area. Consider making a route for students to follow.

Ask:

- How did it feel to rely on your other senses without using your eyes?
- How did you feel being led around by someone else?
- Was it hard to trust the person that was leading you around?
- Can this activity help you relate to someone who is blind?

Today in Large Group we will be introduced to a man who hated Christians, people who believed in Jesus. He even tried to put them in jail and killed some Christians. One day as he was traveling, Jesus decided to reveal himself to this man. After he met Jesus, he was left blind. As we experienced, it can be very uncomfortable and disorienting being blind. We will get to hear more about his story in Large Group.

Pray and dismiss to Large Group.

Heart



Facilitate activity and study to help kids know and love Jesus.
(20-25 minutes)

Small Group Session 2

Review the main idea of the lesson with the students:

Say: **God can take his enemies and make them into his friends. God can take something ugly and useless and make something beautiful and wonderful.**

Pass out Printout 2 and allow a few minutes to write or draw in Printout 2.

One thing in God's creation that reminds us of this truth is a butterfly. A butterfly starts out as an ugly, useless caterpillar. All caterpillars do is eat and eat and eat. But then they form a chrysalis, and, in time, God transforms them into beautiful butterflies. This is what God did for Paul. He took him as an enemy and transformed him into a friend. God can do this for us as well.

We will be making a balancing butterfly to take home to remind you that God wants to make something beautiful out of your lives.

ACTIVITY: HOMEMADE BUTTERFLY

To make a perfectly symmetrical butterfly (which is necessary for this activity to work), take a piece of cardstock, and fold it in half. Trace the half butterfly pattern (pattern made from outline on Printout 2) onto the card stock.

Cut out the butterfly and decorate it using crayons, markers, or colored pencils.

Tape two pennies to the underside of the butterfly under its two wings.

Now you can balance the butterfly's head on a pencil eraser (or you can make a stand for your butterfly by putting a stick in a ball of clay). You may have to adjust the position of the coins to make the butterfly balance on the head area.

After he met Jesus, Paul, the same person who once put Christians in jail and killed them, believed in Jesus for salvation and started telling other people about Jesus. He ended up writing several books in the Bible. We will see what he writes after he believed in Jesus.

Read 2 Corinthians 5:17-21 out loud.

This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him. For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!" For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so

that we could be made right with God through Christ.

Ask:

- **What are people after they belong to Jesus?** (They are a new creation.)
- **How does God bring us back to himself?** (Through Jesus Christ)
- **What is the job that God has given everyone who believes in Jesus?** (Reconcile people to God)
- **What should we be telling people to do?** (Come back to God!)



DEFINITION

RECONCILE:

Restore friendly relations between.

ILLUSTRATION: THE CLEAN SLATE

Imagine you're at school, and you're given a brand-new whiteboard to write on. It's perfectly clean and shiny. You start using it to do your math problems, but as you work, you make some mistakes. You accidentally write the wrong numbers, and soon your whiteboard has a lot of scribbles and errors all over it.

You try to erase the mistakes, but the marks just smear and won't come off completely. No matter how hard you try, the board is still messy, and you feel frustrated because you can't make it clean again on your own.

Then, your teacher comes over. She sees you're struggling and smiles. She takes a special cleaner and wipes the board perfectly clean—every single mistake disappears, and it's like the scribbles were never there. The board is completely clean again, just like it was when it was brand new.

This is what Jesus does for us. When we make mistakes (which the Bible calls "sins"), our hearts can feel messy, like that whiteboard. We might try to fix things on our own, but we can't make our hearts perfectly clean by ourselves. But when we trust in Jesus, He comes and wipes away all our sins, making our hearts clean again.

This is what "justification" means. It's like God sees our messy hearts, but because of Jesus, he wipes them clean. When God looks at us after we've trusted in Jesus, he sees us as if we've never made any mistakes—as if we have a completely clean slate. Just like your teacher helped make your whiteboard clean, Jesus makes our hearts clean, and we're justified in God's eyes.

ACTIVITY: LOVE AND RECONCILIATION CIRCLE

Read Romans 5:6-11 out loud.

Say: **Reconciliation is about Jesus helping to bring us back into a good relationship with God. When we believe in Jesus, the Bible says that we are justified, or made right because of him.**

- **What does this passage tell us about how much God loves us?**

Write down their responses on individual index cards. Guide them to understand that God's love is unconditional and was shown through Jesus' sacrifice.

Reconciliation means being brought back into a close relationship with God.

- **Why do we need our relationship fixed with God?**
- **How does Jesus help us be close to God again?**

Give each child an index card or piece of paper. Ask them to quietly think about one thing that they feel might separate them from God, such as a sin, a fear, or something they worry about.

Have them write or draw this on their card or write their answers on the index cards.

Place the cross (or picture of a cross) in the center of the Small Group circle.

Say: **Jesus' death on the cross is what allows us to fix our relationship with God.**

Invite each child to bring their card to the cross and place it underneath.

Say: **This symbolizes that Jesus takes away the things that separate us from God.**

After everyone has placed their cards under the cross, join hands and pray together.

Hands



Lead kids to live out the mission of the Gospel.
(5-10 minutes)

Small Group Session 2

WRAP IT UP:

Ask: **What's one thing you learned or felt during the activity?**

Say: **Keep your hearts open to God's love and remember that nothing can separate you from it because of Jesus.**

RESPONSE AND REFLECTION

Consider finishing by giving each child a small reminder, like a cross-shaped bookmark or a card with Romans 5:8 on it, to take home as a reminder of God's love and reconciliation.

Print out the memory verse.

Practice the memory verse for this unit (Romans 5:8).

Pray with the students and dismiss them.



Bible Memory Verse
Games



HEROES OF THE FAITH

INTERMEDIATE
Small Group

LESSON 9: INTERMEDIATE SMALL GROUP

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Heart



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(20-25 minutes)

Small Group Session 2

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Read 2 Corinthians 5:17-21 out loud. Consider asking a student to read for the group.

Ask:

- **What does he say people are after they belong to Jesus?** (They are a new creation.)
- **How does God bring us back to himself?** (Through Jesus Christ)
- **What is the job that God has now given everyone who believes in Jesus?** (Reconcile people to God.)

- **What is the message of reconciliation?** (That those who believe in Jesus will not have their sins counted against them)
- **How did God use Jesus to make us right with God?**
- **What is the title that we are given if we believe in Jesus and share Jesus with others?** (Christ's Ambassadors)

DEFINITION

RECONCILE:

Restore friendly relations between.

ILLUSTRATION: THE CLEAN SLATE

Imagine you're at school, and you're given a brand-new whiteboard to write on. It's perfectly clean and shiny. You start using it to do your math problems, but as you work, you make some mistakes. You accidentally write the wrong numbers, and soon your whiteboard has a lot of scribbles and errors all over it.

You try to erase the mistakes, but the marks just smear and won't come off completely. No matter how hard you try, the board is still messy, and you feel frustrated because you can't make it clean again on your own.

Then, your teacher comes over. She sees you're struggling and smiles. She takes a special cleaner and wipes the board perfectly clean—every single mistake disappears, and it's like the scribbles were never there. The board is completely clean again, just like it was when it was brand new.

This is what Jesus does for us. When we make mistakes (which the Bible calls "sins"), our hearts can feel messy, like that whiteboard. We might try to fix things on our own, but we can't make our hearts perfectly clean by ourselves. But when we trust in Jesus, He comes and wipes away all our sins, making our hearts clean again.

This is what "justification" means. It's like God sees our messy hearts, but because of Jesus, he wipes them clean. When God looks at us after we've trusted in Jesus, he sees us as if we've never made any mistakes—as if we have a completely clean slate. Just like your teacher helped make your whiteboard clean, Jesus makes our hearts clean, and we're justified in God's eyes.

ACTIVITY: LOVE AND RECONCILIATION CIRCLE

Read Romans 5:6-11 out loud.

When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. Now, most people would not be willing to die for an upright person, though someone might perhaps be willing to die for a person who is especially good. But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. And since we have been made right in God's sight by the blood of Christ, he will certainly save us from His condemnation. For since our friendship with God was restored by the death of his Son while we were still his enemies, we will certainly be saved through the life of his Son. So now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God.

DEFINITION**JUSTIFIED:**

Being made right or good in God's eyes. It's like when you do something wrong but then someone forgives you and says, "It's okay, you're not in trouble anymore." When we believe in Jesus, God says we are forgiven and right with Him, even if we've made mistakes. It's like getting a fresh start!

Say: **Reconciliation is about Jesus helping to bring us back into a good relationship with God. When we believe in Jesus, the Bible says that we are justified, or made right because of him.**

- **What does this passage tell us about how much God loves us?**

Write down their responses on individual index cards. Guide them to understand that God's love is unconditional and was shown through Jesus' sacrifice.

Reconciliation means being brought back into a close relationship with God.

- **Why do we need to be reconciled with God?**
- **How does Jesus help us be close to God again?**

Give each child an index card or piece of paper. Ask them to quietly think about one thing that they feel might separate them from God, such as a sin, a fear, or something they worry about.

Have them write or draw this on their card.

Place the cross (or picture of a cross) in the center of the Small Group circle.

Say: **Jesus' death on the cross is what allows us to be reconciled with God.**

Invite each child to bring their card to the cross and place it underneath.

Say: **This symbolizes that Jesus takes away the things that separate us from God.**

After everyone has placed their cards under the cross, join hands and pray together.

Hands



Lead kids to live out the mission of the Gospel.
(5-10 minutes)

Small Group Session 2

WRAP IT UP:

Ask: **What's one thing you learned or felt during the activity?**

Say: **Keep your hearts open to God's love and remember that nothing can separate you from it because of Jesus.**

RESPONSE AND REFLECTION

Consider finishing by giving each child a small reminder, like a cross-shaped bookmark or a card with Romans 5:8 on it, to take home as a reminder of God's love and reconciliation.

Print out the memory verse.

Practice the memory verse for this unit (Romans 5:8).

Pray with the students and dismiss them.



Bible Memory Verse
Games

Memory Verse Cards

MEMORY VERSE:

"But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners."

Romans 5:8, NLT

MEMORY VERSE:

"But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners."

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"But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners."

Romans 5:8, NLT

Printout 1

BASED ON ACTS 9:1-20, NLT

Narrator: Meanwhile, Saul was uttering threats with every breath and was eager to kill the Lord's followers. So he went to the high priest. He requested letters addressed to the synagogues in Damascus, asking for their cooperation in the arrest of any followers of the Way he found there. He wanted to bring them—both men and women—back to Jerusalem in chains. As he was approaching Damascus on this mission, a light from heaven suddenly shone down around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him:

God: "Saul! Saul! Why are you persecuting me?"

Saul: "Who are you, lord?"

God: "I am Jesus, the one you are persecuting! Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

Narrator: The men with Saul stood speechless, for they heard the sound of someone's voice but saw no one! Saul picked himself up off the ground, but when he opened his eyes, he was blind. So his companions led him by the hand to Damascus. He remained there blind for three days and did not eat or drink. Now there was someone who believed in Jesus in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord spoke to him in a vision, calling:

God: "Ananias!"

Ananias: "Yes, Lord!"

God: "Go over to Straight Street, to the house of Judas. When you get there, ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul. He is praying to me right now. I have shown him a vision of a man named Ananias coming in and laying hands on him so he can see again."

Ananias: "But Lord, I've heard many people talk about the terrible things this man has done to the believers in Jerusalem! And he is authorized by the leading priests to arrest everyone who calls upon your name."

God: "Go, for Saul is my chosen instrument to take my message to the Gentiles and to kings, as well as to the people of Israel. And I will show him how much he must suffer for my name's sake."

Narrator: So Ananias went and found Saul. He laid his hands on him and said:

Ananias: "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road, has sent me so that you might regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit."

Narrator: Instantly something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he got up and was baptized. Afterward he ate some food and regained his strength. Saul stayed with the believers in Damascus for a few days. And immediately he began preaching about Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is indeed the Son of God!"

Printout 2

