





LESSON 1

TODAY'S COUNTRY ROMANIA

Check It Out!

The Apostle Paul became one of the greatest missionaries this world has ever seen. He traveled over 6000 miles from Jerusalem to Rome, reaching thousands of people for God. He wrote most of the New Testament and was even martyred for his faith. We can learn a lot from Paul; he had a deep passion for winning people to Jesus. He didn't care about anything else. He was totally sold out and radical for the cause of Christ. But he wasn't always like that. There was a time when Paul was one of the most hateful people. He intensely hated all Christians. He worked hard to have them arrested, put in prison, and even killed! God had a great plan and a purpose for Paul, but Paul needed to be changed in order for God to use him. In our lesson today, we will learn How we can be changed by Jesus so that God can use us to do great things for him.

MAIN FOCUS

JESUS HAS THE POWER TO
CHANGE US

MAIN POINT

WE NEED JESUS TO
CLEANSE US FROM OUR
SINS AND CHANGE US

MAIN WORD

"God, create a pure heart in
me. Give me a new spirit that
is faithful to you."
Psalm 51:10



LESSON 1



TODAY'S COUNTRY ROMANIA

ORDER OF SERVICE

COUNTDOWN VIDEO

90 sec., 3 min., or 5 min.

INTRO VIDEO

Stephen and Seth

PHRAZE CRAZE

WE NEED JESUS TO
CLEANSE US FROM OUR
SINS AND CHANGE OUR
HEARTS

WORD DROP

Psalms 51:10

TIME BLASTER VIDEO

Saul Meets Jesus

SERMON

"Blinded in Order to See"

TIC TAC TOE

Review Game

MAIN FOCUS

JESUS HAS THE POWER TO
CHANGE US

MAIN POINT

WE NEED JESUS TO
CLEANSE US FROM OUR
SINS AND CHANGE US

MAIN WORD

"God, create a pure heart in
me. Give me a new spirit that
is faithful to you."
Psalms 51:10



LESSON 1

Illustrated Sermon
"Blinded in Order to See"



Supplies needed: sunglasses, toy gun, chair, McDonalds bag

Preparation: Read acts 9:1-17

The Message:

Can someone tell me what a missionary is? (allow for response) That's right! A missionary is someone called by God to tell people about Jesus. Do you know anyone who is a missionary? I do. Did you know that you are a missionary? Yeah! You have been called by God to go tell others about Jesus. Jesus said in Mark 16:15 to "GO" into all the world and preach the Gospel. The word gospel means "Good news". For the next six weeks we will be looking at the life of one of the greatest missionaries ever– the Apostle Paul.

Today's story is about Paul, before he met Jesus. His name was Saul. Saul was a Pharisee. He was a religious leader who kept every law of the Jews. He dressed right. He looked right. He did everything right. But inside he was dirty. He hated Christians. He even tried to have them thrown in prison and even killed. He didn't like them for any other reason but because they were Christians. One day he was traveling on the road to Damascus when all of a sudden he saw a bright light shining down on him. (Pull out sunglasses and put them on) He probably wished he had some sunglasses like these but he didn't. He fell to the ground and heard a voice speaking. The voice was Jesus. He said, "Saul, why are you persecuting me?" Then Paul said, "who are you?" He said, "I am Jesus whom you are persecuting." When Saul got up, he was completely blind! He couldn't see a thing! The Bible says that 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 that should happen when we have an encounter with Jesus:

1. SURRENDER TO GOD

The words '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. And he totally surrendered his life to Jesus that day. Jesus gave him specific instructions and Saul did everything Jesus told him to do. If we are truly to be changed by Jesus, we have to completely surrender everything to him. (Pull out toy gun) If someone pulled a gun on me what do you think I would instantly do? I would immediately throw my hands up. (throw your hands up) This is the universal sign of surrender. This means that we are giving up and turning away from what we want and surrendering all that we have to what God wants for our lives. Surrendering to God means saying, "God I want your plans for my life, not my own."

continued...



LESSON 1



Illustrated Sermon
Continued...

2. SACRIFICE FOR GOD

We must be willing to give up some things to get closer to God. That's what the word sacrifice means. Saul was willing to give up his position as a Pharisee. He was willing to let go of his own dreams and desires to serve the Lord. (Stand up on the chair and have two volunteers come and stand on either side of you.) Now, let's imagine that standing on this chair is like living your life for God. If you get off the chair then you are not fully obeying God.

Now these two people here are my friends. (Hold hands with the person on your left and your right.) Now I can be friends with these two but what if they start pulling me down? (The volunteers start pulling gently) I can stay connected with them and eventually fall, or I can let go and stay on the chair. Sometimes we have things in our life that we are connected to, but if we stay connected, those things will pull us away from God.

3. SERVE GOD

When someone does something nice for you, you may want to do something for them. We should be willing to serve God as a sign that we have been truly changed. After Saul was prayed for by Ananias, he immediately went and started preaching in the synagogues. He was will willing to serve the Lord and do anything asked of him. (Pull out McDonalds bag.) How many of you have ever been to McDonalds? Have you ever gone through the drive through? What does the person say when you pull up to the speaker? (allow for response) They usually say "May I help you?" or "May I take your order?" That's when you give your order. Then, they usually read the order back to you to make sure it's right. Then you pull up to the window and get your food and usually it's exactly what you ordered. That's how we should be with God. When he comes to us we should say, "How may I serve you?" He will tell us what we should do then we should go and do it. So many people would rather be served than to serve. Jesus told us to serve others. That's why He got down one day and washed his disciples feet. He was being an example to us. Paul lived the rest of his life as a servant of God.

Prayer Time (Pray for the country of Romania)

Search your heart right now and see if you need to be changed by Jesus. You may look good on the outside, but let God examine you right now on the inside. Is there anything in you that needs to be changed? Our Main Word Verse says "Create in me a clean heart..." Let's ask Jesus to give us a clean heart right now.



LESSON 1



Review Questions

1. What country did we learn about today?
Answer: Romania
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. When we have an encounter with Jesus, the first thing we must do is _____ our life to him.
Answer: Surrender
9. When we have an encounter with Jesus, the second thing we need to do is _____ for God.
Answer: Sacrifice
10. When we have an encounter with Jesus, the third thing we need to do is _____ God and do what he tells us to do.
Answer: Serve

