



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: When anyone lives in Christ, the new creation has come. The old is gone! The new is here! —2 Corinthians 5:17

- Welcome Question: How have you changed over the last year?
- Curiosity Questions
- Word of Wonder Activity
- God's Big Story
- Discussion Questions for Elementary Kids and Preteens
- Small Group Prayer Time
- LARGE GROUP
- Elementary Responding in Worship: Created New Posters
- Preteen Responding in Worship: Upcycled Art



INVITATION

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Makes Us New

SCRIPTURE: Romans 5

WORD OF WONDER: 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

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Makes Us New

SCRIPTURE: Romans 5

WORD OF WONDER: 2 Corinthians 5:17

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 Activity

WORD OF WONDER

When anyone lives in Christ, the new creation has come. The old is gone! The new is here!
—2 Corinthians 5:17 (NirV)

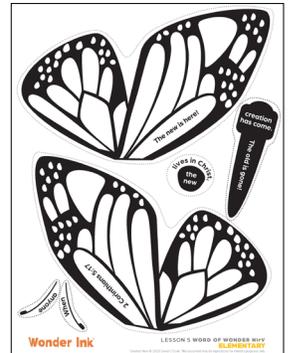
SUPPLIES: Bibles (1 per kid), paper (1 sheet per kid), coloring utensils, kid-safe scissors, glue sticks or tape

RESOURCES: [Butterfly Word of Wonder Sheet NirV \(1 per kid\)](#), [Elementary Word of Wonder Video](#) (optional)

Ahead of time, print a copy of the Butterfly Word of Wonder Sheet for each kid.

Our Word of Wonder for the Created New series talks about being made new! Let's say the verse together. Open your Bible to 2 Corinthians 5:17.

Pass out both a Butterfly Word of Wonder Sheet and a plain sheet of paper to each kid. Encourage them to color the butterfly parts and then use kid-safe scissors to cut them out. They can use glue sticks or tape to put the butterfly parts together on the plain sheet so that the Word of Wonder is in order. Once they finish, encourage them to read the verse several times.



Leader Tip: For Younger Kids. You may have to help younger kids get all the butterfly parts in the correct spots.

Make It Inclusive: Some kids will benefit from seeing a finished example! Consider coloring and cutting apart a Butterfly Word of Wonder Sheet ahead of time and gluing it onto a plain sheet of paper.

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bibles (1 per kid)

In your Bible, show kids where the book of Romans is in the New Testament, and help them find it in theirs.

Romans 5 explains what happens because of what Jesus has done for us.

Through faith in Jesus, we can have peace with God and know that we are loved by Him. Paul also explains something surprising: God showed His love for us even when we were still sinners. As you read, think about why that kind of love is so powerful and what it tells us about who God is.

Read Romans 5:1–8, 11 aloud together. You can ask for several kid volunteers to each read one verse aloud.



Elementary Questions

- **What are our wrong choices—the wrong things we do, say, and think—called?** (*Sin*)
- **Who has sinned? What does sin do to our relationship with God?** (*Everyone has sinned. Sin breaks our relationship with God.*)
- **What did God do (or who did He send) to fix our relationship with Him?** (*He sent His Son, Jesus.*)
- **When we trust and follow Jesus, what does God do?** (*He forgives our sins, makes us new, makes us His children, calls us His friends, promises to be with us forever, etc.*)
- **Does God promise that life will be easy once we're living for Jesus?** (Let kids answer this one together!) **So, how does He help us get through hard times?** (*Possible answers: gives us courage when scared; listens to our prayers; comforts us; gives us His Word to know Him better.*)
- **What hard things are you going through in life right now? As a follower of Jesus and a friend and child of God, how can you respond?**

Jesus made the way for us to be new creations when He died on the cross for our sins. God wants to make us new—to help us transform into people who think and act like Jesus! The Holy Spirit helps us to make choices that honor God and give us peace, no matter what hard things we face. Let's thank Him now for making us new!

Make It Inclusive: Open-ended questions, while great for prompting kids to think deeply, can feel overwhelming to some kids. Offering sentence starters can help kids get started and build their confidence! For example, “To fix our relationship with Him, God sent His Son _____” or “One hard thing I’m going through is _____.”

Preteen Questions

- **What is sin? What does our sin do to our relationship with God?** (*the wrong things we think, say, and do; sin breaks our relationship with God.*)
- **What did Jesus do so that our relationship with God can be fixed?** (*He died on the cross to make the way for us to be close with God again. He defeated sin and death once and for all.*)
- **When you trust in Jesus and follow Him, how does God see you? How can this affect the way you see yourself?** (*God sees you as a new creation and as His child!*)
- **Does God promise that life will be easy once we're living for Jesus?** (Let kids answer this one together!) **How can we become more like Jesus through the difficult times in our lives?**
- **What hard things are you going through in life right now? As a follower of Jesus and a friend and child of God, how can you respond?**

Jesus made the way for us to be new creations when He died on the cross for our sins. God wants to make us new—to help us transform into people who think and act like Jesus! The Holy Spirit helps us to make choices that honor God and give us peace, no matter what hard things we face. Let's thank Him now for making us new!

Small Group Prayer Time

Ask if kids want to share any prayer requests or praises. Then open your prayer time by thanking God for Jesus, for forgiving our sins, and for making us new! Invite kids to popcorn their own prayers of thanks to God by spontaneously speaking out. Then close your prayer time by praying with the kids.

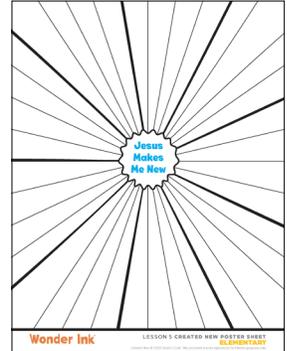
Elementary Responding in Worship: Created New Posters

SUPPLIES: cardstock, scissors (prep only), tissue paper (cut into 1" squares), glue, brushes for glue, kid-safe scissors (optional)

RESOURCES: [Created New Poster Sheet \(1 per kid\)](#), [Created New Core Truths Sheet \(1 per kid\)](#), "Made New" from the [Created New Elementary Spotify playlist](#)

Ahead of time, print copies of the Created New Poster Sheet onto cardstock, one per kid. Print copies of the Created New Core Truths Sheet, one per kid, and cut out the phrases along the dashed lines. Cut the tissue paper into approximately 1" squares. Have enough brushes and glue for each kid (or use glue sticks for less mess). Alternatively, have kids cut out the phrases themselves.

Display the Created New Posters Slide. **Jesus makes us new! We are no longer stuck in our sin, but we are new creations! From the very beginning, God knew us and made us. And when we sinned and became separated from God, He had a great rescue plan for us to be reunited with Him. He didn't give up on us! He sent us Jesus, His one and only Son, to show us how much He loves us. And Jesus showed us His never-ending love by dying for us. But He didn't stay dead! He rose again, and He lives! Because He lives, we can be with Him again. When we choose to follow Jesus and accept Him as our Savior, He makes us new creations! We have learned so many truths about who God is and God's big story of redemption. Let's reflect on these truths while we create pieces of artwork!**



Leader Tip: If you want to make this simpler, you could do a large poster as a group to hang in your ministry space. You could also use crayons and markers instead of tissue paper.

Give the supplies for creating the poster to each of your kids. Using the sample on the slide as a guide, have kids paste pieces of tissue paper into the different sections on the poster sheet.

Encourage them to mix colors and make it their own. Once kids have added the tissue paper, have them paste the core truths on the different sections of their poster. While the kids create their posters, play "Made New" from [Created New Elementary Spotify playlist](#).

As kids are finishing up their posters, lead them through a call-and-response prayer using some of the core truths that are on their poster:

Leader: **I am a wonder.**

Kids: *Jesus makes me new!*

Leader: **God knows me.**

Kids: *Jesus makes me new!*

Leader: **God made me in His image.**

Kids: *Jesus makes me new!*

Leader: **Jesus loves me.**

Kids: *Jesus makes me new!*

Leader: **Jesus is alive!**

Kids: *Jesus makes me new!*

Leader: **God never gives up on me!**

Kids: *Jesus makes me new!*

Preteen Responding in Worship: Upcycled Art

SUPPLIES: various materials such as empty paper towel rolls, empty cereal boxes, broken crayons and pencils, bubble wrap and packing materials, empty and washed-out yogurt containers and drink bottles, plastic grocery bags, cardboard boxes and shipping packages, old t-shirts and cloth, buttons, ribbon, paper clips, leaves, twigs; coloring utensils; paper or cardstock; tape; glue; kid-safe scissors

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [Created New Elementary Spotify playlist](#)

Ahead of time, set out various materials that could be used to make upcycled art. Kids will take something that is considered trash or junk and use it to create something new that is beautiful. The suggested materials in the supplies list are just the beginning! Get as creative as you want for this project.

To support kids in making their upcycled art, have other art materials available that they can use, such as coloring utensils, paper or cardstock, tape, glue, and kid-safe scissors.

Display the Upcycled Art Slide. **Jesus makes us new! We are no longer stuck in our sin but are new creations! From the very beginning, God knew us and made us. And when we sinned and became separated from God, He had a great rescue plan for us to be reunited with Him. He didn't give up on us! God sent us Jesus, His one and only Son, to show us how much He loves us. And Jesus showed us His never-ending love by dying for us. But He didn't stay dead! He rose again, and He lives! Because He lives, we can be with Him again. When we choose to follow Jesus and accept Him as our Savior, He makes us new creations!**

Today you're going to be upcycle artists and make new creations out of something old and discarded. Show the variety of materials the kids can use for their artwork. You can use any of these materials to make your own upcycled art. You're going to bring new life to these items and create something beautiful from something that was once considered discarded.

Play music from the [Created New Elementary Spotify playlist](#) as kids create their works of art. Help any kids who may be struggling to start or need help creating their artwork.

Leader Tip: Some kids may struggle with how open-ended this art project is. That's OK! Encourage them to pick one or two materials they like and start from there. Remind them that there is no right or wrong way to do this. It's about the process of making something new.

Gather the kids when they're finished and invite them to show the progress of their works of art. **Every time you look at your artwork, remember that Jesus makes you a new creation when you choose to follow Him. He brings new life!**