

LESSON SNAPSHOT

BOTTOM LINE:

God can change our life when we accept Jesus.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn God moves our life in a good, new direction when we meet Jesus.

KEY PASSAGE:

Acts 9:1-19, Saul's Conversion

MEMORY VERSE:

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight." - Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV)

SUMMARY:

Saul was on a mission to stop the followers of Jesus. But on the road to Damascus, he met someone who put his life on an entirely new course. Kids will play a dry ground version of Marco Polo as a reminder of Saul's blindness and our dependence on God's voice.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for Jesus and how you are moving in our lives.

In Jesus' name,

Amen

MEMORY VERSE

*“Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Do not depend on your own understanding. In all your ways remember him. Then he will make your paths smooth and straight.”
- Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV)*

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.” - Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV)

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.” - Proverbs 3:5-6 (NLT)

“Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.” - Proverbs 3:5-6 (KJV)

LARGE GROUP:

Pick out some kids at random from the crowd and see who can recite the memory verse. Then repeat it all together.

SMALL GROUP:

Without putting the verse on display or looking it up, see how many kids can recite the memory verse.

SKIT

MOVING WITH MR. SIMMONS: MARCO POLO!!

ITEMS NEEDED:

An easy chair

A blindfold

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN:

2M

CHARACTERS:

Mr. Simmons - A fitness guru

Ernest - A lazy, out of shape man

Ernest is sleeping in his big chair. Mr. Simmons enters, tiptoeing in, and blindfolds Ernest. He takes a few steps away.

SIMMONS: Hey Ernest.

ERNEST: Oh no.

SIMMONS: It's that time again! Time to move!

ERNEST: What's your game today, Mr. Simmons?

Simmons steps downstage toward the audience so Ernest is behind him.

SIMMONS: Today it's Marco Polo!

ERNEST: Marco Polo, huh?

SIMMONS: You yell out, "Marco!" and I respond, "Polo!"

ERNEST: I know how to play this game.

Ernest stands up. He walks up behind Simmons.

SKIT

SIMMONS: The game doesn't end until you find me. So get up and get--
Ernest grabs Simmons on the shoulders.

SIMMONS: Wow. That was quick.

ERNEST: You have a big mouth.

SIMMONS: *(nervous)* Ha.

ERNEST: And you smell like old, dirty gym socks.

SIMMONS: Well. You won the game. Guess I'll be going.

ERNEST: Not so fast, Mr. Simmons. I want a word with you.

SIMMONS: You want to thank me for helping you get moving the last eight weeks?

ERNEST: No. I want to give you a Road to Damascus moment.

SIMMONS: Oh boy.

ERNEST: You remember how on the road to Damascus, Saul met Jesus in a blinding light?

SIMMONS: Of course I do. That's how he came to change his life and become a follower of Jesus.

ERNEST: Well, Mr. Simmons, here's your Damascus road moment. You're going to take your blindfold, and get outta my living room, and leave me alone.

SIMMONS: Of course. No problem!

ERNEST: I know you've had a lot of fun making me move.

SIMMONS: Well, it was all for you, buddy.

ERNEST: And these kids. Let's not forget the kids who have learned about moving for God.

SIMMONS: Oh yes. I hope you kids have learned a lot!

ERNEST: But just as Saul changed his ways and started serving God, you're going to change yours. And leave me alone.

SKIT

SIMMONS: You got it, Ernest. Message received!

Ernest takes off the blindfold and gives it to Simmons.

ERNEST: Good. Now get moving. Move your life in a positive, new direction, just like old Saul.

SIMMONS: You bet, buddy. I'll be seeing you.

ERNEST: No, you won't.

SIMMONS: You know what I mean!

Simmons runs off.

ERNEST: If you think that was a life changing moment, wait 'til you hear the full story of Saul. It will inspire you to turn your life around and move in a new direction too. Bye, kids. It's my nap time!

OBJECT LESSON OR KIDS SERMON

ITEMS NEEDED:

A flashlight

You do not have to stage a full game of flashlight tag, but if you have time and space, you can pick a few kids to demonstrate.

We've played a lot of great group games in this series, and there are many more we could play. One of the ones we couldn't get to was flashlight tag. It's more of a night game than a day game, but like Octopus Tag, it's a fun variation on regular tag. You choose who is It and give them a flashlight. It counts to ten, and everyone hides, then It sets out to tag people with the beam of the flashlight. Flashlight tag is especially cool for slow runners because – you don't have to outrun people to tag them. You can use the flashlight. When you shine a light on someone and call their name, they are out. Simple as that!

I guess you could say the first game of flashlight tag ever played happened on the road to Damascus. Jesus used a bright light to shine down on Saul and call him by name. After that, Saul became "It." He followed Jesus and became one of the greatest missionaries in the history of the church, shining the light of Jesus on others so they could follow Jesus as well.

Every week, when we come together, we want to shine the light of Jesus and help you to follow Him. We all follow someone, but it's up to us if we choose to follow the world or Jesus!

LARGE GROUP GAME

MARCO POLO

ITEMS NEEDED:

A blindfold

INSTRUCTIONS:

This is a game for everyone to play. Clear an open space in the middle of the room so there are no trip hazards. Pick one person to be it and blindfold them, then spin them around twice. Mark boundaries around the area that no one can step out of, for safety and also to make the game easier for the person who is It. It will shout, "Marco," and the others will respond "Polo!" Until It can tag someone.

VARIATION:

For a smaller game, confine 6-8 players in a 10' x 10' space with the person who is It.

WHAT'S THE POINT?

God's voice can lead us and change our life if we trust in Jesus.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:

God can change our life when we accept Jesus.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn God moves our life in a good, new direction when we meet Jesus.

KEY PASSAGE:

Acts 9:1-19, Saul's Conversion

INTRO:

I'm sure all of you have played Marco Polo before today. If you've spent more than five minutes in a pool with a group of friends, ever, you've played the game. It's one of the easiest games to learn, and it's endless fun. One person becomes "It," and they must shut their eyes and yell out, "Marco!" Then everyone answers back, "Polo!" The person who is It listens intently, trying to use their hearing to find someone to tag. As soon as they tag someone else, that person becomes "It" and the game continues.

It's a little more intimidating on dry land, of course. If you stumble and fall in a pool, no big deal, but stumbling and falling in the hard floor can hurt a little more. Nobody wants to fall flat on their face, but in a way, we all fall flat on our faces all the time. In a world full of sin, everyone is stumbling in the darkness, trying to follow after something. Maybe it's popularity. Maybe it's wealth. Maybe it's love. We all know deep down, there's something missing in our lives, and until we meet Jesus, we are just blindly stumbling in the dark.

I can't think of a better example of this in the Bible than a man named Saul. Saul was a very smart man who knew the scriptures of the Old Testament very well. He was a devoted religious leader who saw Jesus and His followers as a threat to the faith. Saul did not believe Jesus was the Son of God, and he made it his personal mission to seek out and arrest everyone who claimed to be a follower of Jesus.

Saul thought he was doing the right thing, but like a Marco Polo player on dry land, he was stumbling in the darkness. Fortunately for Saul, and for the people he was seeking, someone much bigger was seeking after him! In spite of all the pain Saul brought to the early Christians, Jesus loved Saul. Jesus didn't want to see Saul stumbling blindly after the wrong things, so as He often does, Jesus did something unusual. He sent a blinding light to put Saul back on the right track.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

READ ACTS 9:1-19

MAIN POINT:

Saul's game of Marco Polo, seeking after Christians, ended when he was blinded by that light. Saul knew he had been "tagged" by Jesus, and in that moment, he also knew he had been following the wrong thing. Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. He is the Messiah who was promised back in the Old Testament. Jesus wanted Saul to stop pursuing Christians and start pursuing non-believers, so that they could discover the love of Jesus as well. Saul's life changed forever that day on the Road to Damascus.

I guess you could say in a way that Saul became "It." Saul would soon change his name to Paul and become a missionary for Jesus. Instead of blindly seeking the destruction of the church, he purposely sought out people who needed Jesus. Paul spent the rest of his life following Jesus. He wrote many books in what is now the New Testament. He became an example of what happens when Jesus tags us and changes our lives.

We all follow after something. Whether we are willfully following Jesus or blindly following the world, we are all moving in one direction or another. If Saul were here today, he would tell us to take off the blindfold and follow Jesus.

DRIVE IT HOME:

Find one of the kids who was "It" during Marco Polo. Ask them how nervous they were stumbling blindly around trying to tag someone. Were they afraid of falling or tripping or running into something?

God doesn't want us to stumble in the dark. He wants us to move into the light. The Bible tells us that Jesus is the Light of the World. It tells us that Jesus will be our Light in the darkness. It tells us that if we follow Jesus, we will walk in His light and not darkness.

Some of you today have already chosen the light. If you have, then you are now "It." God is counting on all of us who have chosen to follow Jesus to share Jesus with others. As we learned the week we played Octopus Tag, Jesus wants us to keep sharing, keep loving, keep telling others about Him until the whole world has been transformed. I pray that all of you will continue to grow your faith and move when God tells you so that God can use you to transform other people's lives.

Some of you still have the blindfolds on. Maybe like Saul, you've been chasing the wrong things. Maybe you're just blindly stumbling around. You don't know where to go or worse, who you can trust. The Bible shows us we can trust the Lord. We can trust the same God who changed Saul's life to change ours. It all starts when we rip off the blindfolds and ask Jesus to become our light.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

You can continue to move about in the dark. You can follow after the things of the world, or you can choose to follow the light. God is calling you to move. He wants you to move toward the light. Following Jesus is one of the most life changing decisions you can ever make. If you're ready to take that first step, then this is your opportunity. Let's take off the blindfolds. Let's stop tripping over our own feet and start moving toward Heaven. Jesus is calling you. It's time to move!

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for Jesus and how you are moving in our lives.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (K-2ND)

ICEBREAKER:

Have you ever played Marco Polo in a pool?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Proverbs 3:5-6

Without putting the verse on display or looking it up, see how many kids can recite the memory verse.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Ask the kids what one "Move" game they'd like to play again, and play a quick round before your discussion time.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Acts 9:1-19

Who was Saul?

What stopped Saul on the road to Damascus?

Who was in the blinding light?

How did Jesus change the direction Saul was moving?

How can we receive Jesus so He can move our lives?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for sending Jesus to move in our lives.

In Jesus' name,

Amen

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (3-5TH)

ICEBREAKER:

Have you ever played Marco Polo in a pool?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Proverbs 3:5-6

Without putting the verse on display or looking it up, see how many kids can recite the memory verse.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Ask the kids what one "Move" game they'd like to play again, and play a quick round before your discussion time.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Acts 9:1-19

Why did Jesus stop Saul on the road to Damascus?

How did Jesus change the direction Saul was moving?

Why does God want us to let Jesus change the direction we are moving?

How can we receive Jesus so He can move our lives?

Does anyone want to give their heart to Jesus today?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for sending Jesus to move in our lives.

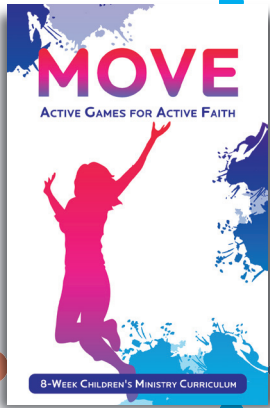
In Jesus' name,

Amen

POWERPOINT REVIEW GAME

MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. Who was moving the wrong way, trying to destroy the church of Jesus?
 - A. Saul*
 - B. Peter
 - C. John
2. What town was Saul near when Jesus stopped him?
 - A. Jerusalem
 - B. Damascus*
 - C. Nazareth
3. After Saul saw Jesus in the light, he was
 - A. Hungry
 - B. Dead
 - C. Blind*
4. After becoming a Christian, Saul changed his name to
 - A. Barnabas
 - B. Paul*
 - C. Silas
5. God wants us to _____ when and where He calls us so we can serve Him and be closer to Him.
 - A. Stay put
 - B. Ignore Him
 - C. Move*



MAKE IT STICK

5 Simple Ways You Can Make This Lesson Stick With your Kids

Move Lesson 8

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: MARCO POLO



IN THE CAR:

Ask your child what they learned about this week on the drive home:

Saul was on a mission to stop the followers of Jesus. But on the road to Damascus, he met someone who put his life on an entirely new course. Marco Polo is a reminder of Saul's blindness and our dependence on God's voice to lead us. Acts 9:1-19, Saul's Conversion



HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real:

Share a story with your kids about a time in your life when you decided to move. Maybe it's was moving towns or houses. Maybe it was moving jobs. Share why you made that choice with them. Ask them if they understand what it means to give their heart to Jesus, and how God can move in their lives.



AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:

- Why did Jesus stop Saul on the road to Damascus?
- How did Jesus change the way Saul was moving?
- How can Jesus change the way our lives are moving?



AT BEDTIME:

Quiz your child on this week's memory verse:

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight." Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV)



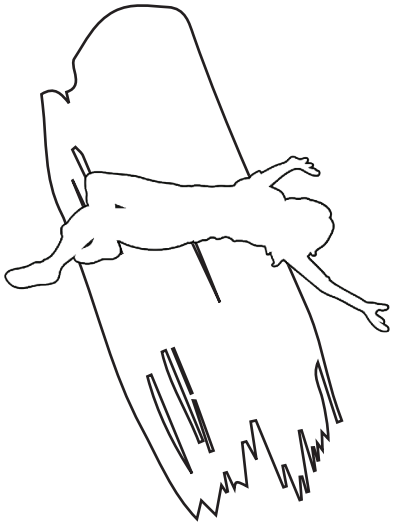
PARENT TIME:

What you need to know:

Our kids were offered the chance to move closer to Christ and receive Him as their Savior. If your child has made that decision, say a prayer with them. Thank God for their decision, and ask God to make His voice clear so they can always follow Him.

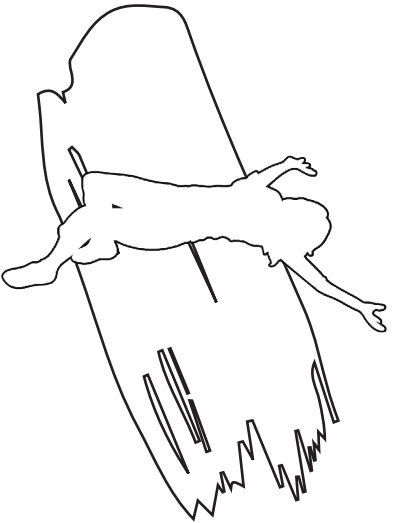
CRAFT ACTIVITY

Have the kids create “ONE WAY” signs, either large ones with construction paper or small ones they can use as Bible book markers, to remind them they need to be moving in the direction God calls them to move.



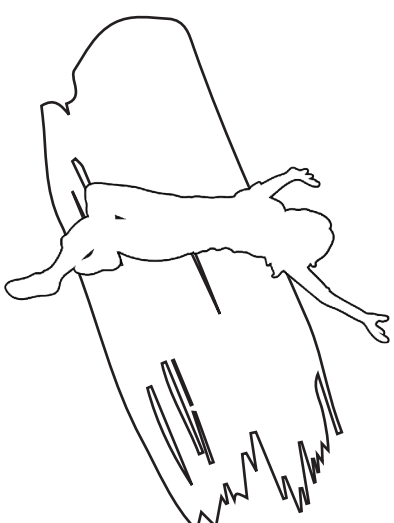
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- Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV)



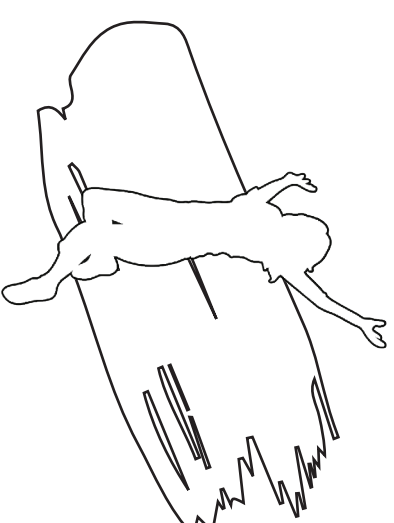
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