



# RLA Kids Weekly Devotional Guide

January 21, 2018

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## What We're Learning This Week

### **"PAUL'S CONVERSION AND BAPTISM"**

*ACTS 9:1-25*

Jesus appeared to Saul and changed him inside and out. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. (1 Timothy 1:15) Jesus called Saul, also known as Paul, who was once an enemy to Christians, to spend the rest of his life telling people the gospel and leading them to trust Jesus as Lord and Savior.

## Questions to Ask, Conversation Starters, and Helping to Apply The Truths to Our Kids' Lives

*Remember: this guide is meant to help facilitate conversations and engagement with Jesus throughout the week, so don't feel like you need to do this all in one day!*

### **BEFORE WE MEET TOGETHER ON SUNDAY**

- Continue conversations as a family regarding the lesson from last Sunday, when God reminded Peter that the only one who can make people clean and unclean is God. The guide from last week can be found [here](#).
- Read through Acts 9:1-25; pray and ask God to reveal himself to you and for wisdom in how to best shepherd and disciple your kids through this Scripture in the next week

### **AFTER WE MEET TOGETHER ON SUNDAY**

#### **Discipleship Through Scripture and Conversation**

- Talk to your kids about the Bible story that they learned at church. Ask them to explain what they learned/what stuck out to them in the story, and expand upon the truths of the Bible that they are bringing up.
- Continue the conversation with your kids on Sunday and throughout the week. Some helpful conversations this week could be:
  1. Saul grew up and lived all of his early life persecuting Christians, who he believed were making false claims about a false Messiah.
    - Talk together as a family about Saul. He was a devout Jew who didn't identify Jesus as the true Messiah. What were some of the mistakes/misunderstandings he made, and why were they wrong? What lessons can we learn from Saul's time growing up?

- How can we know that Jesus is the true Messiah that the Jewish people were waiting for? Why is this so important to Christians?
  - How is the grace of God evident in the lift of Saul/Paul? What can we learn about the way we view, treat, and interact with people today?
2. Jesus revealed Himself to Saul on the road to Damascus, and Saul was never the same again...his entire life changed
- Talk to gather as a family about the transformative work of God in people's lives and hearts. God said, "This man is My chosen instrument to take My name to the Gentiles" (Acts 9:15).
  - What does the graciousness of God speak about His character? How does it change the way we view Him? Ourselves? Our world?
  - Saul was the last person in the world we would have guessed would be brought into a relationship with Jesus, but God sought Him out. Who are people you feel are so far from God that they are hopeless? How does this story change your perspective? How can you seek to be used as an instrument of God in seeking them out?
3. Jesus appeared to Saul and changed him both inside and out.
- Talk together as a family about conversion. What are some signs/fruit of a converted heart? What does it mean to recognize your sin and repent from it?
  - Knowing about Jesus and believing in Jesus are two distinct things. What are some distinctions? What are some things we know about Jesus? How can the Holy Spirit help us to believe what we know?
  - When Jesus changes someone's heart He changes their whole life. What are some ways you have seen Jesus change the life of your family? What are some ways you hope He will continue to do that?

### **Discipleship through prayer**

- Take time to pray together as a family.
  - Pray together for hearts that both know and believe in Jesus; you can pray for growth for those who have already put their trust in Jesus and you can pray for conversion for those who have not. You can also pray for those who seem so far from God that they will never know Him, knowing that His love has no bounds. Pray for God to continue to show you grace and to make you more into His image.
- Ask each member of your family – adults included – to share one thing they would like prayer over. Have someone to pray for that person's request. Encourage your family to pray for that person for the entire week.

- Take time to pray independently for your children, for God to do his mighty work in their hearts through the power of the Holy Spirit

### **Discipleship through modeling/action**

- Follow up throughout the week about the things you discussed
  - Sit under the Word of God and receive His grace in abundance this week. Dive deeply into His word to not only know Him more, but to commune with Him. Seek out those who you have felt are too far from God and pursue them boldly.
- Pursue discipleship in your own life. Read Scripture, pray fervently, invest into community, and more. Model the ways of Christ as an example to your kids.

## Our Memory Verse for This Unit

### **OUR MEMORY VERSE FOR THIS UNIT (ENTITLED “JESUS THE RISEN KING”) IS ACTS 1:8**

- *For our older kids, we are doing the full verse:*
  - “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth”
- *For our younger kids, we are doing an abbreviated version of the verse:*
  - “You will be my witnesses...to the end of the earth”

While we are helping the kids engage with this Scripture on Sundays through fun activities and time together, we really encourage you to take time to continue to engage with the memorization of this Scripture at home. As always, the hope is not to have our kids simply know a lot of Scripture, but to engage in God’s Word and allow Him to use it to transform the hearts of our kids!

## What’s Coming Up?

- Want weekly updates and occasional texts about special announcements? Text the word “Kids” to 323.859.1122. It really helps in preparing for Sunday and the rest of the week!
- Help us get to know you more and to know how we can love and serve you in greater ways by taking our short [RLA Kids Family Survey](#). If that link doesn’t work you can access the survey at <https://realityla.wufoo.com/forms/rla-kids-family-survey-fall-2017/>

## We Want to Know and Serve You Better!

We love hearing from you! You can email [kids@realityla.com](mailto:kids@realityla.com) at any time with any thoughts, questions, or concerns. We also love to be praying with and alongside you, so please send those over as well!