

Big Change Ahead!

By RLD Editorial Team

for use as
STEP 1



Lesson 9

Focus:

Jesus can change your life.

Lesson 9

Bible Basis:

Luke 19:1-10

Lesson 9

Memory Verse:

... not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.
—Philippians 2:4

Your students will talk about big changes as they explore how Jesus can transform lives.

Materials:

- Internet access

➤ **Name some big changes that have happened to you or that you've seen happen to others.** (Answers may include: changing schools; getting a brother or sister; moving; death in the family; etc.)

➤ **How did those different events “change life”—in other words, what were things like before the event, and how were they different after the event?** (Allow students to identify how being quarantined, a move to a different city, a death in the family, or the birth of a new sibling impacted them.)

Sometimes an event changes life in little ways. Let's take a look at how life changed one day for a salesman.

Play the following clip for your students [5:48; at 1:47, skip to 4:28 and watch until the end]:

Blind Man Gets \$100,000 And His Dream Job

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aqqM8TaQRqE>

➤ **How did Sebastian's life change because of a visit from Jimmy?** (Answers: He had money for his family; he got his dream job; he felt hopeful and supported, etc.)

➤ **Why did Jimmy reach out to Sebastian?** (Answers: He wanted to share God's love with him, he wanted to spread kindness, he heard about someone who was working hard and just needed some compassion.)

➤ **Jimmy's faithfulness encouraged other people to reach out and help Sebastian. What were some of the “ripple effects” of other people's kindness?** (Answers: People showed up to purchase his brooms, they raised money to help him and his wife, they spread awareness about Sebastian's story, they prayed for and encouraged him, etc.)

God used Jimmy and his followers to completely change a man's life! It seems amazing that an action could have such an impact, doesn't it? It is a beautiful thing to see such a dramatic change in someone's life. And guess what? A man who lived a long time ago met Someone who completely turned his life upside down—heart, mind, and soul. Let's find out how one amazing meeting had the power to transform everything.

(Continue on to Steps 2 and 3 in your teacher's guide; your Step 4 appears below.)

Big Change Ahead!

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STEP 4 

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Materials:

- Pens/pencils
- Markers
- Cardstock (1 sheet per student) or index card

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

Recognizing how Jesus changes our lives is so encouraging. Let's see if we can identify some of these changes in our own lives and those around us.

- **Sometimes meeting Jesus leads to immediate changes, and other times the changes seem more gradual. Have you ever known someone whose life was dramatically different after becoming a Christian?** (Answers will vary. You and other adult classroom leaders might want to share from their experience as well.)
- **What are some specific changes that can occur when we trust in Jesus?** (There are immediate changes that are not visible: we were lost and then are found, we have eternal life, we are part of God's family. Outwardly, we might treat our friends and family with more respect, patience, and kindness. We might change old habits such as media consumption. We might have more discipline to obey the biblical commandments.)

Distribute supplies (or invite students to have them ready at home). Have students write down this sentence: "I am becoming more _____, _____, and _____." If you are meeting online, consider writing the sentence on a doc and sharing your screen. You may want to share your own words (example: *patient*, *forgiving*, and *disciplined*). Teens will fill in the blanks with words that reflect their own personal growth. Allow your students to decorate their reminder as time allows. Challenge them to post this in their bedrooms to remind them that they are becoming more like Jesus every day.

When you look your paper or card, what do you see? All of us are on a journey. Will you commit to encouraging your friends and family members when you see them demonstrating positive changes? Let's do this not only this week, but all the time. We need each other!

Be sure to circle back with students during the week either by texting or emailing. Encourage them as they are working through the change this week. You could also share with them if they ask you how you are doing with the challenge.

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