

The Big Change

Today, I am going to tell you two stories. One about a beautiful butterfly and one about a man who hated EVERYONE who believed in Jesus. I want you to listen very carefully so that you can tell me HOW the butterfly and the man who hated Christians are alike.

Our first story is about a boy named Joey and a girl named Jenny. One day Jenny and Joey were sitting in the grass, they were watching a glass jar with great interest. Inside the jar was a caterpillar. When Joey and Jenny caught the caterpillar, he was just that...a caterpillar. It had been a long time since they caught the caterpillar and placed it in the jar. They had taken especially good care of it and watched as it started to grow a hard shell around its body called a chrysalis. Soon the caterpillar was

completely covered by the hard shell. And it stayed that way for a long, long time.

Now the time had finally come, it was time for the caterpillar to emerge from his shell. The shell began to break open and slowly the caterpillar began to crawl out. He struggled to break free from the shell that was binding him. How exciting it was to watch the shell crack open and see the caterpillar begin its struggle for its new life! Sometimes it wiggled and jiggled as it worked to become free. Other times it remained motionless as it gathered strength to try again. THEN IT HAPPENED! The caterpillar was free! But wait a minute, this wasn't a caterpillar. This was a..... beautiful BUTTERFLY. The caterpillar had changed into a butterfly.

After a little time the butterfly's wings began to unfold and straighten out. Jenny and Joey opened the lid of the jar and the beautiful butterfly began to lift itself into

the air. He flew from the jar and up into the sky in all its glory. **WHAT A BIG CHANGE** from the fuzzy caterpillar that had been placed in the jar so long ago!

Our second story is about a man who was just like this caterpillar. This man's name was Saul. Saul was an angry man who did not like Christians at all. He yelled and screamed at them. He made nasty threats. He beat them and sometimes even killed them. Saul was definitely not a man anyone would want to try to be friends with. On this particular day, Saul was traveling to the city of Damascus. He wanted the leaders of the city to give him permission to hurt more Christians. As he and his friends were making their way along the dusty road, discussing what they were going to say to the leaders, and bragging

about how happy they would be to receive permission to persecute the Christians . . .

SUDDENLY . . .

...from out of heaven, came the brightest light Saul had ever seen. The light surrounded Him. He tried to cover his eyes to shield the light, but it was so bright that it still hurt his eyes. He fell down on the ground trying to get away from it. Then he heard a voice. It was unlike any voice he had ever heard, saying, "SAUL! SAUL! Why do you want to persecute me?" Saul, not recognizing the voice, said, "Who are you?" The answer came back, "I am Jesus."

Of course, Saul was terribly afraid. He was shaking and trembling and could hardly speak. In a weak voice he said, "Lord, what should I do?" Jesus replied, "Go into the city, and someone will meet you and tell you what to do." The friends that were with him were astonished! They didn't see the light. They didn't see a person. They

only heard the voice. They didn't have a clue what was happening! When Saul was able to get up off the ground, he uncovered his eyes, but he couldn't see anything. His friends had to hold his hands and lead him into the city of Damascus. They led Saul to a dark room and there he sat for three whole days. Saul couldn't see, he couldn't do anything at all except to sit and think about all the bad things he had done to God's people. For three whole days he sat in the dark waiting for the person that God told him would come. And next week, we will learn more about Saul and how he became a "new person" just like our caterpillar became a butterfly.

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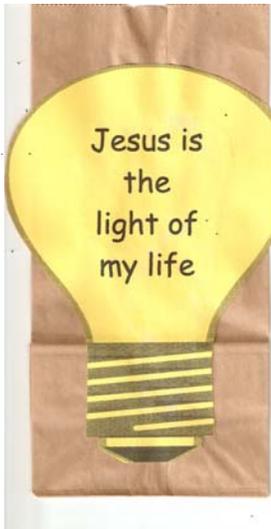
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Jesus is
the
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my life



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(2 Corinthians 5:17a).

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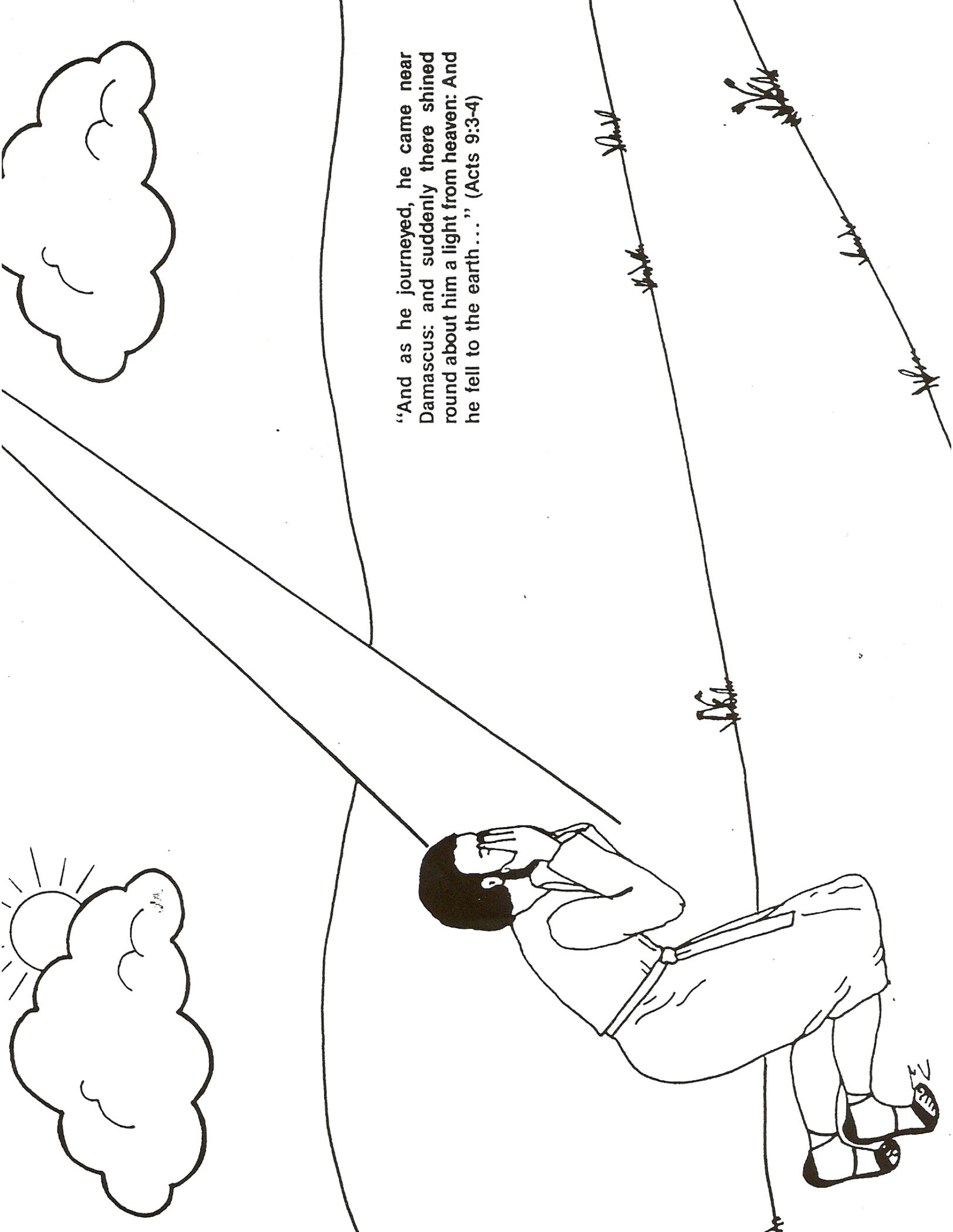
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“And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven: And he fell to the earth...” (Acts 9:3-4)



CATERPILLAR CRAFT

Duplicate the Caterpillar template onto a piece of stiff/brightly colored paper (or construction paper cut to 8 1/2 X 11 size)

Fold the Paper in half– the back of the caterpillar will be the fold line. (See Sample 1 Below)

Cut the Caterpillar Out

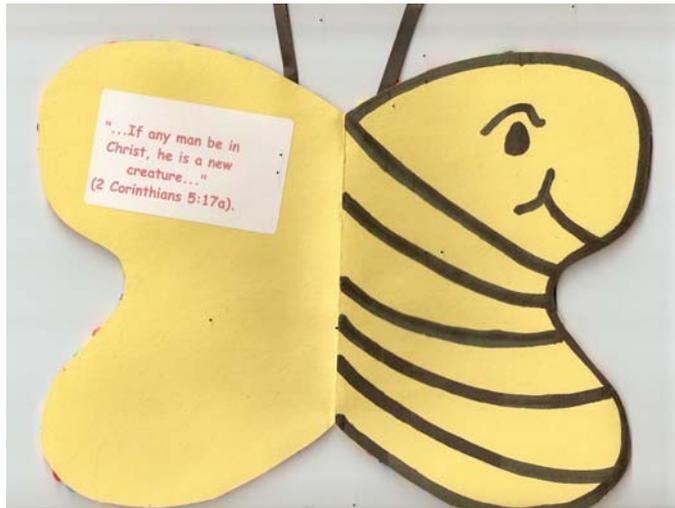
Unfold the Caterpillar and attach memory verse onto back (See Sample # 2 Below)

Flip Caterpillar Over, attach antenna, and decorate with markers, glitter, etc. (See Sample #3 Below)

1



#2



#3



