

CONVERSION



Saul was a prominent Pharisee with all the right credentials. He used his considerable power and prestige to viciously persecute the followers of Jesus. Then, in a flash, Saul was converted; he moved from tormentor to pillar of the Christian church!

The **butterfly** is the classic picture of transformation and conversion as it changes from a lowly caterpillar to a beautiful new creature. Change isn't easy, but the end result is beautiful!

Acts 9:1-6

Saul was an important Pharisee intent on crushing the growing movement of Jesus' followers. But after his conversion on the road to Damascus, he became one of the most important figures in the early church. It was a radical change, but the message is as clear to us as it was to Saul: no one is outside God's reach.

Check out these other Bible passages that connect with the theme of Conversion!

- > **Mark 1:16-20** Are we supposed to drop everything to follow Jesus?
- > **Romans 12:1-2** What happens when we give ourselves over to God?
- > **Acts 2:42-47** How does conversion build community?

Talk about it!

Use these questions to connect with each other.

- > How would you have felt about Paul if you had previously been tormented by him?
- > Do you think anyone is outside God's reach? Why or why not?
- > Without naming names, is there a "Saul" in your life? How might God convert that person? What possibilities might God see in him or her?

What are preteens thinking?

In their black-and-white reasoning, preteens often perceive that God loves them because they are good people. Perfection has never been the calling card of God's disciples. Internalizing this understanding frees preteens to be disciples now, not when they get everything right.

Try this!

Paul was changed in a flash, but butterflies change over a long span of time. Put an ice cube on your kitchen table and talk about change as it slowly melts. How has God changed members of your family over time?

Prayer

God, we sure aren't perfect. We are thankful that you are a God of transformation and conversion! Amen.