

BIG IDEA

God uses Christ-followers in radical ways.

ACTS | **RADICAL** | **WEEK 1 OF 5**

Speak

GOD STORY

Ananias and Saul
Acts 9:1-19

KEY VERSE

When anyone lives in Christ, the new creation has come. The old is gone! The new is here!
2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIRV)

LEADER TIPS

- Be sure to prepare for the Intro Activity and invite your guests in advance.
- Some Bible stories have a lot going on in them, and there are many things you could focus on. That's why we have a Big Idea for each lesson. The Big Idea helps bring into focus one thing that we really want the students to learn, understand, and apply to their own lives.

My Story

1 | CONVERSATION STARTER (7 minutes)

Chat about what it means to be radical and to be transformed.

2 | INTRO ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Introduce today's Big Idea. Invite a couple of guests to share stories of how God has used them in a radical way.

God Story | Life Story

3 | WEEKLY VIDEO (12 minutes)

Watch the video, which includes host, God Story, and Life Story segments.

My Story

4 | APPLICATION ACTIVITY (12 minutes*)

Review the God Story by having the students vote on whether key plot points are fact or fiction. Discuss the connections between the God and Life Stories, as well as the students' own stories.

5 | WRAP-UP ACTIVITY (10 minutes)

Challenge everyone to ask God to use them in the week ahead and talk about what his prompting might look like.

Our Story

6 | DISMISSAL (2 minutes)

*Extend as needed and adjust timing for other activities.



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My Story

1 | Conversation Starter

SUPPLIES

- None

LEADER TIPS

- “Radical” / adjective / (especially of change or action) relating to or affecting the fundamental nature of something; far-reaching or thorough; having a root impact / synonyms: amazing, dedicated, intense
- “Transform” / verb / (used with object) to metamorphose or change in form, appearance, or structure; to convert condition, nature, or character; to transmute or change into another substance

INSTRUCTIONS

- a. As the students arrive, greet them and gather everyone together.
- b. Discuss:
 - What comes to mind when you hear the word “radical”?
 - What does it mean to be radical?
 - What’s the most radical transformation you can think of (e.g., a caterpillar to a butterfly; a Transformer; personal transformation)?
 - What does it mean to be transformed?
- c. Depending on the size of your group, have the students share their answers with the people sitting closest to them or with everyone.

2 | Intro Activity

SUPPLIES

- None

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY

- In advance, invite a couple of guests to share their stories about God using them in a huge way. These stories don’t have to be off-the-wall radical. They could be about something simple that had a radical impact. Let your guests know that they only have a couple minutes to share with the students.

INSTRUCTIONS

- a. Introduce today’s Big Idea: **God uses Christ-followers in radical ways.**
- b. Welcome your guests and give them a couple of minutes to speak. Prompt them with questions such as, “What might have happened if God didn’t send that person your way?” or “What radical changes occurred in your life after this happened?”
- c. Ask the students if they have any similar stories that they would like to share.



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God Story | Life Story

3 | Weekly Video

SUPPLIES

- Video file

INSTRUCTIONS

- a. Play the video. It includes:
 - Host segment
 - God Story (Ananias and Saul, Acts 9:1–19)
 - Life Story (Vinesha shares her incredible story of overcoming cancer, becoming a Christ-follower, and the radical ways that God now uses her.)



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My Story

4 | Application Activity

SUPPLIES

- Paper
- Pens

INSTRUCTIONS

- Give each student a piece of paper and a pen.
- Direct them to write "Fact" on one side of their paper and "Fiction" on the flip side.
- Explain that you will read a statement about today's God Story. The students will indicate if they think it's fact or fiction by holding up the corresponding side of their paper.
- After reading each of the following statements, prompt the students to decide whether it's fact or fiction and hold up their papers:
 - Saul was travelling to Damascus to visit his sick grandmother. (Fiction: He was travelling to Damascus to imprison believers)
 - Saul saw a light brighter than the sun and he heard a voice speaking in the Greek language. (Fiction: He heard a voice speaking Aramaic)
 - Jesus asked Saul why he was persecuting him. (Fact)
 - Saul was blind for three days. (Fact)
 - God told Ananias to go to Damascus and restore Saul's sight. (Fiction: Ananias)
 - God used Ananias in a radical way. (Fact)
 - Saul preached the good news boldly and everyone loved him. (Fiction: Some people wanted to kill him)
 - God can transform people's lives when they believe in Jesus. (Fact)
 - God wants to use each of us in radical ways in other people's lives. (Fact: **God uses Christ-followers in radical ways**)

e. Discuss:

- What was the connection between the God Story and the Life Story about Vinesha?
- What's the connection to your own life story?
- How could God use you in a radical way in your school? How about at home?



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My Story

5 | Wrap-Up Activity

SUPPLIES

- None

LEADER TIP

- Lead by example and set a serious tone during this activity.

INSTRUCTIONS

- Remind the students that God used Ananias and Saul in radical ways. Emphasize that God wants to use us in a radical way, too! When we commit our lives to following Jesus and allow the Holy Spirit to work in and through us, God uses us in increasingly radical ways.
- Challenge everyone to start each day this week by praying, "God, I want to be used by you. Please show me what you'd like me to do today."
- Discuss what listening for God's prompting might look like for the students.
- Wrap up by praying together.

Our Story

6 | Dismissal

SUPPLIES

- Take-home cards
- Key Verse cards

INSTRUCTIONS

- Take a few moments to pray for the students if you have not already done so.
- Remind everyone about any upcoming events or relevant announcements.
- Make sure the students have all their take-home materials.
- Ensure the adult teaching is over before dismissing the students.