



LESSON SNAPSHOT

BOTTOM LINE:

Jesus can send us in new and unexpected directions.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn to follow Jesus wherever he may lead them.

KEY PASSAGE:

Acts 9:1-18, Saul's Conversion

MEMORY VERSE:

*"I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength." - Philip-
pians 4:12-13*

SUMMARY:

Every ride on the Bumper Cars is a new adventure. Each bump from another car pushes you into a new direction you've never been before. Saul was arresting Christians and trying his best to stop the name of Jesus from being spread. Then on the road to Damascus, he "bumped" into the risen Jesus, and his life was sent off in an entirely new direction.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Please lead us where you want us to go, and help us to serve you everywhere we travel.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*



MEMORY VERSE

*"I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength." - Philip-
pians 4:12-13 (NIV)*

*"I know what it's like not to have what I need. I also know what it's like to have more than I need. I have learned the secret of being content no matter what happens. I am content whether I am well fed or hungry. I am content whether I have more than enough or not enough. I can do everything by the power of Christ. He gives me strength. - Phi-
lippians 4:12-13 (NirV)*

LARGE GROUP:

Divide the room into girls and boys. Have the girls and boys read the verse aloud together, alternating every other word, so girls say the first word, boys say the second word, girls third, etc.

SMALL GROUP:

Look at the verses surrounding this passage, or read the whole chapter so you can hear this verse in context. What was happening? How do the verses before and after the memory verse help you understand its meaning?



SKIT

SKY BUMPER CARS

ITEMS NEEDED:

Four chairs

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN: 2M/2F

CHARACTERS:

Bert - A dad

Denise - Bert's wife

Krista - Bert's daughter

Glen - A sky bumper car driver

The four chairs are arranged on stage like four seats in a car. Glen stands beside the cars stage left. Bert, Denise, and Krista enter stage left.

BERT: Hey, what's going on here?

DENISE: What's the matter, dear?

BERT: Where's the bumper cars? Where's the sky car? Those were the first two rides they installed at this park. They're the ones I rode with my dad.

KRISTA: I thought you guys rode dinosaurs.

BERT: I can't believe it! Did they really get rid of the bumper cars?

GLEN: Yes, sir, about two years ago.

BERT: And what about the sky cars that soared over the park and gave you a bird's eye view.

SKIT

GLEN: Gone as well and replaced with this.

BERT: This? What is this?

GLEN: The sky bumper car, a ride that combines the fun of bumper cars with the awe and wonder of the sky car.

BERT: No thanks. Come on, girls.

DENISE: Oh come on, Bert, give it a try.

KRISTA: We may as well, Dad.

BERT: Okay, but don't expect me to enjoy it.

Glen opens an imaginary door into the car.

GLEN: Right this way, folks.

KRISTA: Thank you.

Everyone sits. Glen sits in the front with Krista. He begins to drive the car.

DENISE: Whoa! Is this taking us up in the air?

GLEN: Yes, ma'am, three hundred feet up, high enough to see the whole park.

DENISE: Just like the sky car, dear.

BERT: It's not the sky car!

GLEN: But this ride has an added feature.

The four riders all jolt as if their car was hit.

KRISTA: What was that?

GLEN: Hang on, folks, looks like we have some competition!

KRISTA: What competition?

GLEN: The other sky bumper cars!

SKIT

They all jolt again.

GLEN: Oh no you didn't, Patrick! Get back here!

DENISE: Wow, this is exciting!

GLEN: Isn't it? It combines the fun of bumper cars with the thrill of the sky car. You get to see the park from a different view and—

They all jolt.

GLEN: Smash into other cars as well!

BERT: Say, this isn't so bad! I kinda like this!

GLEN: I thought you might come around, sir. I like it because the bumps—

They all jolt.

GLEN: Are constantly turning you in new directions so you not only see the park, but you—

They all jolt.

GLEN: —see it from different angles!

BERT: What a cool ride! And hey, what's that? Is that a new water ride?

DENISE: See? You're discovering new things already.

GLEN: Taking her down now.

BERT: Already? I was just having fun.

GLEN: Well, feel free to get back in line and ride again, you're sure to have a *smashing* good time!



OBJECT LESSON OR KIDS SERMON

ITEMS NEEDED:

Generic Froot Loop cereal
Two bowls

Set the two bowls on a table. Ask if there's a kid who can tell the difference between regular Froot Loops and the generic, store brand. Bring that kid up. Let them taste from both bowls and make a guess, then tell them the secret - they were BOTH the generic!

Sometimes we discover something that changes the way we look at things. If you listen to the commercials on TV, there's no substitute for Froot Loops, but as we've seen here, there IS at least one substitute. It's so good, you can't even tell the difference.

Saul thought he knew what was right. He thought he was doing the Lord's work by killing Christians. Then Jesus gave him a bump and made him see things from a different point of view. Once Saul knew that Jesus was truly the Christ, he changed his whole life. He spent the rest of his days serving Jesus and sharing the gospel with others.

When God sends you in a different direction, when he lets you see things from a different angle, don't be stubborn. Follow God's lead. Change directions. Don't try to take the wheel away from God. Let God lead the adventure.



LARGE GROUP GAME

FOOTBALL BOUNCE

ITEMS NEEDED:

A large bucket or trash can

A football

INSTRUCTIONS:

Choose one player for this game. The player must put the football into the bucket by bouncing it off the floor and landing it in the bucket. If they complete this task in 60 seconds or less, they win a prize.

VARIATION:

For older kids, make it harder by having them make two or three buckets to win their prize.

WHAT'S THE POINT?

Footballs don't bounce straight; they go in all sorts of directions. Be ready when God decides to take you in a new direction.



LARGE GROUP LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:

Jesus can send us in new and unexpected directions.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn to follow Jesus wherever he may lead them.

KEY PASSAGE:

Acts 9:1-18, Saul's Conversion

INTRO

One of the oldest and most popular rides in amusement parks history is the bumper cars. Bumper cars were an attraction as early as 1926 when Hersheypark in Pennsylvania opened a version called Auto Skooters. Bumper cars are fun because they give kids the thrill of actually driving a car, but that's not all! The whole point of bumper cars is to crash and smash into as many other cars as you can. Who doesn't enjoy that?

Bumper cars can be a jerky ride. When you get hit, the car that hit you sends you in a new direction, and the harder they hit you, the more they can change your course. It can get frustrating, but you have to remind yourself, it's not a race. You take the bumps as they come and you enjoy the ride.

I can't think of a single adventure story that doesn't have a few twists and turns. That's all part of the journey. Life with Jesus is no different. In today's scripture, we're going to meet a man who did a complete 180 on his adventure. He believed in God, and he truly believed he was doing God's will by persecuting Christians. Then someone bumped into him and sent him in a new direction. He didn't just change his life. He helped to change the world.

READ Acts 9:1-18

LARGE GROUP LESSON

MAIN POINT

Saul was one of the Jewish religious leaders. He knew the scripture, what we call the Old Testament, better than most men. When the church of Jesus Christ began to grow, he saw it as a threat to the Jewish faith. He dedicated his life to stopping the spread of the gospel. Nothing short of a miracle would change his heart!

That's exactly what happened. Jesus himself appeared to Saul. When Saul saw the bright light and heard the voice of Jesus, he could no longer deny that the gospel of Jesus was from God. Saul knew he had done wrong, and he knew he had to change.

Saul became Paul, one of the first missionaries and one of the greatest leaders in the early church. He wrote much of the New Testament. His story shows us that anyone can change directions and become a force for good in this world.

DRIVE IT HOME

There will be many times in your lives when you get a bump from God. God uses those bumps to correct our course and take us in new directions. When he bumps us, he always has a purpose.

The worst thing we can do is to ignore him and keep going the direction we are going. Sadly, many people do just that. They are too proud to admit they were wrong and correct their actions. Or, they simply don't like what God has shown them and choose to ignore it.

When we ignore God's bump, we are only hurting ourselves. Not only are we going off on our own, without God's help, we are missing out on the blessings God has planned for us.

God had a plan for Saul. As bad and as cruel as he was to God's early church, God loved him. God bumped Saul on the road to Damascus, and Saul changed course.

When God bumps you, don't try to steer the wheel back the way you were going. Follow his lead, and let the adventure continue.

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER

Dear God,

Please lead us where you want us to go, and help us to serve you everywhere we travel.

In Jesus' name,

Amen



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (K-2ND)

ICEBREAKER

Which do you prefer - bumper cars or bumper boats?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Philippians 4:12-13

Look at the verses surrounding this passage, or read the whole chapter so you can hear this verse in context. What was happening? How do the verses before and after the memory verse help you understand its meaning?

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY

Read the story back for the kids, and let them act it out.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read Acts 9:1-18

Who was Saul?

Why was Saul persecuting Christians?

Who did Saul bump into on the road to Damascus?

How did Jesus change Saul's direction?

What should we do when God tells us to change direction?

SIMPLE PRAYER

Dear God,

Teach us to listen to your voice and to go where you lead us. Show us when we need to change directions so we can better serve you.

In Jesus' name,

Amen



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (3-5TH)

ICEBREAKER

Which do you prefer - bumper cars or bumper boats?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Philippians 4:12-13

Look at the verses surrounding this passage, or read the whole chapter so you can hear this verse in context. What was happening? How do the verses before and after the memory verse help you understand its meaning?

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY

Have the kids create a skit about Saul's conversion.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read Acts 9:1-18

Why was Saul persecuting Christians?

What did Jesus say to Saul?

What did Saul do after his encounter with Jesus?

How do you think God changes our direction in life?

How should we respond when Jesus steps in to change our direction?

SIMPLE PRAYER

Dear God,

Teach us to listen to your voice and to go where you lead us. Show us when we need to change directions so we can better serve you.

In Jesus' name,

Amen



POWERPOINT REVIEW GAME

1. Saul was
 - A. a disciple of Jesus.
 - B. a Pharisee.*
 - C. a Roman official.
2. Saul was traveling on the road to
 - A. Damascus.*
 - B. Jerusalem.
 - C. Bethlehem.
3. Saul saw a blinding light and heard the voice of
 - A. Peter.
 - B. John.
 - C. Jesus.*
4. God changed Saul's direction and he later became
 - A. Paul.*
 - B. Second Peter.
 - C. Jude.
5. When God changes our direction, we need to
 - A. start over.
 - B. follow his lead.*
 - C. turn around and go back.

MAKE IT STICK

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

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: BUMPER CARS



IN THE CAR:

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

Today we talked about bumper cars and how Jesus can send us in new and unexpected directions. Acts 9:1-18 – Saul's Conversion



HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real:

Has something happened recently to change you or your kids' minds about something? Discuss that with them, and discuss why it's important to be open to change when we live for Jesus.



AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:

- Why was Saul hurting Christians?
- How did Saul become Paul, one of the early church leaders?
- What do we need to do when God asks us to change directions?



AT BEDTIME:

Quiz your child on this week's memory verse:

"I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength."

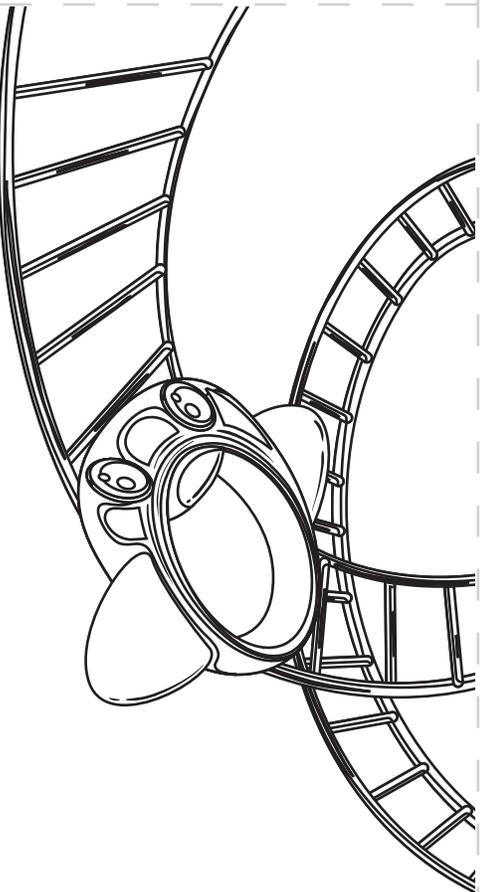
- *Philippians 4:12-13*



PARENT TIME:

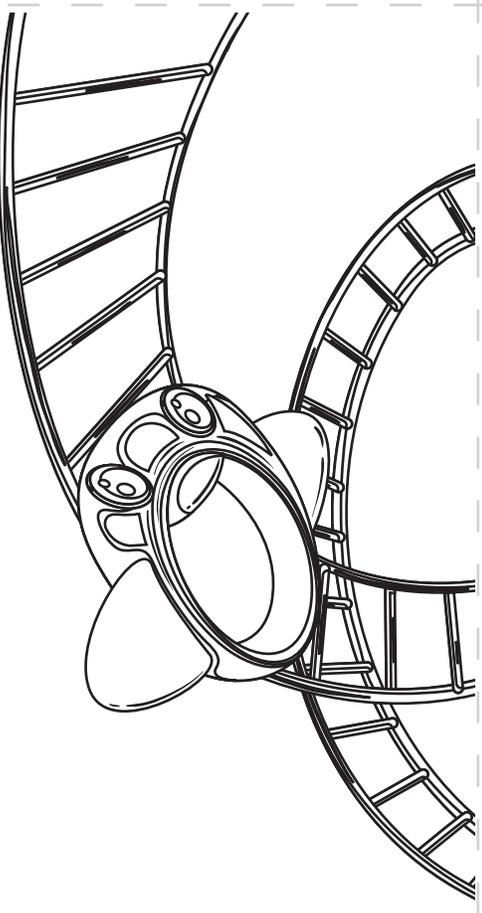
What you need to know:

Change is never easy, especially if it means admitting we were wrong. Pray for yourself and for your kids to be open to change when God asks you to do so.



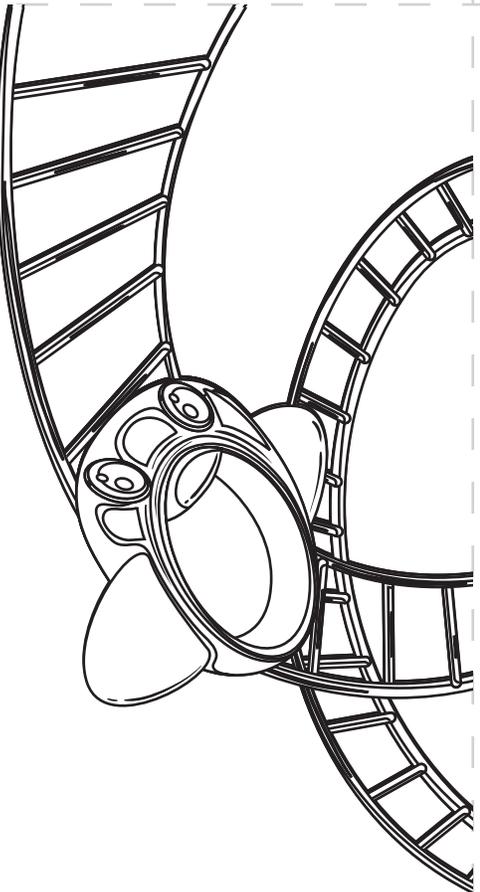
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- Philippians 4:12-13



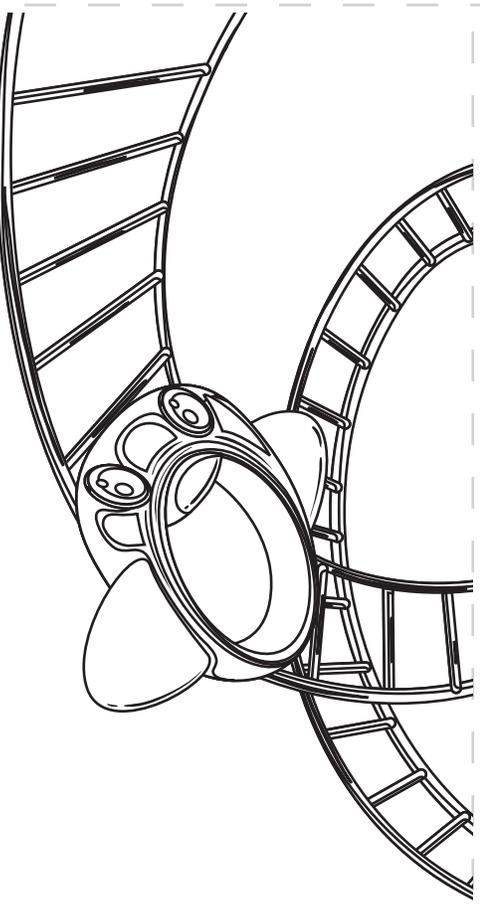
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CRAFT ACTIVITY

Have the kids draw a picture of what they think Saul's conversion looked like.