



KIDS FAMILY DISCUSSION GUIDE for July 24th- July 30th

**Acts In 30 Week 8: Saul Becomes Paul — “Living According to the Spirit”**

**Family Activity: Drain the Flesh, Feed the Spirit**

For this activity, you’ll need at least four cups and two straws. Fill two of the cups up with about 1 cup of water and leave the other two cups empty. On the cups that are full of water write, “The Flesh.” These cups represent that before we are full of the Spirit, we are full of the *flesh* and earthy desires. On the other empty cups write “The Spirit” which shows that we need to fill our Spirit with the things of God. Once that’s explained, separate the family into two equal teams and give each team one straw. Once you count down and start the game, each team will start a relay race by taking the straw, dipping it in the cup labeled “flesh,” covering the top of the straw with their finger, then running to the other cup labeled “Spirit” and releasing the water from the straw into the “Spirit” cup. First team to fill up their Spirit cup first, wins!

**FOCUS: Acts 9:1-31**

**The Apostle Paul**

*“Who are you, Lord?” Saul asked. And the voice replied, “I am Jesus, the One you are persecuting!”*

**BIG IDEA 1** - Finally, we come to one of the most fascinating people in (my opinion) the whole bible - The Apostle Paul. Although, he wasn’t always known as Paul. Before Paul was saved he was known as Saul, and “Saul” had a terrible reputation of actually persecuting Christians! In fact, Paul was on his way to persecute Christians in Damascus when he saw Jesus. Jesus would radically change Paul’s life for the better and he would become, aside from Jesus, the most prolific leader in the early church. He was both Jewish and Roman, he made tents for living, he preached the gospel all over the world, and he officially wrote 13 of the 27 books in the NT. Jesus completely changed Paul’s entire life.

**Q1 - How has Jesus changed your life? Why do you think Jesus said Paul was persecuting Him when clearly Paul was persecuting Christians?**

**FOCUS: Acts 8:9-24**

**Simon The Magician**

*“Even Simon himself became a believer and after his baptism attached himself closely to Philip. As he saw the signs and remarkable demonstrations of power which took place, he lived in a state of constant wonder.”*

**BIG IDEA 2** - Simon played the role imitating he had “power” as a magician, but once he saw the real power of the Holy Spirit at work through Philip, he decided to receive Christ and got baptized. Unfortunately, Simon later tried to pay money to receive the Holy Spirit so he could use it to make a profit. This was a terrible thing for Simon to desire and Peter had to correct him to give him proper understanding. The gift of the Holy Spirit is a FREE gift and God gives His Spirit to whomever He wishes

**Q2 - What are some notable differences between Paul’s conversion to Christ and Simons conversion to Christ?**

**Simon tried to use the free gift of the Holy Spirit for personal gain; why is this way of thinking incompatible with living a true life for Jesus.**

**FOCUS: Romans 8:5-11**

**Flesh Vs. Spirit**

*“A mind focused on the flesh is doomed to death, but a mind focused on the Spirit will find full life and complete peace.”*

**BIG IDEA 2** - This passage of scripture was written by... *guess who?* Paul! He gives us two examples of how a human mind can operate. One way the human mind can work is by living according to the *flesh*. The other way, according to the *Spirit*. Before someone gives their life to Jesus, we all, by default, live according to the flesh. This means we tend to think more about ourselves, what we can gain, and how we can get ahead. Simon the magician was living according to the flesh before he received the Holy Spirit because he was still thinking about how he could gain from even just receiving the Holy Spirit. Paul, on the other hand, once he received the Holy Spirit, lived according to the Spirit. He wanted what God wanted more than anything. He committed his life to serving God and others no matter what it cost him.

**Q3 - What are some ways we tend to live according to the *flesh*? What are some ways we can live more according to the *Spirit*? How can we learn to live by the Spirit more?**



