
The Exchanged Life

THE EARLY CHURCH AND CHRIST'S RETURN



Leader Guide

Semester 8

Semester 8: The Exchanged Life – Leader Guide

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First Edition.

Semester 8

The Exchanged Life

These lessons explore the Acts of the apostles and their teaching and anticipate Christ's triumphant return. Throughout this semester, kids are taught to observe the transforming power of the Holy Spirit in the lives of God's people. As the believers in these stories press toward the goal of Christ Jesus, children learn what it means to walk in the Spirit, live a victorious life, and spread the unstoppable message of the gospel to all nations.

Scope and Sequence

	BIBLE STORY	BIBLE STORY PASSAGE	LESSON TAKEAWAY	MIGHTY MEN & INTERCESSION
LESSON 1	Weak and Willing Peter Denies Jesus	Luke 22:54-62	Do you see your need for the Holy Spirit?	Israel
LESSON 2	The Promised Gift The Helper Comes	Acts 2:37-47	How do you receive the Holy Spirit?	The ten Boom Family
LESSON 3	Walking in the Spirit A Lame Man Healed	Acts 3:1-10	Are you walking in the power of the Holy Spirit?	The ten Boom Family
LESSON 4	Cleansed Hearts Ananias and Sapphira	Acts 5:1-11	Are you confessing your sin and asking God to cleanse your heart?	The ten Boom Family
LESSON 5	Something Greater Stephen's Martyrdom	Acts 7:54-60	Do you know the joy that's greater than anything this world can give?	The ten Boom Family
LESSON 6	Unstoppable Saul's Conversion	Acts 9:15-25	Will you trust that God can use you to join in the unstoppable spread of His gospel?	Afghanistan
LESSON 7	One Body Peter's Vision	Acts 10:9b-29a	Are you willing to love and share Jesus with your enemies and those who are different from you?	Brother Andrew
LESSON 8	Saved by Grace The Jerusalem Council	Acts 15:6-12	Are you trying to work for your salvation or trusting Jesus alone to save you?	Brother Andrew
LESSON 9	Rejoice Always The Philippian Jail	Acts 16:22-34	Are you rejoicing in difficulties?	Brother Andrew
LESSON 10	Unto Jesus Paul's Faithful Life	Acts 20:17-24	Are you living fully for Jesus each day?	Iran
LESSON 11	Ready to Obey Determined to Visit Jerusalem	Acts 21:10-15	Are you willing to follow God, even when obeying Him doesn't seem to make sense?	Richard and Sabina Wurmbrand
LESSON 12	Undefeated Shipwrecked on Malta	Acts 28:1-6	Do you trust that God's plans are always undefeated?	Richard and Sabina Wurmbrand
LESSON 13	Watching and Waiting Anticipating Christ's Return	1 Thess. 4:15-18	Are you living like you're ready for Jesus to come back?	Richard and Sabina Wurmbrand
LESSON 14	Together at Last Forever with the Lord	Rev. 22:1-5	Are you looking forward to spending the rest of your life with Jesus?	Richard and Sabina Wurmbrand



Unstoppable

Saul's Conversion

OVERVIEW

LESSON TAKEAWAY

Will you trust that God can use you to join in the unstoppable spread of His gospel?

BIBLE STORY GUIDE SUMMARY

Teacher Study Passage: Acts 8-9

Bible Story Passage: Acts 9:15-25

The story of Saul's conversion is an incredible example of how God's purposes will always be done, even in the most surprising, amazing ways. Saul was rescued from his sin and began the new life that God called him to. We can see that God is powerful and that His kingdom will advance into this world. We are called to join in this unstoppable mission of taking the good news of Jesus to all people.

APPLICATION GUIDE SUMMARY

Nothing can stop God's gospel from spreading. His people get to be a part of spreading it too! Part of what we do as followers of Jesus is to tell others about Him. We don't have to be anything special for God to use us. He's the One who is strong and powerful. We simply need to trust Him and be available for Him to use us.

MEMORY VERSE

And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

—Matthew 24:14

SCHEDULE

5 min WELCOME & MEMORY VERSE

Matthew 24:14

20 min BIBLE STORY LESSON

10 min WORSHIP

20 min INTERCESSION FOCUS & ACTIVITIES

Afghanistan

Pray that God would give wisdom to the leaders of Afghanistan and that they would know Him and live by His truth. Pray that God would change the hearts of people in groups who bring fear and death in Afghanistan. (1 Timothy 2:1-2)

Activities (p. 19)

Coloring Page | Message Relay Obstacle Course

30 min APPLICATION TIME

20 min INTERCESSION

Afghanistan

15 min FAMILY GROUP

Bible Story Guide

REVIEW

- Would anyone like to tell what they remember from the story last time?
- Do you remember if Stephen saw anything before he died? What did he see?
- Did it seem like Stephen was afraid or that he was trusting Jesus to bring him into Heaven?

INTRODUCTION

Define Jews: Descendants of Abraham; these were God's chosen people. God promised to send the Savior, Jesus, to them. The disciples were Jews.

Define Gentiles: Anyone who is not a Jew; people who are not descendants of Abraham. These people were from other nations who didn't know God and didn't know a Savior would come for them.

Define synagogue: A place where Jews worshipped.

Define confound: To be confused and amazed.

Tell the opening context from Acts 8:1-3; 9:1-14:

When Stephen died, a religious leader named Saul was there, approving of Stephen's death. Saul began to find Christians so he could put them in prison for following Jesus. One day as Saul was travelling to the city of Damascus to put Christians there in prison, Jesus appeared in a bright light, asking why Saul was persecuting Him. Saul realized that Jesus was the Lord, and when Jesus told him to go into Damascus and wait for instructions, Saul obeyed. The light was so bright that Saul was blinded, so God sent a believer named Ananias to pray for Saul (this was a different man than the Ananias we learned about before).

STORY

Tell the story accurately: ►

But the Lord said to him [Ananias], "Go, for he [Saul] is a chosen instrument of Mine to carry My Name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of My Name." So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized; and taking food, he was strengthened.

For some days he was with the disciples at Damascus. And immediately he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God." And all who heard him were amazed and said, "Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem of those who called upon this Name? And has

Teaching Thought:

In the story, consider replacing these uncommon words with the following common synonyms:

Departed: Left

Regain: Get back

Proclaimed: Told about

Havoc: Great trouble

he not come here for this purpose, to bring them bound before the chief priests?" But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Christ.

When many days had passed, the Jews plotted to kill him, but their plot became known to Saul. They were watching the gates day and night in order to kill him, but his disciples took him by night and let him down through an opening in the wall, lowering him in a basket.

Acts 9:15-25

Ask a volunteer to retell the story (if time allows), starting with, "But the Lord said to him [Ananias], "Go, for he [Saul] is a chosen instrument of Mine to carry My Name..."

Lead through the story, letting the children fill in details. For example:

For example (see suggested gaps below):

But the Lord said to him [Ananias], "Go, for he [Saul] is a chosen instrument of Mine to carry My Name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of My Name." So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized; and taking food, he was strengthened.

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Acts 9:15-25

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Jesus told Ananias that Saul was His chosen vessel, or chosen person, to tell Gentiles, kings, and the people of Israel about His name.
 - o What might that have been like for Saul?
 - o What does it seem like God was wanting to do through Saul?
 - o Does that seem like an easy thing or a hard thing to do?
 - o How might Saul have felt about this job?
- Do you remember why Ananias said Jesus sent him to Saul?
 - o Was it only so Saul could see, or was it also that Saul could be filled with the Holy Spirit?

- After Saul was filled with the Holy Spirit, he could know God. Whose power did Saul now have?
- After Saul could see, he got up and was baptized.
 - What might that tell us about Saul?
 - Does it seem like Saul planned to go back to his old life, or did he want to follow God?
- Do you remember what Saul began to do in the Synagogue?
 - What might this tell us about Saul?
- Do you remember how the Jews felt when they heard Saul speaking?
 - What did the Jews want to do to Saul?
- Why were the Jews not able to kill Saul?
- If God wanted to use Saul to tell others about Jesus, do you think anything could stop Him from doing that?
 - Is there anything we might learn about God from this story?

CONCLUSION

Explain: In the story we saw that God changed and used Saul, a man who was persecuting Christians, to tell others about Jesus. Nothing could stop the spread of the gospel.

- Do we see God using people today to tell others about Jesus?
- What about you? Have you ever told others about Jesus?
- Is there anything in this story that might help you see that God can use you or others to spread the gospel?

Application Guide

REVIEW

- Do you remember what we talked about during our last Application Time? *Jesus being the greatest joy and treasure*
- What are some ways that you have been seeking and enjoying Jesus?
- Was there anything that God showed you that was keeping you from doing that?
- What are some things you remember from our Bible story today?

PAUL'S COMMISSION

- Later, God renamed Saul "Paul" so we'll call him Paul from now on.
- After Paul became a Christian, did God take him straight to Heaven?
- Do you think God had something for Paul to do here on this earth? Do you know what it was? We're going to find out.
- Many years after he had become a follower of Jesus, Paul told a king named Agrippa how Jesus had appeared to him on the road to Damascus. Paul said that Jesus told him this:

I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you as a servant and witness to the things in which you have seen Me and to those in which I will appear to you, delivering you from your people and from the Gentiles—to whom I am sending you to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.

◀ **Acts 26:16-18**

- Why did Jesus say He had appeared to Paul?
- To whom was Jesus sending Paul?
- Why was He sending Paul?

Teaching Thought:

Define "witness," if necessary, for the children. A witness is someone who tells others about something they have seen or heard.

Teaching Thought:

These verses could be somewhat long and confusing for younger children. Feel free to shorten it or summarize it for them.

THE UNSTOPPABLE GOSPEL

- Before Paul became a Christian, he was trying to stop the gospel from spreading. Were other people still trying to stop the gospel?
- But did God want the gospel to spread?
- Was God able to take someone who was doing everything he could to stop the gospel and change that man into someone who loved God and shared the gospel with others?
- What does this show us about God's power in spreading the gospel? Is anything going to be able to stop it?
- Since before He even created the world, God had a plan to save people from their sins and to bring them back into a right relationship with Him. Now He was continuing that plan and bringing Paul into it.

BROUGHT INTO THE PLAN

- Was this plan just for a few special people to be saved? Do you think that only people from Israel could have God's salvation? Only people from America? Only people from [fill in the blank]?
- Let's see what the Bible says about that:

And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

Matthew 24:14

- Where will the gospel be preached? *In all the world!*
- Let's look at another verse:

After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

Revelation 7:9-10

- From where will the people be who are worshipping Jesus around His throne?
- Isn't it exciting to know that God has *promised* that people from every tongue, tribe, and nation will believe the gospel, be rescued by Jesus, and become His followers?
- Is it possible for one man to go to every people, tongue, tribe, and nation?
- So was Paul the only one who spread the gospel? Did the gospel stop spreading when he died?
- No, of course not. Why?
 - Because every follower of Jesus has the gospel and can share it! Like Paul was a part of God's plan in spreading the gospel, so are you. You get to be a part of telling the best news ever to people around you right now and wherever God might send you someday. When you know something that good, how can you help but share it?

HIS SUFFICIENCY, NOT OURS

- Just before Jesus went back up to Heaven, this is what He told His disciples:

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Matthew 28:18-20

- What did Jesus say to do?
- How much authority (power, being in charge) was Jesus given?
- Who did He say would be with them? For how long?
- The One with all power and authority is with us forever! Stop and think for a minute about how incredible and wonderful that is.
- Are you living like this is actually true? Are there areas of your life where you can be living more like this is true?

- If Jesus has all authority and if He is with you always, do you have to worry about anything as you share the gospel?
- Sometimes it's easy to think that we have to be someone special for God to use us, but let's look at what Paul said about himself and how God used Him.

The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display His perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in Him for eternal life.

1 Timothy 1:15-16

- Who did Paul say that he was?
- But what did Paul receive from God (what did God give him?)
- That means that even though Paul didn't deserve it, God still saved him and chose to use him.
- Was it because of anything that Paul did? Was it because he was special?
- Do you sometimes think that you're not good enough, strong enough, smart enough, or [fill in the blank] enough for God to love you or use you?
- Think about who Paul was. Do you have to be somebody special for God to use you too?
 - o You simply have to be available to God and then obey.
- God is the one behind the gospel spreading, not just people. But He gives us the joy and special gift of being a part of that with Him through sharing and praying, and nothing will stop God's work.

APPLICATION: TRUST AND BE AVAILABLE TO SHARE

- Are you letting God and others spread the gospel even more in your own life?
- Are you truly believing the gospel and living it out every single day?
- Are you letting God use you in spreading the gospel or is something holding you back?
- What are ways that He might be wanting to spread the gospel through you? *Sharing, praying, etc.*
- Will you trust Him to do that and be available for Him to use you?

Intercession: Afghanistan

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Government
 - o The capital of Afghanistan is Kabul.
 - o Afghanistan has a democratic government, with an elected president. ►
 - o Shariah (Islamic law) which persecutes Christians, is enforced.
- The population of Afghanistan is 33,437,000.
- Interesting facts
 - o In the city of Herat there is a citadel built by Alexander the Great over 300 years before Jesus was born.
 - o The Silk Road, an ancient trade route traveling from China to Rome, crosses through Afghanistan.

Teaching Thought:

Consider looking up the names of current government leaders to share with the children.

Consider having the children vote for something as an example of a democratic government.

GEOGRAPHY & CLIMATE

- Afghanistan's land area is 251,825 square miles. ►
- The country has highlands, foothills, and plains. The land includes dessert and some farmland.
- The land is very rugged, and a few remote towns, like Paicotal, are only accessible by donkey because vehicles cannot travel on the roads. It takes 5 hours by donkey to reach the village, and the people there have no radios or means of communication.
- Summers are hot and dry, with cold, snowy winters in the highlands. There is little rainfall.

Teaching Thought:

Consider showing maps comparing Afghanistan to a region with which the children are familiar

HISTORY

- In 1979, the Russians took over the country of Afghanistan. When Russia finally left in 1988, different groups in Afghanistan fought for power. By 1996, the Taliban (an Islamic militant group) began to gain control of the country.
 - o The Taliban killed thousands of people in the streets of Afghanistan and kidnapped women and children to sell as slaves.
 - o Laws were created to keep girls from going to school. Women were no longer allowed to work, and eventually they were not even allowed to leave their homes.
 - o The Taliban outlawed many things, including Christianity, computers, television, toys, dancing, and Christmas cards.
 - o The countryside has been bombed so much that over 1 million landmines still exist across the country.
- In 2001, the US invaded to fight against the Taliban following the September 11, 2001 attacks on the United States. Eventually, the Taliban was removed from power and a new government was created in Afghanistan. Although the new government is not as harsh as the old, it enforces Shariah, which is the Islamic law that persecutes Christians.
- The Taliban is still a threat to the people of Afghanistan, and conflict within the land continues.

CULTURE

- There are 77 people groups in Afghanistan.
- There are 41 languages, the most common of which are Southern Pashto (Pashtu) and Dari (similar to Persian).
- The life expectancy is 45 years.
- Food
 - o Flatbread, yogurt, beans, peas, nuts, and dried fruit are common foods, as well as scrambled eggs with tomatoes and onions. People drink tea throughout the day.
- Occupations
 - o Crop and cattle farming are common. Crops include wheat, corn, rice, and barley.
 - o Many of the people are nomadic. This means they don't have a permanent home but travel with their herds and live in tents.
- Family life
 - o Many homes are built of mud and straw, stone, or brick.
 - o Most often, the entire family prefers to share one bedroom with floor mattresses for beds.
 - o Families eat their dinner while sitting on a cloth on the floor.
 - o A husband will not call his wife by her name, but will call her "mother of my son."
 - o The women wear burkas (outfits that completely cover from head to toe) in public, but at home they wear brightly colored knee-length dresses.
- Education
 - o The literacy rate (how many people can read) is 38% (only 24% for women).
 - o The Pashto language is written from right to left.
- Pastimes
 - o Afghans make carpets with pictures and designs on them. Some designs include military helicopters and army tanks.
 - o In the city of Herat, you can pay people to flatter you in a shop. A flatterer will sit down and give you compliments—whether or not they are true!
 - o Communities host local poetry recitation nights, with live music in the background.
- Sports
 - o Buzkashi is the oldest sport in Afghanistan. On horseback, hundreds of players compete to grab a headless goat, carry it off, and drop it in the goal.
 - o The Afghans enjoy traditional wrestling, skiing, and children enjoy roller blading.
- Holidays
 - o For New Year's Day, many people gather at the shrine of Mohammad's son-in-law to make prayers and wishes. They raise a flag in front of the shrine, and helicopters overhead drop confetti.

ISSUES

- Poverty
 - o Half of the Afghan children are malnourished.
 - o Thirty-six percent of the people live in poverty, making it Asia's second poorest country.
- Drugs
 - o The world's largest heroin production takes place in Afghanistan. Ninety percent of opium drugs are produced in Afghanistan, and it is one of the world's largest consumers of illegal drugs.

- o The capital city of Kabul suffers from an epidemic drug use. One million Afghans are drug addicts, and children are given drugs to make them work harder.

RELIGION

- Islam is the main religion in Afghanistan, practiced by 99.8% of the people.
 - o The religion of Islam has been part of the Afghan culture for around 1,400 years.
 - o Friday is the day of rest for Muslims.
 - o Muslims pray five times a day. Each day, they are reminded by calls to prayer from towers called minarets.
 - o Anyone who does not convert to Islam is considered worthy of death.
- Christians make up only 0.1% of the population (a little over 33,000 people).
- There are 72 unreached people groups totaling over 33,000,000 people. This is over 99% of the population.

PERSECUTION

- In Afghanistan, if someone converts from Islam to Christianity, he can be punished by death. There are no church buildings; instead, Christians meet in secret in their homes. It is illegal to share the gospel with others.
- In spite of intense persecution, Afghanistan has the world's second fastest growing Christian population, increasing at 16.7% a year.
- Christian media has been developed in the language of the people, shared through radio, internet, and books.

Story: Giving Away Bibles¹

- Shoaib, a 26-year-old Christian, is facing 20 years of imprisonment, or death because he gave a Bible away to someone. The government told Shoaib that he could go free if he would say that Jesus is not God, but Shoaib refuses to deny Jesus. He is able to listen to Christian radio messages while in prison, and says, "I want people to know my faith is strong. Please pray that I can stand well. I am not afraid of death."

PRAYER POINTS

- Pray that God would give wisdom to the leaders of Afghanistan and that they would know Him and live by His truth. Pray that God would change the hearts of people in groups who bring fear and death in Afghanistan. (1 Tim. 2:1-2)
- Pray that the hearts of Afghans would be healed from the years of war. The Afghan women and girls have been especially hurt by what Islam often causes. Pray for their freedom from fear and oppression. (Psa. 147:3)
- Pray for the 72 people groups who have never heard the Gospel. Pray for the Scripture to be translated into their languages. (Rom. 10:13-15)
- Most Christians in Afghanistan have to meet in secret and be very careful because of persecution. Pray for church leaders and for the church to have protection, perseverance, boldness, and wisdom. (Eph. 6:19)

1 "AFGHANISTAN: CHRISTIAN IMPRISONED." The Voice of the Martyrs, 7 Jan. 2011. Web. 23 July 2016.



Heroic *life*
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Activities

Semester 8

Semester 8: The Exchanged Life — Activities

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First Edition.

Unstoppable

Saul's Conversion



GROUP 1 AND 2 ACTIVITIES

Coloring Page

Message Relay Obstacle Course ▶

Supplies and Preparation:

- Message picture, 1 for each team (see Message Picture Template)
- Object(s) to mark a starting point (tape, chairs, cones, wall, etc.)
- Objects to create an obstacle course (Cones, chairs, boxes, blankets, etc.) ▶

Directions:

- Set up an obstacle course.
- Divide the children into teams.
- Roll up the message picture and give one to a child on each team.
- Have the children with the message picture line up in a row at the starting point.
- When you say to go, have them complete the obstacle course and return to the starting point.
- When they reach the starting point again, have them hand off the message picture to one of their teammates, who will then complete the obstacle course and return to the starting point.
- Repeat until each team member has gone through the obstacle course.
- The first team to finish wins.

Teaching Thought:

This game can be used as an illustration to show that God has a plan to take His message of the gospel into all the world, even if there are obstacles (things trying to stop it).

Teaching Thought:

These do not have to be special objects or an elaborate course. Things like climbing over a chair, jumping over a small box, or crawling under a blanket spread over a couple of chairs work great.

GROUP 3 AND 4 ACTIVITY

Intercession Focus — Afghanistan

Supplies and Preparation:

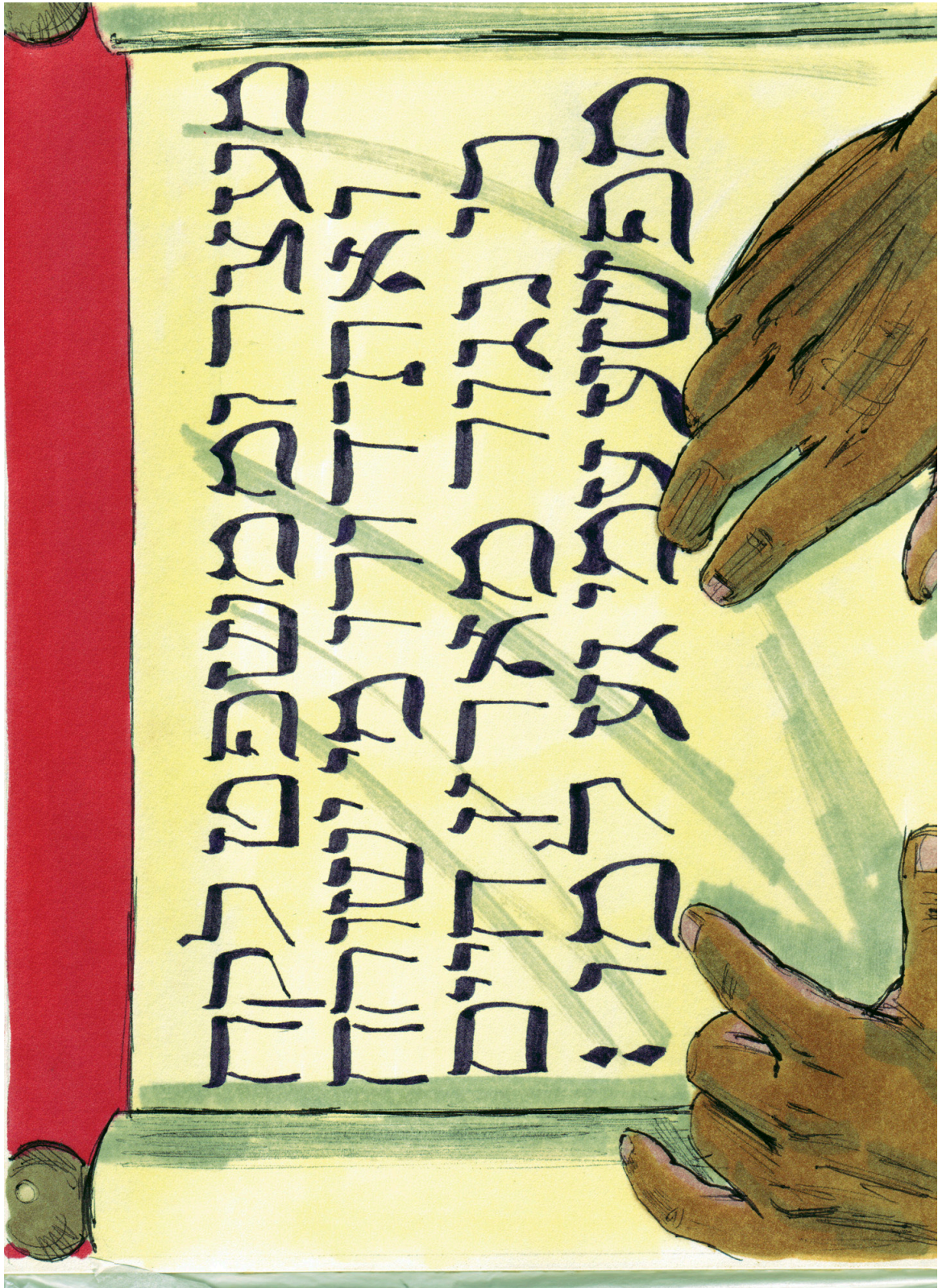
- Afghanistan map (in the Heroes at Home student workbook)
- Glue
- Print and cut prayer pictures.

Directions:

- Let the children glue the prayer picture to their map.
- Write the Scripture reference that goes with the prayer point next to the picture.
- Pray that God would give wisdom to the leaders of Afghanistan and that they would know Him and live by His truth. Pray that God would change the hearts of people in groups who bring fear and death in Afghanistan. (1 Timothy 2:1-2)



Message Picture Template



Prayer Picture





heroes at home

SEMESTER 8



The Exchanged Life

This workbook belongs to:

Semester 8: The Exchanged Life — Heroes at Home, Groups 3&4

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Unstoppable



REMEMBERING

*So you shall remember and do all My commandments, and be holy to your God.
(Numbers 15:40)*

Bible Story Passage

Acts 9:15-25

Lesson Summary

The story of Saul's conversion is an incredible example of how God's plans will always be done, even in the most surprising, amazing ways. Saul was rescued from his sin and began the new life that God called him to. We can see that God is powerful and that His kingdom will spread into all the world. We are called to join in this unstoppable mission of taking the good news of Jesus to all people. We don't have to be anything special for God to use us. He's the One who is strong and powerful. We simply need to trust Him and be available for Him to use us.

Lesson Takeaway

Will you trust that God can use you to join in the unstoppable spread of His gospel?

Memory Verse

And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.
(Matthew 24:14)



ACTIVITIES

...Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do,
do all to the glory of God. (1 Corinthians 10:31)

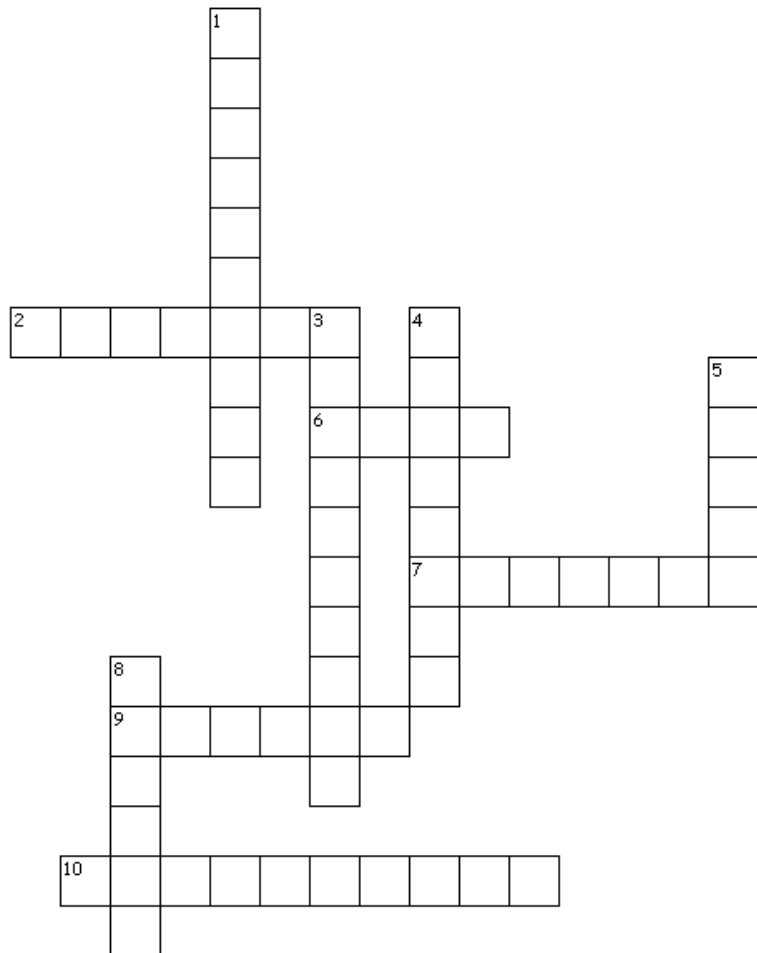
The Exchanged Life

Across

2. The name of the man who God sent to pray for Saul.
6. God said that Saul would carry this before "the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel." (Acts 9:15)
7. The opposite of "stayed the same"; Saul was this after God saved him and he started following Jesus.
9. People who heard Saul speaking after He started following Jesus were this. (Acts 9:21)
10. Saul did this to Christians before Jesus appeared to him.

Down

1. God filled Saul with this.
3. The first places Saul proclaimed Jesus; places where the Jews worshipped
4. Saul was on the road to this city when Jesus appeared to him.
5. The gospel will be spread throughout the whole ____.
8. When some Jews tried to kill Saul, he escaped in one of these.



Answers

Across: 2. Ananias; 6. Name; 7. Changed; 9. Amazed; 10. Persecuted
Down: 1. Holy Spirit; 3. Synagogues; 4. Damascus; 5. World; 8. Basket

PRAYER

...Pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. (Matthew 6:6b)

For...

For God's Kingdom to come in Afghanistan

Pray that God would give wisdom to the leaders of Afghanistan and that they would know Him and live by His truth. Pray that God would change the hearts of people in groups who bring fear and death in Afghanistan.
(1 Timothy 2:1-2)

HEROISM

*Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it.
(1 Corinthians 9:24)*

Afghanistan

Afghanistan is home to more than 32 million people living in its highlands, foothills, plains, and deserts. Many families work as crop or cattle farmers. Some are nomadic, which means they travel around in tents with their herds, and others live in homes built of mud and straw, stone, or brick. Afghanistan is the second poorest country in Asia, and less than 1 out of every 3 people can read. The country is 99.7% Islamic. That means that almost everyone believes in Islam. A violent group called the Taliban ruled from 1996-2003, and they still cause fear and death today. There are 78 people groups in Afghanistan and 74 of them are unreached. However, Afghanistan has the second fastest growing Christian population (people becoming Christians). Pray that this would continue and increase!

Fun Facts

- A common sport in Afghanistan is called Buzkashi. In it, hundreds of horseback riders compete to grab a headless goat, carry it off, and drop it in the goal.
- In Afghanistan, only a little more than 1 out of every 10 women and girls can read or write.
- Afghanistan was part of the former Soviet Union (a group of communist countries) from 1979-1988 and has experienced years of war and unrest.

What do you think?

1. How do families in Afghanistan usually eat their meals?
 - a. Around a dining room table
 - b. Sitting on couches
 - c. Sitting on the floor
2. About how many people in Afghanistan can read?
 - a. 6 out of 10
 - b. Less than 1 out of 3
 - c. 2 out of 4
3. The church in Afghanistan...
 - a. Is persecuted
 - b. Experiences peace and rest
 - c. Is corrupt
4. How many unreached people groups are there in Afghanistan?
 - a. 73
 - b. 74
 - c. 75

Answers

1. c; 2. b; 3. a; 4. b

READING

Corrie ten Boom, Janet and Geoff Benge

Chapter 12: Number 66730

Chapter 13: Passed Inspection

KNOWING

And this is eternal life, that they know You the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.
(John 17:3)

Reading Questions

In coming before the Word of God, we must be fully surrendered to Him (John 7:17). We must be obedient to what God shows us as soon as we see it (James 1:22). We must be humble and bent before it (James 4:7). And we must go to it with much prayer (Psalms 119:36; 119:18; 86:11; 90:14).

As you do your assigned reading, be carefully considering these questions:

- What truths, examples, or warnings can be applied to my life?
- Does my life show these things?
- If not, what parts of my life need to change?
- What specific action will I take?

Day 1 – Acts 13:1-5

There were prophets and teachers at Antioch in Syria.
What were they doing? (vv. 1-2)
What did the Holy Spirit say? (v. 2)
Who sent out Saul and Barnabas? (vv. 1-4)
A synagogue is a place of worship for the Jews. What did Saul and Barnabas do in the synagogues of the Jews? (v. 5)
See if you can find the island of Cypress on a map of the world. It's in the Mediterranean Sea.

Day 2 – Acts 13:6-12

A proconsul was a kind of ruler in Rome, like a governor.
What kind of man was Sergius Paulus? (v. 7)
What did Sergius Paulus want to hear from Saul and Barnabas? (v. 7)
Bar-Jesus, the sorcerer and false prophet, was also called Elymas. His name means son of Jesus, but what did Paul call him? (v. 10)
What did Elymas try to do? (v. 8)

Day 3 – Acts 13:1-12

Here we read that Saul's name was changed to Paul.
Who was Paul filled with? (v. 9)
What did Paul say would happen to Elymas? (v. 11)
What did Sergius Paulus do after he saw what happened to Elymas? (v. 12)
Could Elymas turn Sergius Paulus away from the faith?
The word astonished means to be amazed and surprised or to be impressed about something. What was Sergius Paulus astonished about? (v. 12)
God wants people to turn to Him in faith. Can anything stop the spread of the gospel?

Day 4 – Psalm 67

This psalm begins with a prayer for God to be gracious, to bless, and to make His face to shine upon us.
Why? (v. 2)
Where do you want God's way to be known?
Are you praying for others to know God's way?
Think of people you know who don't know God's way.
Will you pray for them today? You can ask God to help you remember to keep praying that they come to know Him.

Day 5 – Psalm 67

The writer of this psalm (called a psalmist) is still praying for the nations in verse four.
What does he want the nations to do? (v. 4)
Verse four says that people will have gladness and joy if God rules over them.
Do you trust that when God rules your life you will have gladness and joy?
How might we let others know that having Jesus as Lord is the way to gladness and joy?

Day 6 – Psalm 67

How many people does the psalmist pray will praise God? (v. 5)
Do you know that God deserves that all people praise Him?
How might you explain to someone that God deserves to be praised by their life?
How might you praise God with your life?



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Groups:  1&2

heroes at home

SEMESTER 8



The Exchanged Life

This workbook belongs to:

Semester 8: The Exchanged Life — Heroes at Home, Groups 1&2

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ACTIVITIES

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The Exchanged Life

Circle the ✓ if the statement is true. Circle the ✗ if the statement is not true.



From the beginning of his life, Saul loved and protected people who followed Jesus.



Saul saw Jesus while Saul was going to Damascus to find and hurt Christians.



God told Ananias that He had chosen Saul to tell many, many people about Jesus.



God did not fill Saul with the Holy Spirit.



Saul didn't change at all after God saved him and he started following Jesus.



God has an unstoppable plan for spreading His gospel all around the world.

PRAYER

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Color the flag of Afghanistan. The stripe on the left is black, the middle stripe is red, the right stripe is green, and the design in the middle is white.

KNOWING

And this is eternal life, that they know You the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. (John 17:3)

When you come to God's Word

Pray: Open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things from Your law. (Psalm 119:18)

Listen: My son, give attention to my words; incline your ear to my sayings. (Proverbs 4:20)

Think: I will meditate on Your precepts, and contemplate Your ways. (Psalm 119:15)

Obey: But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. (James 1:22)



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