

Turnaround – Real Life Downloaded

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Upper Elementary

- Lesson 2
- Winter 2023-24
- By: RLD Editorial Team
- December 10, 2023

Lesson Focus:

Christians are called to do things differently.

Bible Basis:

Acts 9:6, 20-31; 13:1-4

Materials Needed:

Step 1:

Internet access

Step 4:

- Pen/pencils
- Index cards

Summary & Links:

Students will talk about things that lead them the wrong way as they explore Saul's miraculous turnaround.

Memory Verse:

Offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

—Romans 12:1

Step 1:

Students will talk about things that lead them the wrong way as they explore Saul's miraculous turnaround.

During the holiday season, people often travel distances to visit family and friends. When driving new places, many depend on a GPS for direction.

Many people have stories related to the GPS. What experiences has your family had with a GPS? Have you ever been in the car when the GPS frustrated the driver, or has it always worked well for you? *(Answers will vary.)*

Share the following short video with your students [0:21]:

[When Apple Maps Gives You The Wrong Directions in Hawaii](#)

These two men almost drove into the ocean because Apple maps gave them the wrong directions to their location! Obviously, this is not a life-and-death situation. However, if the map had given the wrong directions to an ambulance driver or search-and-rescue team, the technology glitch could have had some very serious consequences, such as preventing people from getting urgent help.

GPS programs are designed to help us navigate roads to get from one place to the next, but sometimes, these programs lead in the wrong direction. There are other influences that lead us as we walk through daily life. Some may lead us away from our goals or the direction God wants for us.

- **Have you ever tried to go on one path in your life only to get in trouble for what you did, how you did it, or who you were with? What happened?** *(Answers may vary.)*
- **How do pressures from your school friends affect the direction you take?** *(Answers may vary; they encourage following friends to cheat, misbehave, pick on others, etc.)*
- **What other influences in life have led you in a direction you wish you had not gone?** *(Answers will vary but may include social media, television, siblings, etc.)*

Saul had a strong sense of direction—a determination to persecute Christians. Let's see how he realized he needed to turn around and what his life was like after that change.

Step 4:

If your class is meeting online, invite your students to supplies with them to class.

Today we read that after Saul had an encounter with God, his life turned around. Instead of persecuting Christians, he preached about Jesus. After Jesus changed Saul's life, the Holy Spirit guided Saul on a path dedicated to serving God.

Many people's lives have turned around, coming to Jesus after living for other things. Instead of letting other influences continue to lead them through life, they live differently in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Answer the following questions quietly in your hearts and minds.

- **What is different about your life now that you know Jesus? Or, if you don't have a relationship with Jesus yet, what is different about the life of someone else you know who follows Jesus?**
- **What do you sense the Holy Spirit wants you to do differently today? This could include believing in Jesus, changing a behavior, or living differently by serving God and others in some way.**

It is the Holy Spirit, not a GPS, who influences the way Christians live—and He never steers us wrong if we follow Him.

Distribute supplies (or invite students to have them ready at home). Today we are going to make cards to help us as we pray about living differently. Since we are going to use our cards to help us pray, we need to write a few reminders on it. On one side of the card, write, "Christians are called to do things differently." On the second side of the card, write, "I want to live a life holy and pleasing to God." Below that, write one thing you want God to change within you so that you can live a holy, pleasing life. Brainstorm ideas with your students if they're confused about this part.

During the week, read through your card each day as you pray. Read the first two sentences aloud and then ask God for direction with what you asked Him to help you with. Draw a small heart on your card as you see Him answering that prayer.

Rather than closing with a corporate prayer, allow the students to scatter and practice praying with their cards.