

**Grade 6.2, Lesson 17**  
**Bible Background**

**From Persecutor to Preacher**

The church took root and grew quickly as the word of God was preached and God added to His church those who were being saved (Acts 2:41, 4:7, 5:14). Some of the first problems (5:1-11, 6:1-4) and persecutions (7:54-60) were not obstacles, but became means for the church to grow and spread out into the world. So the church was scattered as God moved His people out into the world to preach the gospel (8:4). That scattering was due in part to a man who watched Stephen die and was inspired to “ravage the church” (Acts 8:3).

The conversion of Saul of Tarsus might be considered the greatest event in church history after the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. There have been similar dramatic conversions since Paul’s that have led to significant results in the church (such as Martin Luther?). But whether God works in such a dramatic way or in a more subdued setting, the result is the same, as Paul makes clear in his testimony in Philippians 3:4-11. He gloried in being a Hebrew, in his zeal for doing God’s work, and for being so righteous according to the law that he could be “found blameless” (Philippians 3:6).

But that was all cast aside for the “surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord,” and being found in Him, “not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith” (Philippians 3:8,9). Such is the power of the gospel (Romans 1:16), a power that is expressed in one of the foundational truths of scripture and Lutheran theology: “The just, or righteous man, shall live by faith” (Habakkuk 2:4, Romans 1:17, Hebrews 10:38). That faith will change men who will change history. That change is not random, but a timely and necessary correction of the times in which God works and fulfill His divine plan to bring salvation to all men.

Noah was a “preacher of righteousness” (II Peter 2:5) whose work was a testimony of God’s grace to his world. Abraham was called to leave his home and was given the promise that would bless the world. Moses was called to lead a nation out of slavery into the land promised to Abraham. David was called out as a young man to become a great leader in his time. All of them were flawed in ways which we don’t even like to admit, but they believed and lived by faith. The prophets and apostles and men and women through the ages have been called and raised up to serve at pivotal times in history. And the church continues to grow.

## Answers for Quarter 2, Lesson 17

1. Acts 8:1 Saul was present at Stephen's stoning and approved of it. The witnesses laid their clothes at his feet.  
Acts 8:3 Saul tried to destroy the church. He went from house to house dragging off men and women and putting them in prison.  
Acts 9:1 Saul was breathing murderous threats against the Lord's disciples.
2. The Jews tried to kill Saul.
3. One night Saul's disciples lowered him in a basket through an opening in the wall.
4. They were afraid of him, not believing that he really was a disciple.
5. Barnabas befriended Saul and brought him to the apostles. He told them how Saul had seen the Lord on the road to Damascus and how he had preached boldly in the name of Jesus.
6. "For I am the least of the apostles, and not fit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me did not prove vain; but I labored even more than all of them, yet not I, but the grace of God with me."
7. "not be put to shame in anything, but that with all boldness, Christ will even now, as always, be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain."
8. How does this verse apply to Paul? When Paul believed in Jesus as His Savior his life was radically changed. The "old" and evil persecutor had become a "new" and faithful follower and servant of Jesus.  
How can it apply to me? As I trust in Jesus for salvation I too will experience the change spoken of in this verse and seen in the Apostle Paul as my "old" life is removed and I am changed into a "new" person in Christ.  
How can it apply to those around me? If I have experienced the change spoken of in this verse I should desire for those around me that are still in the "old" ways of sin that they too can know Jesus and the "new" life that He gives to all who believe in Him.

## Catechism Corner

1. This is true and living faith:  
That a repentant sinner lays hold of Christ as his only Savior from sin, death, and the power of Satan; and  
That he takes refuge in Christ and His righteousness and builds thereon with the confidence of his whole heart.
2. By faith we are justified, born anew, sanctified, and finally saved forever.
3. Paul stopped persecuting Christians and befriended them. His purpose for living changed as his desire was to glorify God and not himself. His message changed as he now proclaimed the Gospel of Christ.

4. Possible answers: Living faith in Christ can be evident in my life as I show love for others, desire to study God's Word, desire to spend time with other Christians (fellowship), overcome sinful habits, etc.

### Word Works

**Blind**  
Bland  
Brand  
Grand  
Grane  
**Grace**

**Blind**  
Bland  
Blank  
Plank  
Plane  
Place  
Glace  
**Grace**

**Blind**  
Bland  
Brand  
Grand  
Grans  
Grass  
Grads  
Grade  
**Grace**

There may be other acceptable answers.

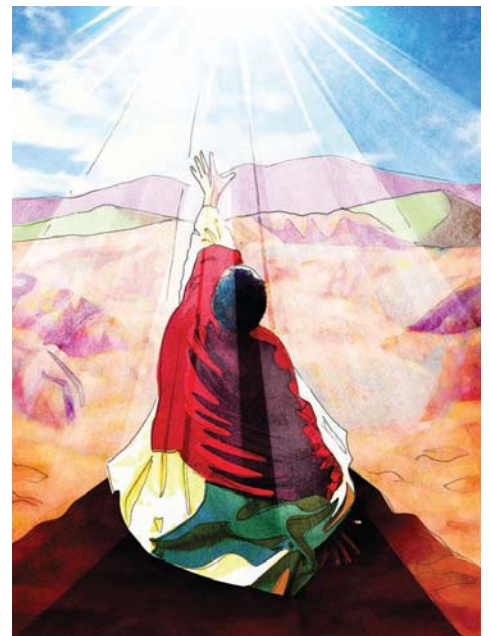
# Lesson Review

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Review this week's lesson by finishing the sentences and then writing the words on the lines provided below. After reviewing the story, discover the hidden word from the lesson.

1. Before conversion, Saul devoted his life to \_\_\_\_\_ Christians.
2. Saul was bitterly \_\_\_\_\_ to Christians.
3. Paul was on his way to Damascus to take the Christians as \_\_\_\_\_ to Jerusalem.
4. Suddenly, a light from \_\_\_\_\_ flashed around him, and he fell to the ground.
5. He heard \_\_\_\_\_ say, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?"
6. The men traveling with Saul \_\_\_\_\_ the sound but did not see anyone.
7. When Saul opened his eyes, he could not \_\_\_\_\_ anything.
8. God sent a disciple named \_\_\_\_\_ to restore Saul's sight.
9. Ananias went and laid hands on Saul, who received his sight and the \_\_\_\_\_.
10. After being baptized and regaining his strength, Saul began to preach in the \_\_\_\_\_.

1. \_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_
2.  \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_
7.  \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_



**What is the hidden word?** \_\_\_\_\_

**What does it mean?** \_\_\_\_\_

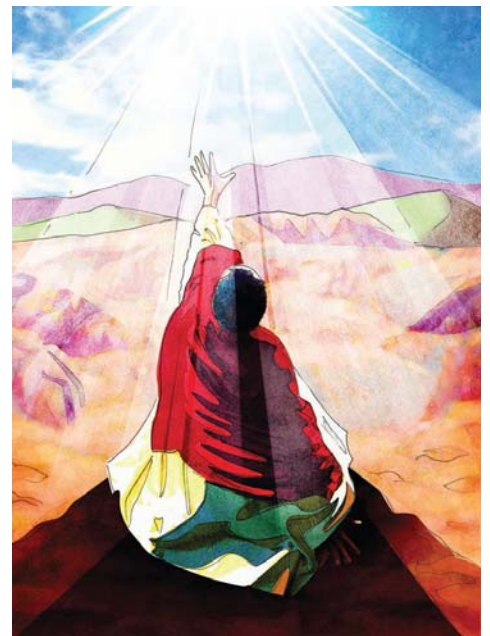
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1. \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ \_\_\_\_\_ (*persecuting*)
2. ☐ \_\_\_\_\_ (*opposed*)
3. \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ \_\_\_\_\_ (*prisoners*)
4. \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ \_\_\_\_\_ (*heaven*)
5. \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ \_\_\_\_\_ (*Jesus*)
6. \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ \_\_\_\_\_ (*heard*)
7. ☐ \_\_\_\_\_ (*see*)
8. \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ \_\_\_\_\_ (*Ananias*)
9. \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ \_\_\_\_\_ (*Holy Spirit*)
10. \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ \_\_\_\_\_ (*synagogues*)

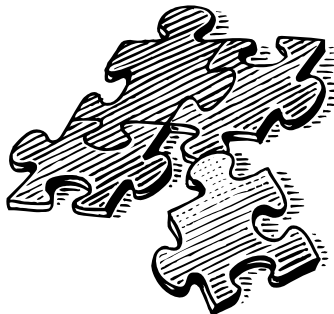
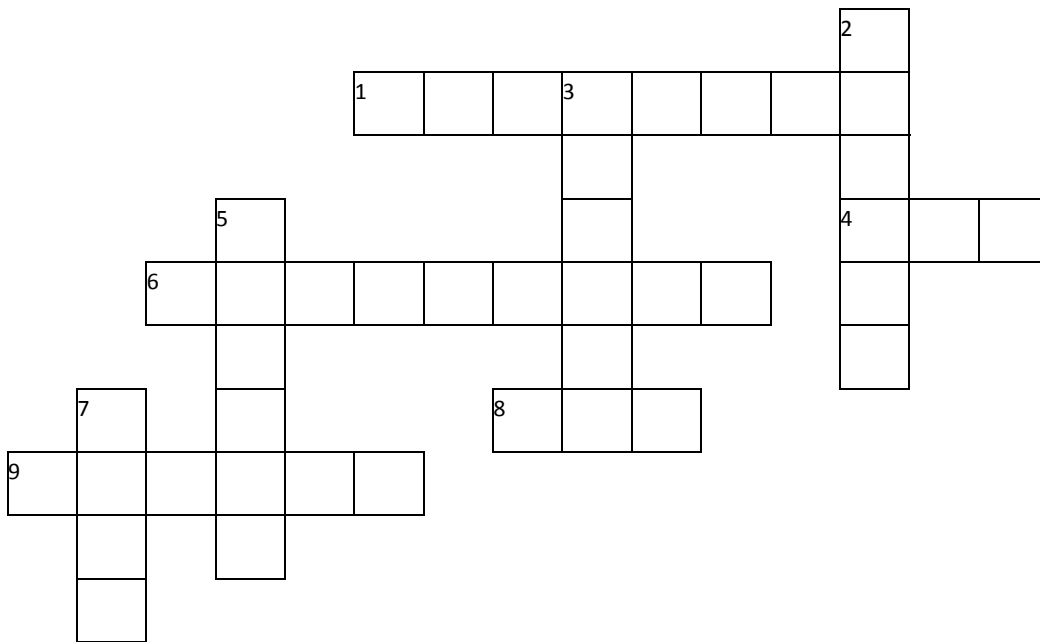


**What is the hidden word?** C O N V E R S I O N

**What does it mean?** Change; a change from unbelief to belief in Christ.

Write the missing words from this week's memory verse in the crossword puzzle below.

## II Corinthians 5:17



# Memory Verse Review

Write the missing words from this week's memory verse in the crossword puzzle below.

6 (Therefore) if 3 (anyone) is in 5 (Christ), he is a new 1 (creature); the  
4 (old) things 9 (passed) away; 2 (behold), 8 (new) things 7 (have) come.

II Corinthians 5:17

