



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

- PRESERVICE:
 - OPTION 1: Interactive Game: Let's Make It!
 - OPTION 2: Multisensory Activity: What's It Made Of?
- Welcome Question: How have you changed over the last year?
- Curiosity Questions
- Declaring God's Wonder
- Prayer of Invitation
- Worship
- God's Big Story
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- In Awe of God's Wonder
- Responding in Worship: Worthy of it All
- Blessing Your Kids



INVITATION

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

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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!

Large Group

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

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As kids arrive...

Around 20 minutes before service begins, display series theme loop. Play high-energy music in the background.

LG Leader walks around the room on mic and greets kids by name as they enter the room. Be extra intentional about introducing yourself to new parents and kids.

SLIDE: SERIES THEME LOOP

VIDEO: COUNTDOWN (2min OR 30sec) Start a countdown to begin game 10 minutes prior to service start)

OPTION 1 Interactive Game: Let's Make It!

SUPPLIES: interlocking blocks (at least 10 per kid), timer

Ahead of time, gather enough interlocking blocks that each kid will have at least 10.

Display the Let's Make It! Slide and gather the kids. **Today, you're going to work with partners to make a new creation. The first partner will have one minute to make something out of their blocks. When their time is up, the second partner will have one minute to make something new out of their partner's creation. But there is a catch: The second partner cannot tear apart the original creation. You can add blocks and**

alter ones to be different directions. You're creating something new out of what is already built.

Does that make sense? Any questions? Allow kids to ask any questions they may have. Pass out the interlocking blocks to each kid.

When you say, "Go," the first partner can begin building with their blocks, and the one-minute timer can start. Once one minute is complete, partners switch, and the next round of building (or re-building) can begin. Set the timer for one minute again.

After the end of the two rounds, invite kids to gather together and share what they created. **It's amazing how creative you all were in your building. You were able to see how you could add and adjust the blocks to transform the original into something brand new. Today we're going to hear how God can transform us into new creations, taking what is already a part of us**



and making it even more incredible.

Display the New Creation Wonder Truth Slide. Today's Wonder Truth is **JESUS MAKES US NEW!**



OPTION 2 Interactive Game: What's It Made Of?

SUPPLIES: table; metal wrench; plastic bottle; glass bottle or packing material; plastic grocery bag; bottle cap; a flooring tile; and a few additional materials like paper, bubble wrap, cardboard box, broken crayons, candy or food wrappers

Ahead of time, gather the supplies listed. In order to make this game challenging, have more materials for kids to choose from when guessing which material was used to make the artwork pictured. Place the supplies on a table in front of the room, so all kids can see them.

Show the first What's It Made Of? Slide. **Have you ever heard of upcycled art?** Allow kids to respond. **It's when a person takes something that is considered trash or junk and uses it to create something magnificent and beautiful. Many times, the art that's made can also be very useful! We're going to play a game called "What's It Made Of?" In this game, you're going to see pictures of upcycled art, and your job is to figure out what things make up the art. You'll take turns coming up to the table and selecting what item you think the artist used to make the art piece in the picture. Then everyone else will clap if they agree with what is chosen or stay silent if they disagree. Any questions?** Allow kids to ask any questions they have.



Advance to the image of a fish. What do you think this is made of? Choose a volunteer to come up to the table and choose the item they think the artist used in making their art piece. Allow kids time to then agree by clapping or disagree by staying silent. **Did you choose correctly? Let's find out! It's made up of old wrenches and pieces of metal.** Thank the volunteer and encourage them if they didn't choose correctly. **Let's check out the next one. Display the next What's It Made Of! Slide, which shows a snowman. What do you think this is made of?** Choose a volunteer to come up to the table and choose the item they think the artist used in making their art piece. Allow kids time to then agree by clapping or disagree by staying silent. **This one is made with the bases of plastic bottles! How cool is that?** Thank the volunteer and encourage them if they didn't choose correctly.

Advance to the next slide, which shows the bottle sculpture. What is this one made of? Choose a volunteer to come up to the table and choose the item they think the artist used in making their art piece. Allow kids time to then agree by clapping or disagree by staying silent. **Let's see if you guessed correctly! This one is made from old glass bottles and packing material.** Thank the volunteer and encourage them if they didn't choose correctly.

Advance to the slide that shows colorful baskets. What do you think these baskets are made of? Choose a volunteer to come up to the table and choose the item they think the artist used in making their art piece. Allow kids time to then agree by clapping or disagree by staying silent.

This one is trickier. Let's find out if you are correct. These are made of plastic bags! The bags are cut into strips, braided, and then woven together! Pretty cool! Thank the volunteer and encourage them if they didn't choose correctly.

Show the next **What's It Made Of? Slides**, the image of a flame. **What could this be made of?** Choose a volunteer to come up to the table and choose the item they think the artist used in making their art piece. Allow kids time to then agree by clapping or disagree by staying silent. **Let's see if you're on the right track! This is made from different types of bottle caps. That is a very creative way of using bottle caps.** Thank the volunteer and encourage them if they didn't choose correctly. **We're on to the final piece of art.**

Show the final slide of the mosaic. **This one is the biggest piece of art in our game. What do you think was used to create this mosaic?** Choose a volunteer to come up to the table and choose the item they think the artist used in making their art piece. Allow kids time to then agree by clapping or disagree by staying silent. **Were you right? They used discarded materials from houses, like flooring tiles and tone countertops. They broke them into smaller pieces and then used cement to connect them together in these amazing patterns!** Thank the volunteer and encourage them if they didn't choose correctly.

Leader Tip: Look up upcycled art in your preferred internet search engine and see all the different pieces of art made from recycled materials. It will inspire you (and your kids!).

It's amazing how something that was seen as old, discarded, and unusable can be turned into a brand-new, beautiful work of art. Today we're going to hear how God can transform us into new creations, taking what is already a part of us and making it even more incredible. Display the New Creation Wonder Truth Slide. Today's Wonder Truth is **JESUS MAKES US NEW!**



Welcome Question

SUPPLIES: paper, coloring utensils, poster board OR , whiteboard, dry-erase markers (if needed)

SLIDE: WELCOME QUESTION

At service start time, draw kids' attention to the Welcome Question.

Invite kids to write answers on the poster board or whiteboard.

In today's part of God's big story, we're going to explore how Jesus transforms us from something old into something new! But first, it's time for small group.



Small Group

Introduce small group time. While kids are in small group, consider sitting in the groups for a few minutes each. Engage and interact as is appropriate.

Countdown

After about 15 minutes of small group, give a 5 minute warning and begin the countdown.

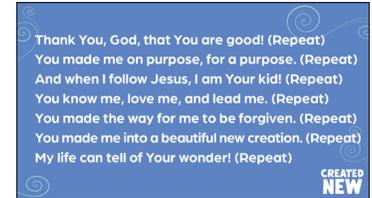
VIDEO: COUNTDOWN

"Hey everyone! Welcome to our Large Group Worship time! My name is _____ and I'm excited to take this time to worship God, review what we just read, and talk about ways we can respond to what we are learning about God! We are going to pray as we prepare our hearts to worship God!"

Declaring God's Wonder

Display the [New Creation Declaration Slide](#). Read each line boldly and invite kids to repeat after you.

Thank You, God, that You are good! (Kids repeat.)
You made me on purpose, for a purpose. (Kids repeat.)
And when I follow Jesus, I am Your kid! (Kids repeat.)
You know me, love me, and lead me. (Kids repeat.)
You made the way for me to be forgiven. (Kids repeat.)
You made me into a beautiful new creation. (Kids repeat.)
My life can tell of Your wonder! (Kids repeat.)



Prayer of Invitation

Lead kids in a prayer of invitation before entering into worship and God's big story: **God, thank You for being present with us today. May Your Holy Spirit help us keep our minds focused on You. Thank You for loving us, leading us, forgiving us, and making us into new creations. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Worship

We are made new, and that is something to celebrate. Let's praise God together! Play songs You Have Overcome, Praise the Lord and encourage the kids to sing and dance as they praise God.

God's Big Story

Display the [New Creation Title Slide](#).

Today we are learning about one of the clearest pictures of God's love in the Bible. God did not wait for people to be perfect before loving them. Watch and listen for how Jesus' sacrifice shows just how big and powerful God's love really is. As you watch, think about why this good news matters for every one of us.

[Watch the God's Big Story Video](#)



LESSON 5 NEW CREATION EXPERIENCE IT! SCRIPT

SUPPLIES: clear vases/cups of various sizes (7), black marker, water, measuring cup, spoon, bleach, iodine, box or crate, small table or flat surface, tablecloth, towels for cleanup

Ahead of time, near the top of the largest vase/cup, write *Jesus*. Near the top of the smallest vase/cup write *Sin*. Near the tops of the other five vases/cups, write *You, Me, Him, Her, Everyone*. Pour about 32 ounces of water into the *Jesus* vase, along with a capful of bleach. Pour about four ounces of water into the other five vases. Pour about 16 ounces of water into the *Sin* vase, along with a capful of iodine.

Leader Tip: You can find all (or most!) of the supplies for this activity at most dollar retailers.



Gather the kids together. Then move the table into place at the center of your room, put the tablecloth on top, and move the vases/cups behind the table as you explain the background of Paul's letter. Set towels aside for cleanup.

Not long after Jesus died, rose again, and returned to heaven to be with God the Father, He appeared to a man named Paul. Paul was an enemy of Jesus and His followers, but God changed Paul's heart. God sent him to tell people of many different lands and cultures about Jesus. Paul wrote many of the books in the New Testament, including a letter to Jesus-followers in Rome.

For years, Paul traveled around the lands bordering the Mediterranean Sea. Since Paul had never visited the Jesus-followers in Rome, he wrote them a letter to introduce himself and tell them the good news of Jesus. Hence the title of this book of the Bible—Romans!

Place the vases/cups with the corresponding titles on the table in a line as you narrate.

Paul begins the letter by pointing out that all human beings have sinned: you (place the *You* vase stage right on table), **me** (place the *Me* vase to the left of the first), **him** (place the *Him* vase to the left of the previous one), **her** (place the *Her* vase to the left of the last one), **everyone** (place the *Everyone* vase stage left). **We all make wrong choices.** Hold up the *Sin* vase. **We all disobey God, which is called sin.** Slowly pour a little "Sin" into each vase on the table. **Sin separates us from God.**

Pause to look at the colored water in the vases for a moment.

Because of our sin, every one of us needs God's forgiveness. We need God to make our relationship with Him right because we cannot do it ourselves: our bad choices (pour more "Sin" into all the vases) **lead to more bad choices, a cycle we cannot escape on our own. We need God to make us brand new, so we can start again.**

Place *Sin* vase behind the line of people vases and come to stand in front of the table.

In Romans 5, Paul explains how Jesus heals our relationship with God. Because of the bad choices we made, we acted as God's enemies rather than His friends. How does an enemy act? Allow kids to respond freely. **Maybe you have someone in your life who acts like an enemy. They make choices that hurt you without thinking about your feelings. Acting like God's enemy is even worse because God is our best friend. He has given us every good thing that we enjoy in life—food and the warmth of the sun and friends and family to laugh and play with. God created everything good in the world: love, beauty, play, and joy.**

When we disobey God, we don't appreciate all these good things He has done for us. We hurt Him like hurting a friend. If someone hurt you like that and decided to be your enemy, you probably wouldn't want to be that person's friend.

Walk back behind the table.

Thankfully, God is different: God loves us so much that, even while we were His enemies, He fixed our relationship with Him by sending Jesus to die on our behalf. Place the Jesus vase in front of the line of vases. **Jesus is God's Son. He lived a perfect life, never sinning, never disobeying God.** Pour some of the Sin water into Jesus and watch it disappear. **Jesus died for us and defeated death, and when He did that, Jesus healed our relationship with God. Jesus made it possible for us to be forgiven of our sins.**

When you (pour some of Jesus into each of the vases and stir with a spoon until the water clears) **or I, or he, or she, or anyone trusts in and follows Jesus, God forgives us for all of the bad choices we have made and puts His Holy Spirit inside of us.** Place the Jesus vase in front of all the others, showing they're all clear. **The Holy Spirit is God's powerful, wise, and loving presence who changes us from the inside so that we can love God and be His true friends. The Holy Spirit is God. And with the Holy Spirit comes a promise: just like God raised Jesus from the dead, He will one day raise us too, and we'll live forever with Him.**

Paul says that God's forgiveness and the gift of the Holy Spirit don't necessarily make life easier. Followers of Jesus still experience pain, loss, and other difficult things. But by continuing to trust in Jesus, we'll be able to make it through hard times and become more like Jesus. We'll show that in the choices we make and the attitudes we take. Our relationship with God is healed, and we can experience life forever with Him because Jesus makes us new.

Leader Tip: Kids who have experienced trauma or abuse, especially at the hands of a trusted adult, the content of this story may prompt big feelings. Be sensitive to every kid, and if you ever suspect that a child may be experiencing abuse, talk with your ministry leader immediately.

Connecting the Wonder Truth

Display New Creation Wonder Truth Slide. **Our Wonder Truth today is JESUS MAKES US NEW!** Where did you see our Wonder Truth in the story? Allow kids to answer freely.

In Paul's letter to the Romans, he explained 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. All of us have done wrong things that separate us from God. Through Jesus, our relationship with God is made right, and we're filled with joy!



Leader Tip: Some kids may have questions about choosing to follow Jesus! Invite their families to join you as you talk and pray together. The Salvation Path resource also includes helpful Bible references and information!

In Awe of God's Wonder

Spend a few moments allowing kids to think about the wonder of God's story.

What stood out to you most in today's story? What are you most likely to remember? Allow kids to share freely. Consider sharing your answers to these questions as well.

God wants to make you new! What does that tell you about God? What does it say about God's feeling for you? Allow kids to process their thoughts silently or out loud, with a friend or with the whole group.

Responding in Worship

SLIDE: RESPONDING IN WORSHIP

Talk about ways we can respond to what we are learning with next steps such as tithing, prayer, asking questions, and worship. Encourage kids to ask their SG leaders any questions they were wondering during the lesson.

***Introduce this next song and invite kids to respond and participate in worship. See the "Worship Posture Tutorial" on the RBKids Resource Page.



WORSHIP VIDEO: WORTHY OF IT ALL

Blessing Your Kids

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands are open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them. Use your own words. This is an example:

Blessing: May you go today with energy, passion, and excitement—knowing that you are a new creation in Jesus—and may you live in the peace that God gives, even when you go through difficult things