



LESSON 5
NEW CREATION

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Makes Us New

SCRIPTURE: Romans 5

GOD'S BIG STORY: God loves us so much that He sent His Son to die, so we can be forgiven. Because of Jesus, our relationship with God is healed, and we are made new!

WORD OF WONDER: Jesus makes us new. —from 2 Corinthians 5:17

- Welcome Question: How have you changed over the last year?
- Curiosity Questions
- Word of Wonder: From 2 Corinthians 5:17
- God's Big Story
- Discussion Questions
- LARGE GROUP
- Responding in Worship: A New Heart
- Closing Game: What Time Is It, Hungry Caterpillar?



INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

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WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Makes Us New

SCRIPTURE: Romans 5

WORD OF WONDER: From 2 Corinthians 5:17

A good friend of mine during college was an amazing gift giver and loved to give big (and sometimes expensive!) gifts, including the latest electronics. This friend was in vocational ministry at the time and earning a very modest income. As much as I appreciated the gifts, I was concerned about how much money my friend was spending, so I asked about it. The secret was that the gifts were certified refurbished items. The items my friend purchased had been sent back to the creators, fixed, and resold at a discounted price—but they functioned as brand new!

Read Romans 5:1–8 and 11. Paul explains that God loves us so much that even while we were still His enemies, He fixed our relationship with Him by sending Jesus to die for us. We cannot make ourselves new, no matter how hard we try. We cannot fix our sin problem on our own. God—our Creator—alone makes us new. And He invites us to lay down the old and receive His new. What are some problems you've been trying to fix for yourself instead of taking to the original Creator? What are some remnants of the old self that you're holding onto?

Because of God's vast, endless love for you, it's not up to you to fix yourself (or the world around you!). So, take a deep breath. Lift your eyes to the Father—your Creator—and remember that you are made new!

—Catherine Hwang-Jin

Children's Pastor

Contributor to Wonder Ink

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

Romans was written by Paul, a man who persecuted Christians before he knew Jesus. After his conversion, Paul devoted his life to sharing the good news about Jesus with gentiles—non-Jewish people. He wrote this letter to the Roman church, the majority of whom are Gentiles.

WHAT?

Romans is Paul's most theologically systematic book. It's filled with explanations of the work of the gospel—God's salvation, His plan, and His invitation to us. Paul often references the Old Testament as he explains God's big story of salvation.

WHERE?

The church in Rome was at the heart of the Roman Empire, where Caesar was declared as the "savior of the world." Gentiles and Jews in the Roman church were called to live out the way of the kingdom of Jesus—the true Savior.

WHEN?

Paul likely wrote Romans in AD 57 while on his third missionary journey. Although it's the first of Paul's letters that we read in the New Testament, it was likely written after he wrote to the Galatians, Thessalonians, and Corinthians.

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY:

Paul writes to the Romans about the basics of the gospel—God showed His love for us by sending His Son Jesus, who died for us while we were still sinners. Because of Jesus, we are made right with God and filled with joy!

Small Group

Spark curiosity and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

LESSON AT A GLANCE

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Pre-Service Connection (15–20 min)

RESOURCES: whiteboard, poster paper, or butcher paper, writing utensils, board games or games

[Games & Activities Guide](#)

Small group leaders should be seated in place in their small groups 20 minutes prior to service time. Have activities ready to keep children occupied and engaged WITH you. This time is important to build relationships, welcome new kids, and keep structure in the room - you should be an active participant with them! Learn the kids names, and make sure they all know yours too!

As kids arrive ...

Warmly welcome new friends, and introduce them to your group.

Use the Welcome Question and the following "I'm Curious"

questions to engage kids. Say "I'm curious.." before each question and give kids an chance to think before answering each one. After each question, consider having kids share their ideas with a neighbor before you call on one or two of them to share with the group.

Consider having a whiteboard or poster for kids to write or draw answers to any of the questions:

- **When have you wanted to start over at something?**
- **Do you think change is good or bad? Is it easy or hard? Why?**



Small Group Begins

After the Opening Activity or game, Large Group Leader will begin small group time by reading the Welcome Question aloud and inviting everyone to open their Bibles and begin.

Word of Wonder

SUPPLIES: Bible, paper cups (4 per small group), marker, painter's tape, pillowcases or sleeping bags (1 per small group)

WORD OF WONDER

Jesus makes us new.

—from 2 Corinthians 5:17

Ahead of time, write one word from the word of Word of Wonder (Jesus makes us new) on a cup using a marker. You'll need one set for each team or small group. Then tape two lines on the floor of your room on opposite sides of the room. Set out the pillowcases or sleeping bags behind one line and the cups with the Word of Wonder on them at the other end. You'll need one set for each small group. Make sure the words of the verses are scrambled and out of order. Have an adult ready to help kids by reading the words to them.

Our Word of Wonder for the Created New series is from 2 Corinthians 5:17. Let's practice saying the Word of Wonder together.

Divide the group into teams and set a pillowcase (or sleeping bag) in front of each team. Have them line up at the starting line.

We're going to take turns pretending to be wiggly caterpillars racing down to the other end of the room to get a piece of the Word of Wonder and bringing it back to the rest of the team. The team will work together with a leader to put the pieces of the Word of Wonder in order. The first kid in line will get inside the sleeping bag or pillowcase and wiggle on the ground to the other end. Then he will pick up a piece of the verse, put it in the bag with him, and wiggle back with it. That person will give the piece of verse to the team and then the next person who will do the same thing. The first team to get all of the pieces and get the verse in the right order wins!

Leader Tip: If a kid is unable to wiggle with the pillowcase or sleeping bag on them, the child can just lay on the ground and wiggle or even roll or "army crawl" to the other end.

We're kind of like caterpillars who turn into butterflies! When we trust in Jesus, He makes our hearts new like caterpillars turn into butterflies. Just like our Word of Wonder says, we become new creations with God!

Encourage the kids to do the motions and say the verse with you.

- **JESUS**—Point fingers from left hand into right palm, then right hand into left palm (sign language for "Jesus").
- **MAKES US**—Both hands over your heart.
- **NEW**—Bring both arms out in front of you and down to your sides.
- **FROM 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17**—Hold your hands together as if opening a book.

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

- **How do we become new creations with Jesus?** (If kids need help, offer ideas such as: We trust in Jesus, and He forgives our sins; Jesus makes our hearts new.)
- **Do you think God changes? How do you think God changes us?**

God's Big Story / Snack

SUPPLIES: Bible; Bible Story Picture (1/SG)

Bible Time Rhyme

Say the Bible time rhyme (with motions) each week before the Bible story to remind kids that what they're about to hear is part of God's big story.

I open my Bible, and what do I see? (Hold your hands together, then open your palms, as if opening a book.)

God's big story, waiting for me! (Point to yourself.)

Let's hear part of God's big story, which comes from the book of Romans in the Bible, which is in the New Testament. Today we are learning about how much God loves us. The Bible tells us that Jesus came to help us be friends with God again. Even when people make wrong choices, God still loves them and made a way to forgive them. Let's listen to learn how Jesus showed His amazing love for us.

Read the God's Big Story Script below from Romans 5:1-8.

The Bible tells us that God loves people very much. Point to yourself and then to your friends. Sometimes people make wrong choices. Shake your head slowly.

Those wrong choices are called sin, and they separate us from God. Put your hands apart to show something being separated. But God did not stop loving us. Place your hand over your heart.

God had a wonderful plan to help us. Point upward with a big smile. God sent His Son, Jesus, to rescue us. Pretend to wrap your arms around yourself like a big hug.

Jesus came to show God's love and help people come close to God again. Bring your hands back together. The Bible says Jesus died for us while we were still sinners. Cross your arms gently over your chest.

That means Jesus loved us even before we chose to love Him. Point to yourself with surprise. Because of Jesus, we can have peace with God. Take a deep breath and relax your shoulders.

God showed His love in the biggest way when Jesus gave His life for us. Open your arms wide like a big gift. That is how we know God's love is real and powerful.

Discussion Questions

SUPPLIES: interlocking connecting blocks or magnetic tiles, bucket

Put some interlocking connecting blocks or magnetic tiles in a bucket and gather the kids to sit in a circle around it. **In our story today, we learned how God makes us new through Jesus. When we trust in Jesus, we can be close to God, and God forgives our sins. We're going to use these blocks (or tiles) to make something new together. We're going to pass around the bucket, and each person will pull out a block. You'll put the block into the middle, and we'll build a shape together until I say, "Stop." After I say, "Stop," whoever is the last person to add a block will answer a question. Then we'll take that shape apart and start over and make something new and do it again.** Encourage the kids to pass the bucket around and take out a block to add to a shape in the middle of the circle. Say, "Stop" periodically and ask questions from the list.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **What do you think it means for God to make someone new?** (*He changes us; He forgives our sins.*)
- **How have you changed from when you were a baby?**
- **How has God changed you or someone you know?**
- **How does the Holy Spirit help us?** (*The Holy Spirit lives in us when we trust in Jesus and makes us more like God and helps us obey God.*)
- **What is sin?** (*anything we say, think, or do that isn't what God wants; the wrong things we do*)
- **What is the good news about Jesus?** (*Jesus died so that we can be saved and forgiven; Jesus helps us be close with God.*)
- **What is our role in being made new?** (*putting our faith in Jesus; choosing to follow Jesus*)

God's big story tells us that we will still go through hard times in life, even though we walk with Jesus. His Word also tells us that God will give us new strength and help us with His Holy Spirit. When we believe in God and choose to live for Him, He makes us new creations, His friends, and He takes away our sin. Let's talk to God and thank Him for seeing us as new creations.

Invite kids to share prayer requests and praises and to pray for each other. Some kids may not be comfortable praying out loud. That's OK! Encourage them to pray silently and thank God for making us new through Jesus. God hears all our prayers!

Head to Large Group!

Return and finish the rest of this guide before parents arrive.

Responding in Worship: A New Heart

SUPPLIES: scissors (prep only), red construction paper (1 sheet per kid plus 1), resealable sandwich bag (1 per kid plus 1), washable markers, wet wipes

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: songs from the [Created New Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#)

Ahead of time, cut out hearts from red construction paper—one per kid and one for the leader.

Show the kids as you put the heart in the resealable sandwich bag. **What are some ideas of things that we do that are wrong or sinful and make God sad?** Allow time for the kids to respond.

As they share, write the sins on the outside of the bag with a washable marker, over the heart. **We all make wrong choices. The Bible says we have all sinned. Without Jesus, we can't be close with God because of these things.**

When the heart is covered or the bag is full of writing, take a wet wipe and wipe the bag clean. **But that's not the end. God has a plan for us that allows us to become new and beautiful! God forgives our sins and removes them when we trust in Jesus. Jesus makes us new creations in God's eyes and allows us to be close with Him!**

Pass out hearts, resealable sandwich bags, markers, and wet wipes to kids. Invite them to put a heart in their bag and then to scribble over the bag with a marker to symbolize sin. Then they can take the wet wipe and wipe the marker off and pray as they thank God for forgiving their sins and sending Jesus to make us new. As they work, play a song from the [Created New Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#).

Closing Game: What Time is It, Hungry Caterpillar?

Have the kids line up at one end of the room. One person—ideally a leader—will stand at the other end of the room with his or her back to the line of kids.

We learned about how caterpillars change into butterflies. When we trust in Jesus, God changes us into new creations. Let's play a game about caterpillars!

Have the kids ask in unison, "What Time Is It, Hungry Caterpillar?" When the kid (or leader) standing at the other end of the room answers with a time, such as "Three o'clock," the kids will take three steps forward toward that person and ask again. Continue until someone touches the person who is "It" or the person answers, "It's lunch time!" and all kids run to the starting line. If anyone is tagged, they can either become the next It or those tagged can be out and sit down.

Remember, caterpillars don't stay caterpillars! They turn into new creations: butterflies! This game reminds us Jesus makes us new creations when we trust in Him.