

CHURCH SCHOOL LESSON
DECEMBER 6, 2020
LIFE-CHANGING EVENT

This week we are going to move into the New Testament. We will learn about how Saul's dramatic conversion on the road to Damascus made him a new person in Christ. When you were in school, did you have a locker? Did you know that some kids leave food or dirty gym clothes in their lockers and that causes them to smell really bad. Here is a story about one locker in the school hallway that's an absolute mess. It's dirty, smelly and it's rusty. You might say it's trashed. Some kids in the school are trying to figure out what to do about the problem. One girl suggested Febreze spray to clear the air. One of the football players thought that Dawn detergent might do the trick. Another guy thought Pine-Sol would be much stronger. One of the girls suggested just blowing it up with a stick of dynamite.

Why do you think these solutions would fail?

What possible solution might the kids have missed?

Are there things you would like to change about yourself?

What does it take to change our behavior?

Without Jesus, all of us are like that messy old locker. We need to be cleaned up from the inside out. But just like the locker can't fix itself up, we need Jesus' help to make our lives brand new.

After Jesus returned to heaven, His followers preached about Jesus and started Christian churches. However, some religious leaders tried to stop them from preaching. One disciple, named Stephen, was brought before the high priest, where he defended his faith in Jesus. When Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, said he saw Jesus standing next to God, the leaders shouted and covered their ears. They dragged Stephen outside and had him stoned to death. A religious leader named Saul stood nearby while Stephen was stoned. Those who stoned Stephen laid their coats at Saul's feet.

Read Acts 8:1-4.

What made the people of the church scatter?

What did the people do?

Read Acts 9:1-6.

Why was Saul on the way to Damascus?

What happened to Saul when he was on the road?

The men with Saul heard the sound but did not see anyone. When Saul got up, he could not see, so his men led him to Damascus.

Read Acts 9:10-15.

How did Ananias describe Saul?

How did God describe Saul?

Ananias followed God’s instructions and found Saul. Ananias places his hands on Saul, and Saul regained his sight and was filled with the Holy Spirit. Saul was then baptized and remained with the disciples a few days.

Read Acts 9:20-22.

Compare Saul’s actions in these verses with those from Acts 8:1-3.

How did Saul change?

What had changed him?

People sometimes talk about turning over a new leaf. But they’re still the same people. Only God can make us brand-new people.

In our Bible lesson we saw how meeting Jesus made Saul a brand-new person. I would like you to write an article for the local St. Luke’s Times telling about Saul’s conversion. You can check facts from the lesson we just did and also in your Bible. You need to give the whole story, including Saul’s life before he met Christ as well as after. When you have finished, I would like to read your articles. You can email them to me at stlukes-ce@sbcglobal.net. I look forward to reading your articles.

In our lesson this week, we saw how Jesus made Saul a brand-new person. This wasn’t something Saul did on his own. He didn’t just decide one day to change. It was something only Jesus could have done.

When you give your life to Christ, God offers you a complete makeover. The transformation in your life may not be as dramatic as it was in Paul’s. But then again, it might be! As we learn about Christ and follow Him, He continues to change us even more, remaking us more like Him.

The Bible promises that God will give us several new things to “put on.” Look up these passages and find out what they are.

Colossians 3:10 _____
Colossians 3:12-14 _____
Ephesians 6:13 _____

In Colossians 3:8, Paul mentions several things to get rid of in our old lives. Which of these do you need to ask Jesus to put in the trash for you?

Read 2 Corinthians 3:18. Whose image will you begin to reflect?

Let’s end with a prayer. Heavenly Father, thank you for sending Jesus to help us to become brand-new people. Continue to work with each of us and help us to become the person you desire us to be. Keep us safe and guide us along the journey you have for us. Amen.