Onesimus' Changed Life

**Objective**

Each child will understand that an encounter with Jesus is a life-changing encounter.

**Scripture**

II Corinthians 5:17; Philemon 1-19
(Onesimus and Paul)

**Memory Verse**

II Corinthians 5:17

**Planning Tips**

For the First Meeting of the Week, hang black or gray crepe paper streamers from the ceiling to create a “jail cell.” Cut the Two Boys visual from *Bible Teaching Resources* sheet 5. For the Second Meeting of the Week, put a rock into a lunch-sized paper sack and staple shut. Make one for each child. Cut several circles from construction paper.

**What You’ll Need**

- Bible Journeys for Meeting 9 for each child
- *All-Stars Bible News* for Meeting 9 for each child
- Archie and Baldy Eagle Puppets
- *Bible Teaching Resources* sheet 5
- Chalkboard or whiteboard
- Butcher paper and tape

**BIBLE LESSON**

- Black or gray crepe paper streamers
- Three other colors of crepe paper streamers
- Chalkboard or whiteboard
- Bibles and pencils, praise music
- MP3 or CD player, chairs

**Pre-Session**

(Allow 10-20 minutes)

Follow your regular opening ceremonies: All-Stars rally, attendance, award checking and presentation, offering, and announcements. Have children meet in their assigned groups to take attendance and check their award progress. If All-Stars for Jesus members arrive early, enlist their help in sharpening pencils, putting out craft supplies, and welcoming visitors. Take this time to get to know the children personally.

**Easy-Trac™ First Meeting of the Week**

**Getting Started**

(Allow 10-20 minutes)

- Prayer Time

  Have everyone sit in a circle. Starting with you, go around the circle and have volunteers finish this prayer: “Jesus, please forgive me for ____.” Close by praying, Jesus, thank You that You forgive us when we ask. Help us to do what’s right. In Jesus’ name, amen.

**Second Meeting Options**

1. **Getting Started**

   - Song Time

     Sing HOW GREAT, HOW GLORIOUS; I WILL SING OF THE MERCIES; O HOW I LOVE JESUS (optional); and KIDS UNDER CONSTRUCTION (optional) from *All the Best Songs for Kids*. Optional songs are on the Early Elementary CDs.
All-Stars for Jesus Explorers MULTI-USE™ Meeting 9

Theme Introduction
Before the meeting, cut the Two Boys visual from Bible Teaching Resources sheet 5. Have a volunteer hold it up. Ask, What do you think is going on here? Pause for responses. Point to the child wearing a cap and backpack. Say, This boy decided not to go to school today. He didn't do his homework last night. Now he's afraid to go to class without his homework done. Raise your hand if you think that was a bad idea. Call on children to tell you the bad decisions the boy made. (running away from school, not doing his homework) Have an older child print them on the chalkboard or whiteboard. Ask, What are some bad decisions that you have made? Have another child print on the board the bad decisions made by the children. Ask, When we do bad things, we want to hide them, don't we? Have a volunteer help you tape butcher paper over the list on the board. Say, There. Now nobody knows where they are, right? Let the children point out that they are still there. Say, Hmm. You're right, they are still there. Our Bible story today is about a man who ran away and tried to hide his mistakes. Let's find out what happened.

Onesimus Runs Away
The Bible tells about a Christian man named Philemon (prompt Group 1 to wave their streamers now and each time you say Philemon), who had a servant named Onesimus. (Prompt Group 2 to wave their streamers now and each time you say Onesimus.) Onesimus did not want to be a slave anymore, so he may have stolen some things from Philemon and run away. Do you think those were good decisions? (Have a volunteer lift up the butcher paper cover while another volunteer prints, “ran away” and “may have stolen” on the board.)

Onesimus Meets Paul
Onesimus ran to a big city called Rome. The Apostle Paul (prompt Group 3 to wave their streamers now and each time you say Paul) was in jail in Rome for telling people about Jesus. (Ask Group 3 to wave their streamers now and each time you say volunteer prints, “ran away” and “may have stolen” on the board.)

Onesimus Meets Paul
Paul wrote a letter to Philemon (prompt Group 3 to wave their streamers now and each time you say Philemon), and urged him to take Onesimus back. He told Philemon that if Onesimus needed punishment for running away and stealing, Paul would take the...
Jesus, but Onesimus' life? (Take the butcher paper cover off the board and have volunteers take turns erasing each bad decision.) Jesus is the only One who can forgive us of everything we've ever done wrong. Jesus can change your life, too! (See "Leading a Child to Christ" in the Easter Meeting.)

□ Review the Memory Verse
Before the meeting, write the memory verse on the chalkboard or whiteboard. Recite the verse with the children two or three times. Then erase each word and draw a blank line in its place. Discuss what it means to be a new creature (creation) in Christ. Have the children fill in the blank line with the correct words. (Answers: 1-stolen; 2-letter; 3-sinner; 4-new.)

□ Apply the Lesson
Hand out pencils and All-Stars Bible News Take-Home Papers for Meeting 9. The children may complete the activities on pages 2-3 at this time. (Answers: 1-bat; 2-shovel; 3-jump; 4-toes; 5-courage; 6-strength; 7-faith; 8-love; 9-peace.)
Easy-Trac™ First Meeting of the Week

STEP 2 Bible Lesson (Cont.)

Let the children scramble to sit in a chair. The child left standing has to recite the memory verse. Prompt as necessary. Play several rounds. Discuss different ways the children can serve God and show how they are new creations in Christ. (witnessing, showing love to others, being a helper, respecting parents, etc.)

STEP 3 Bible Application

(Allow 10-20 minutes)

Apply the Lesson

Have the children turn to page 2 of Bible Journeys for Meeting 9. Make sure they have crayons. Discuss the pictures on the left. (The boy is laughing at the elderly woman because her groceries are falling out of the sack; the girl is watching TV instead of reading the Bible; and the boy is stealing a candy bar instead of paying for it.) Have the children draw a line from each child on the left through the picture of Jesus to the picture on the right that shows how that child changed after meeting Jesus. Have them use a different color for each child. Discuss how Jesus changed the children. (The boy helps the elderly woman carry her groceries; the girl reads her Bible; and the boy pays for his candy bar.) (Answers: 1-B; 2-C; and 3-A)

STEP 4 Bible Learning

(Allow 10-15 minutes)

Bible Craft

Have the children turn to page 3 of Bible Journeys for Meeting 9. Provide two large paper plates for each child, crayons or markers, scissors, glue sticks, and sharpened pencils. Have the children complete the memory verse by printing “man,” “be,” and “creature” on the blank lines if you use KJV or “one,” “is,” and “creation” if you use NIV. Have them color the pictures, then cut out the circle on the solid black line. Let them glue the story circle in the middle of one paper plate. Show them how to cut a wedge shape out of the second paper plate (1/4 of the circle). Then have the children punch a hole with a pencil in the middle of the story wheel, through both paper plates. (Let older children help the younger ones.) Instruct them to stack the blank plate on top of the first plate and connect them with a paper fastener. Say, Use your Onesimus Story Wheel to help you tell the story of Paul and Onesimus to your friends and family.

Closing Prayer

Ask the children to think of someone who doesn’t know Jesus. Pray, Dear God, thank You that You change lives. Please help (ask the children to whisper the name of the person they have chosen) to believe in Jesus as their Savior. In Jesus’ name we pray, amen. At the close of the First Meeting of the Week, remind the children to bring their award books to the second meeting. Hand out All-Stars Bible News, today’s craft, and Bible Journeys to each child.

Second Meeting Options

3. Bible Application (Cont.) OPTIONS

Clothespin Pals

Let each child decide if he will make a rabbit, a chick, or a lamb. Give each child a spring clothespin, white or yellow tempera paint, and a paint brush. Let the children paint their clothespins (white for rabbits and lambs, yellow for chicks). Be sure to leave time for the clothespins to dry. (You may want to bring a hair dryer to speed up the drying process.)

Once the paint is dry, give each child two pom-poms to match the color of his clothespin and two wiggle eyes. Provide glue and scissors. Have the children stand their clothespin upright, “mouth” pointing up. Glue one pom-pom at the top of the clothespin as the head (make sure it’s not on the opening of the clothespin), and the other right below it as the body. Glue the wiggle eyes onto the top pom-pom. Let the children use craft foam to add details such as feet, ears, and a beak. (Let older children help the younger ones.) Show them how to clip a photo into the top of the holder. Say, Put a photo of a friend or family member in your photo holder who does not know Jesus. It will remind you to share God’s Word with them so they can be a new creation, too.

4. Bible Learning OPTIONS

Dodge Ball

Use a large room with no obstacles or go outside if weather permits. Divide the children into two teams. Mark a boundary down the middle of the playing field. Have one team stand on each side. Give each team a soft foam ball. Have a member from each team throw the ball across the line at a member of the opposing team. If a player is hit, he must sit out. The team with only one player left standing at the end is the winner. Play again as time permits. Say, We can’t dodge or hide from the sins we have committed, but God will give us a second opportunity to do right if we ask Him to forgive our sins.

Refreshments

Ask helpers to hand out napkins, cookies, and juice. Thank God for the snack. Say, These cookies started out as just a bunch of ingredients. (Show flour and butter.) But they’ve been turned into something else—something better. That’s like what happens to us when we accept Jesus as our Savior. We become better people. I’m so glad that Jesus can give us a new life. Ask if any children would like to talk further about accepting Jesus as their Savior. Make a point to talk with them more after class. (See “Leading a Child to Christ” in the Easter Meeting.)