

# INSIDE OUT





# LESSON 1

## CHANGED ON THE INSIDE

### Check It Out!

Most of us are pretty concerned with our appearance. We try to dress nice, we do our hair, and we try to take care of how we look on the outside. According to the Bible, what is on the *inside* is more important than our outward appearance. We spend so much time and energy taking care of what we look like on the outside, when God wants to change us on the inside. When we are truly changed by God on the inside, then God can use us on the outside to reach this world for Jesus. In the Bible story today, we see how Saul was persecuting Christians, putting them in prison and having them killed. One day, Saul was dramatically changed by God on a road he was traveling on. God changed Saul on the inside so He could use him for His glory. Saul changed his name to Paul and he became one of the greatest missionaries in the Bible. God has to change us first, then He can use us to do great things for Him.

### MAIN FOCUS

ONLY GOD CAN  
CHANGE US

### MAIN POINT

WE MUST LET GOD  
CHANGE US ON THE INSIDE  
SO HE CAN USE US

### MAIN WORD

We are God's workmanship,  
created in Christ Jesus to do  
good works, which God  
prepared in advance  
for us to do.  
Ephesians 2:10

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## ORDER OF SERVICE

### COUNTDOWN VIDEO

#### INTRO VIDEO

George and Dave

#### PHRAZE CRAZE

WE MUST LET GOD  
CHANGE US ON THE  
INSIDE SO HE CAN USE US

#### WORD DROP

Ephesians 2:10

#### SPATULA THEATER VIDEO

Saul

#### SERMON

“Clean On The Inside”

#### TIME BLASTER SKIT

From Saul to Paul

#### TIC TAC TOE

Review Game

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## Illustrated Sermon

*"Clean on the Inside"*

Supplies needed: Make-up, soap, hand sanitizer, heartburn medicine, headache medicine, mouthwash, foot powder, eye drops, beautiful coffee mug, mud, 1 clear drinking glass, funny outdated outfit

Preparation: Read Acts 9; have a leader come out wearing a very outdated and goofy outfit.

### The Message:

We all try to look good don't we? We like to wear the coolest clothes. Girls will put on make-up to look better (pull out make up) and style their hair. Hopefully the boys don't wear make-up. (Bring out leader wearing outdated outfit). I have a friend here that is wearing the latest style. (give time for reaction) What? You don't like his outfit? (more reaction from audience) This outfit is funny and outdated, but he thinks he looks good. He spent a lot of time getting dressed, doing his hair, and picking the right choose to look good. Just like this person is focused on how he looks on the outside, we are so concerned about what we look like on the outside that we don't take the time to see what we look like on the inside. Girls get their hair done, their nails done... boys get the coolest jeans and the name brand shoes.... (fill in for each, based on your kids' likes).

(Read Luke 11:39-41) *Then the Lord said to him, "Now then, you Pharisees clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside you are full of greed and wickedness. You foolish people! Did not the one who made the outside make the inside also? But give what is inside the dish to the poor, and everything will be clean for you."*

(pull out coffee mug with muddy water in it)

The Bible says that the Pharisees have a very clean cup on the outside, but inside it is very dirty. This coffee mug is very nice, but if I pour it into this glass (pour water from the mug into clear glass) you can see that the water inside is nasty. The Pharisees were very religious leaders during the time of Jesus. Many of them were very prideful people. They always looked good on the outside, wearing the right kind of clothes and following the laws, but Jesus said that on the inside, they were full of greed and wickedness.

(Pull out hand sanitizer, heartburn medicine, headache medicine, mouthwash, foot powder, eye drops)

Here I have some items that you can buy from your local pharmacy. These products are very helpful to many people and we're going to see if they can be helpful to us. Let's see if these items can help us get clean on the inside.

# LESSON 1

Illustrated Sermon  
Continued...

(Pull out sanitizer) Does anyone know what this is? (allow for response) That's right! It's hand sanitizer. It cleans your hands and gets rid of germs. But can it keep you from hurting people with you words? No.

(Pull out heartburn medication) Does anyone know what this is? (allow for response) This is medicine for heartburn. Adults use it when they have a burning sensation in their chest. Eating certain food can cause heartburn. This medicine helps to make it go away, but can it give you a clean heart? No. Can it help your heart to stay focused on God? No.

(pull out headache medication) Does anyone know what this is used for? (allow for response) That's right! You can use this if you have a headache and it takes away the pain a headache causes. But can it keep you from having bad thoughts? No. Can it help you to think about the things God wants you to think about? No.

(pull out mouthwash) What is this is used for? (allow for response) That's right! It's for your stinky, nasty breath. It kills the germs in your mouth that causes bad breath and makes your mouth feel clean. But can it keep your mouth from saying bad things? No. Can it help you to say what God wants you to say? No. Can it keep you from saying means words? No.

(pull out foot powder) What is this is used for? (allow for response) That's right! It's for your stinky, smelly feet! It can take foot odor right out! But can it help you to walk to the places you're supposed to go? No. Can it make your feet walk the path in life that God has for you? No.

(pull out eye drops) What is this used for? (allow for response) That's right! These drops are used for eyes that are dry and irritated. It can help relieve pain in your eyes from allergies or from wearing contact lenses. But can these eye drops keep you from looking at things that you should not be looking at? No. Will these drops help you to read your Bible every day and look at good things? No.

All of these products that I showed you, help you on the outside. They don't do anything to help you on the inside and they don't deal with spiritual issues. Only God can clean you on the inside. Only He can change you. When you're changed on the inside, He can then use you to do great things for Him!

In the Bible story today we see a man named Saul who was a Pharisee. He kept every law of the Jews. He dressed right. He looked right. He did everything right. But inside he was messed up. He hated Christians. He tried to have them thrown in prison and even killed. He looked good on the outside, but inside he was full of wickedness. One day he was traveling on the road to Damascus when all of a sudden he saw a bright light shining down on him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice speaking. "Saul, why are you persecuting me?", said the voice. Then Saul said, "who are you?" "I am Jesus whom you are persecuting.", said Jesus.

Continued...



# LESSON 1

Illustrated Sermon  
Continued...

When he got up, he was completely blind! He couldn't see a thing! For three days he didn't eat or drink anything. Then, God spoke to a man named Ananias and told him to go pray for Saul. When he did, Saul received his sight! Not only did he see again, he was changed on the inside by God! Saul was never the same after that moment. He ended up changing his name to Paul and he became one of the greatest missionaries ever! God used him to spread the Good News of Jesus all over the world.

He was truly transformed by God so that God could use him.

**There are three things we can do to allow God to change us on the inside:**

## **1. SURRENDER TO GOD**

The word "surrender" means "to give up". Saul fell to his knees and surrendered to Jesus that day on the road to Damascus. He gave up. He stopped doing the things that he wanted to do. He totally surrendered his life to Jesus that day. He realized all the things he did to God's people and that he needed forgiveness to be changed. Jesus gave him specific instructions and Saul did everything Jesus told him to do. If we are to be truly changed by God, we have to completely surrender everything to him.

## **2. SACRIFICE FOR GOD**

After Saul got up from the ground, he was blind. For three days after he was blinded, he did not eat or drink anything. He knew that something really important had just happened and he was willing to "sacrifice" or "to let go" of anything in his life that stood in the way of him living for God. He knew that his sacrifice was worth it.

## **3. SERVE GOD**

A man named Ananias showed up and prayed for Saul. Then Saul immediately started preaching about Jesus. Saul knew that he had to serve the One who had called him and changed him. Saul knew that he was changed on the inside for a reason. That reason was so that he would tell others! We so often think about the things that we want and not about what God wants. As Christians, we are called to serve. Serve God and serve others.

## **PRAYER TIME / ALTAR TIME**

(Invite the kids to come forward and pray) Kids, let's search our hearts right now to see if there is anything in us that needs to go. Ask him to forgive us for caring about what we look like on the outside more than we care about what's on the inside. Let's ask God to forgive us for the things we have done that displease Him. Let's make a commitment to totally surrender our lives to Him. (Pray how the Holy Spirit leads)

# LESSON 1

## TIME BLASTER SKIT

*(The Time Blaster Skit can be used with a puppet or a live person. You can set the skit up as if you are bringing the character back from Bible times.)*

Hey! I'm Saul. But you can call me Paul. My life has been totally changed! I used to be a Pharisee. I was trying to make a name for myself and gain popularity and recognition. I started harassing Christians and trying to get them put in prison. I was a really bad guy. I wanted to be famous for mistreating Christians. One day I was traveling down the road that lead to Damascus when all of a sudden I saw a bright light from the sky. I fell off my horse and when I opened my eyes I was blind! Then I heard a voice call my name. I asked who the voice was. It was Jesus! He told me to go into the city and wait. Then he sent a man named Ananias to come and pray for me. When Ananias prayed, I was instantly able to see again! Ever since that day I have been preaching about Jesus. I have been completely changed on the inside by Him. Now, I am trying to reach as many people as I can and tell them the good news about Jesus. Well, I got to go preach so more. See ya!

# LESSON 1

## Review Questions

1. What was the original name of the man in today's story?  
Answer: Saul
2. What religious group was Saul a part of?  
Answer: The Pharisees
3. On what road was Saul traveling when he had an encounter with Jesus?  
Answer: The road to Damascus
4. What did Saul first see on the road?  
Answer: A bright light
5. Whose voice did Saul hear speaking to him?  
Answer: Jesus
6. What did Saul realize when he got up off the ground?  
Answer: He was blind
7. What did Saul NOT do for three days after meeting Jesus on the road?  
Answer: Eat or drink
8. The first thing we learned about being changed on the inside is: We must \_\_\_\_\_ to God.  
Answer: Surrender
9. The second thing we learned about being changed on the inside is: We must \_\_\_\_\_ for God.  
Answer: Sacrifice
10. The third thing we learned about being changed on the inside is: We must be willing to \_\_\_\_\_ God.  
Answer: Serve