CHANGED LIVES

UNIT OVERVIEW

As disciples, we are constantly challenged by the Scriptures to change our characters to be more like Christ. Change, however, requires hard work and some level of discomfort, both of which prevent many from achieving their goals.

This unit focuses on the power of Jesus and the gospel to change lives. The students will study four individuals whose lives were different because they were willing to be challenged and were eager to learn. Each story will cause the students to grow in their faith when they see how God's power was at work.

Your students are entering a period in their lives when they are beginning to understand their need to be disciples. Through this unit, they will be encouraged and convicted by the power of God that is available to his disciples.

UNIT GOALS

- The students will understand the power of Jesus and of the gospel to change lives.
- The students will recognize character qualities that must be present for change to occur.
- The students will begin to understand and grow in the need for God in their own lives.

UNIT CONTENTS

LESSON 1 SAMARITAN WOMAN

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE — JOHN 4:24

In the story of the Samaritan woman, we see that Jesus' love and compassion transcend cultural prejudices and individual sin. While skeptical at first, the woman allowed Jesus to help her escape her sin and change her life. In this lesson, the students will see that the effect of spending time with Jesus is a changed heart and a changed attitude.

LESSON 2 ZACCHAEUS

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE — LUKE 19:10

As a tax collector, Zacchaeus' greed caused him to be hated by the Jews. Yet, Jesus was able to see that he wanted to change. His eagerness to see Jesus, and his quick and thorough repentance are great examples to your students, and will help them to consider how much they desire to change for God.

LESSON 3 LYDIA

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE — MATTHEW 6:33

The lesson of Lydia is a lesson for our own time. She was a prominent businesswoman who worshipped God in her life. Yet, she was lacking in a full knowledge of God. Paul recognized this need, and taught her the gospel of Christ. With his help, Lydia grew in her understanding, and she and her entire household were baptized. The students will recognize the need for God and his word in their own lives.

LESSON 4 THE ETHIOPIAN

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE — HEBREWS 13:7

The Ethiopian had a great heart for God. Even though he had a prominent position in Ethiopia with much power and responsibility, this man had the humility to ask for help in understanding the Scriptures. God recognized this great heart, and sent Philip to meet his needs and help to change his life. This lesson will give your students an understanding of how important it is to have other people in our lives to help us to be more of what God expects.

© 1998 by Discipleship Publications International • Permission to Photocopy Granted

GENERATION Next

Preteens

Dear Parent,

On the reverse side of this page you will find an outline and description of the lessons which comprise this unit. The weekly Scripture Memory Verse is listed with each lesson synopsis.

As part of the class experience, students are given a weekly challenge. Below is a list of the challenges given with the lessons:

LESSON 1 SAMARITAN WOMAN

Weekly Challenge: Reach out to three people with whom you would not normally spend a great deal of time—someone in your extended family, someone in your school and someone in the church. If you are having difficulty, ask a parent or your preteen teacher for help.

LESSON 2 ZACCHAEUS

Weekly Challenge: Select one character trait that you need to change. Then develop and carry out a plan for change. Ask your parents for advice, encouragement and correction when needed. At the end of the week, have your parents write a note about the impact of your change on the family. Bring this note to class next week.

LESSON 3 LYDIA

Weekly Challenge: Spend five minutes in prayer each day. You may pray alone, with a partner or with your family. Pray about all the ways you need God in your life. Ask God to help you to rely on him in all these areas. During next week's class, you will have the opportunity to share about how much you have grown in your reliance on God.

LESSON 4 THE ETHIOPIAN

Weekly Challenge: Become a "Philip" to someone this week by inviting them to come to church with you.

Your active involvement outside the classroom is essential and will truly make the Kingdom Kids Curriculum a great success for your child. Here are some suggested ways for you to reinforce these lessons at home:

- Share with your child some ways that Jesus and his word have changed your life.
- Share with your child how others have helped you to understand God's word more clearly and to change character traits.
- Review the memory verse before bedtime, at dinner or while riding in the car.
- While eating dinner, talk about something that your child really enjoyed about Bible class this week.
- Ask your child to share with you how he or she is doing with the weekly challenge. Give encouragement or direction as needed.
- Have a family devotional using the memory verse (or parallel verses) this week.
- Don't forget to encourage your child as he or she uses the Preteen Quiet Time Book that gives daily support for the lesson of the week.
- Allow your child to share with younger siblings what he or she is learning in class.

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Deuteronomy 6:5-7

We look forward to being partners with you as we help *Generation Next* to be zealous and effective as they move forward the kingdom of our God.

Thank you,

Your child's teachers

© 1998 by Discipleship Publications International • Permission to Photocopy Granted