

Lesson 27: A New Creation

Key Takeaway

Because of Jesus, I am a new creation! He changes me to live for him.

Scriptural Basis

2 Corinthians 5:17,
John 3

Bible Verse

“And may you have the power to understand, as all God’s people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is.” (Ephesians 3:18, NLT).

Learning Objectives:

- Children will communicate that when they trust in Jesus, he makes them new.
- Kids will identify ways they can live differently because they belong to Jesus.

Materials Needed for Small Group:

- ☐ A Bible
- ☐ Name tags
- ☐ A snack per child

Activity: Old vs. New

- ☐ Printout 1, one per small group

Option 1: Butterfly Transformation Craft

- ☐ Printout 2
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Glue stick or sticky tape
- ☐ Wooden clothespin (peg)
- ☐ Crayons, markers, leaves, or paint for decorating

Option 2 Activity: Make It New Art

- ☐ Blank sheets of paper (1 per child)
- ☐ Pencils, crayons, markers
- ☐ Optional: stickers, washi tape, other simple art supplies

Activity: Clean Slate

- ☐ Chalkboard or whiteboard
- ☐ Eraser or cloth
- ☐ Markers or chalk

Materials Needed for Large Group:

- ☐ A Bible

Option 1 – Activity: Guess That Baby!

- ☐ Baby pictures of each leader with a large printed number on them.
- ☐ Number cards for leaders (matching their baby picture number).
- ☐ Tape or display board for the baby pictures.
- ☐ Space for leaders to spread out around the room.

Option 2 – Activity: Tear It Up, Make It New

- ☐ One large piece of old, crumpled, or used paper (can write words like “sin,” “selfishness,” “disobedience” on it)
- ☐ One large, clean, colorful paper or poster
- ☐ Markers

Materials Needed for Games:

Game: Old Life, New Life Relay

- ☐ Two buckets per team (labeled Old Life and New Life)
- ☐ Items to carry (e.g., crumpled paper for old, clean paper hearts for new)

Game: Born Again Obstacle Course

- ☐ Chairs, cones, pool noodles, or other items to create a simple obstacle course
- ☐ Signs for stages: Old Life → Cross (Jesus) → New Life

Small Group Session 1

15 Minutes

Distribute name tags and snacks. Choose one of the following activities to do together while children eat their snack.

Share and Listen

Option 1

Ask the children to share their highs and lows (the best and worst things that happened to them either today or from the past week).

Option 2

Ask the children to take turns sharing how they are feeling today using the [“How Are You Feeling?” chart](#).

Pray Together

Collect prayer requests from the students. The leader or a student can pray for the entire group, or a leader can pair up students and invite them to pray for one another.

Opening Questions

“Have you ever wished you could start over or have a fresh start? What happened?”

“Maybe it was a mistake you made or something that didn’t go well. What would you change if you could do it over?”

“How does it feel when someone gives you another chance?”

Activity: Old vs. New

Materials Needed:

- ☐ Printout 1 – Pictures of an old item vs. a new version (e.g., an old torn shoe vs. a new shoe, a crumpled paper vs. a fresh sheet, a caterpillar vs. a butterfly).

Have students match up the old and new pairs of items together.
Show each pair of pictures and ask:

- ***“What’s the difference between these two things?”***
- ***“How do you feel when you get something new?”***
- ***“Do you think people can change too?”***

“Today, we’re going to learn how Jesus makes us new when we trust him!”

Large Group

10-15 Minutes

Welcome the students to Crossroads and tell them you are glad they came this week.

Optional Starters

“Who is Jesus” call and response

Prayer Prompt: “God, I’m thankful for…”

(Think about something good in your life today—a friend, your family, something you enjoyed, or even something small like a snack you love.)

Opening Song: “Superstar” by Go Fish

Opening Prayer

Tell kids that closing their eyes and folding their hands together can help keep them focused and not distract those around them.

Opening Questions

- ***“Have you ever seen a baby picture of yourself? What did you look like?”***

Option 1 – Activity: Guess That Baby!

Materials Needed:

- ☐ Baby pictures of each leader with a large printed number on them.
- ☐ Number cards for leaders (matching their baby picture number).
- ☐ Tape or display board for the baby pictures.
- ☐ Space for leaders to spread out around the room.

Setup:

1. Display all the baby pictures at the front or on a screen.
2. Number each picture clearly.
3. Assign each leader a spot around the room (they do not hold their number yet—it’s a secret until the reveal).
4. Make sure there is enough space for kids to move safely between leaders.

Instructions:

“You’ll see all the baby pictures numbered at the front. I will show or call out one number at a time. Your job is to MOVE to the leader you think matches that baby picture.”

- Call out or show Baby Picture #1.
- Kids move to stand near the leader they think it is.
- Once kids are gathered by their guess, do a dramatic reveal—have the correct leader hold up their number card.
- Celebrate correct guesses and let the leader share a funny or interesting fact about themselves as a baby (optional).

Repeat for each baby picture number.

Let kids move to a new leader each round.

After all rounds, invite kids to share what surprised them or what they learned about their leaders as kids.

Celebrate correct guesses.

"Wasn't that fun seeing all those baby pictures? You saw what your leaders looked like when they were tiny babies. We all started life as babies, and we've all grown up a lot since then.

But did you know that in the Bible, Jesus talked about something even more important than being born as a baby? In John 3, Jesus told a man named Nicodemus that we need to be "born again."

Option 2 – Activity: Tear It Up, Make It New

Materials Needed:

- ☐ One large piece of old, crumpled, or used paper (can write words like "sin," "selfishness," "disobedience" on it)
- ☐ One large, clean, colorful paper or poster
- ☐ Markers

Instructions:

Hold up the old paper in front of the group.

"This old paper is like our lives when we are filled with sin—things like disobedience, selfishness, lying, or hurting others."

You can write some of those words on the paper as you say them, or ask the kids to call out examples and write them.

- ***"Can I just erase these things by trying really hard? Can I make this old, dirty paper new again?"***

Dramatically tear the paper into pieces.

"Nope. The truth is, we can't fix our old hearts ourselves. The Bible tells us that Jesus does not just improve who we were—he makes us new. When we trust him, he makes us completely new—like giving us a whole new heart."

Hold up the fresh, colorful paper.

"This is what it's like when we are born again. Jesus gives us a new heart and a new life, clean and ready to live for him."

- ***"What are ways we can live as Jesus' new creation?"*** (being kind, forgiving, telling the truth, showing love).

The Story: John 3:1-8

Read John 3:1-8 out loud for the group.

Helpful Hint: To make the lesson more engaging, have one leader read the part of Jesus and another leader read the part of Nicodemus. This will

help bring the conversation to life and make it feel more like the real conversation Jesus had with Nicodemus.

There was a man named Nicodemus, a Jewish religious leader who was a Pharisee. After dark one evening, he came to speak with Jesus. “Rabbi,” he said, “we all know that God has sent you to teach us. Your miraculous signs are evidence that God is with you.”

Jesus replied, “I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God.”

“What do you mean?” exclaimed Nicodemus. “How can an old man go back into his mother’s womb and be born again?”

Jesus replied, “I assure you, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit. Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives birth to spiritual life. So don’t be surprised when I say, ‘You must be born again.’ The wind blows wherever it wants. Just as you can hear the wind but can’t tell where it comes from or where it is going, so you can’t explain how people are born of the Spirit.”

Ask:

- ***“What’s the difference between being born as a baby and being born again like Jesus talks about?”***

(Help them get to: Being born as a baby is about our body starting life, being born again is about our heart starting a new life with God.)

“Now, Jesus wasn’t talking about going back to being a baby. He was talking about a new kind of life that starts in your heart when you believe in him. It’s like a fresh start with God—where he gives you a new heart, forgives your sins, and helps you live the way he wants you to.

So even though we can’t go back to being a baby, we can all be born again when we trust Jesus. It’s a new life with him as our Savior and King!”

Close in Prayer

Thank Jesus that he gives us a new life and makes us a new creation when we trust him.

Ask God to help us remember that following Jesus changes how we live and love others.

Small Group Session 2

20-25 Minutes

Share the Key Takeaway: Because of Jesus, I am a new creation! He changes me to live for him.

“In John 3, a man named Nicodemus visited Jesus at night. Jesus told him:

“You must be born again to be part of God’s family.”

Nicodemus didn’t get it at first. He thought Jesus meant becoming a baby again! But Jesus explained that being “born again” means letting God give us a fresh new heart—a brand new start.

Being born again means Jesus takes the wrong things in our hearts—like anger, selfishness, lying—and helps make them right.

He doesn’t just tell us to “try harder.”

He lives in us and helps us change from the inside out!”

Ask:

- ***“What are some wrong things Jesus can help make right?”***
(Examples: anger → kindness, lying → honesty, fear → trust)

“We don’t become new by trying harder.

We become new by trusting Jesus.

Jesus is always with you, helping you grow more like him!”

Helpful Hint: Briefly share how Jesus has changed you since trusting in him. Focus on one simple example, like how Jesus is helping you be kinder, forgive, or trust him more. Remind kids it’s not about being perfect — it’s about Jesus making us new and helping us grow!

Option 1: Butterfly Transformation Craft

Materials Needed:

- ☐ Printout 2
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Glue stick or sticky tape
- ☐ Wooden clothespin (peg)
- ☐ Crayons, markers, leaves, or paint for decorating

Instructions:

Use scissors to carefully cut along the outline of the butterfly shape.

Use crayons, markers, or stickers to make your butterfly colorful and fun. You can add patterns, dots, or even a smiley face!

Attach the middle of the butterfly to one side of the clothespin with glue or tape.

Make sure the butterfly’s body is centered on the peg.

When you pinch the clothespin, it looks like your butterfly is moving its wings!

After building your butterfly, decorate it with markers, crayons, or colored pencils

“Just like this butterfly used to be a caterpillar, when we trust Jesus, he makes us into something completely new!”

Ask:

“What changes when someone follows Jesus?”

“What are some ways you can live like a “new creation” this week?”

Option 2 Activity: Make It New Art

Materials Needed:

- ☐ Blank sheets of paper (1 per child)
- ☐ Pencils, crayons, markers
- ☐ Optional: stickers, washi tape, other simple art supplies

Instructions:

- Give each student a blank sheet of paper and ask them to draw a simple picture in a few minutes.

“Draw something that feels a little sad or broken. Maybe it’s a rainy day, a wilting flower, a frown, a broken toy, or something lonely. Don’t worry about being perfect — just sketch it quickly.”

- After 3–5 minutes, have everyone pass their drawing to someone else.

“The next person’s job is to make it new — not erase it, but transform the original into something different and uplifting or joyful.”

Examples:

- A wilted flower becomes part of a beautiful garden.
- A stormy sky is transformed into a rainbow.
- A sad face turns into a group of friends playing.
- A broken heart becomes a heart held together by a cross or a bandage.

After everyone finishes, invite volunteers to show the “before and after” versions of the artwork.

Ask:

- ***“What changed in the picture?”***
- ***“How does this remind us of what Jesus does in our lives when we trust him?”***
- ***“When we belong to Jesus, how can our hearts, attitudes, and actions look different?”***

“When we come to Jesus, he doesn’t just fix us up a little — he makes us brand new. Sometimes we feel sad, lonely, or broken, but Jesus gives us new hope, new joy, and a new way to live.

The old picture didn’t disappear — it became part of something new. That’s like how our past is part of our story, but Jesus gives it new meaning.”

Activity: Clean Slate

Objective: Tie-In: Jesus wipes away sin and gives us a fresh start.

Materials Needed:

☐ Chalkboard or whiteboard, eraser/cloth, markers/chalk

Instructions:

Write or draw “sins” or selfish choices (lying, anger, disobeying, etc.) on the board.

Talk about how sin makes our hearts messy.

Then wipe the board clean.

“When we trust Jesus, he forgives our sins and makes us new—just like this board!”

Discussion:

“How does it feel to have a fresh start?”

“What’s something new you want to do for Jesus?”

Going Deeper

“What does it mean to be a “new creation” in Christ?”

“Why do you think Jesus wants to make us new instead of just fixing a few things about us?”

“How is trusting in Jesus like being born all over again?”

“What are some things in your life that Jesus has already started to change?”

“Is there anything in your heart or life that you want Jesus to make new?”

“What do you think God sees when he looks at you as a “new creation”?”

“How can you live differently this week because you belong to Jesus?”

Ending Together

5-10 Minutes

Activity: Old vs. New Choices

Read a situation and ask kids to pick the “old” choice vs. the “new” choice.

Example:

Your friend is mean to you.

Old choice: Be mean back.

New choice: Forgive and show kindness.

Your sibling takes your toy without asking.

Old choice: Get mad and grab it back.

New choice: Ask calmly and share.

“When we trust in Jesus, he helps us live in new ways—ways that honor him. Today we learned that when we trust in Jesus, he doesn’t just clean us up a little — he makes us brand new.

He gives us a fresh start, changes our hearts, and helps us live in a way that honors him. That’s what it means to be a new creation!

Think of one kind thing you can do this week to show that Jesus is changing your heart. Maybe it’s helping a sibling, saying sorry first, or sharing with a friend.”

Response and Reflection

Optional take-home idea: Let them draw a butterfly or write “Jesus makes me new!” and hang it at home as a reminder.

Print out the Bible verse.

Practice the Bible verse for this unit (Ephesians 3:18). Take a look at the [Memory Verse Game Ideas](#).

Pray with the students and dismiss them.

Close in Prayer

Games

25 Minutes

Game: New Creation Transformation Tag

Materials Needed: None

How to Play:

- Choose 2-3 players to be "old life" taggers (they chase others).
- When tagged, players freeze with arms crossed.
- Another player can "transform" them by tagging them and saying, "New creation in Jesus!"
- Once transformed, the player puts their arms up in a "new creation" pose and can continue playing.
- Switch taggers every few rounds.

Connection to Lesson: Shows how Jesus changes our hearts—just like the players are transformed from stuck in sin to living a new life.

Game: Old Life, New Life Relay

Materials Needed:

- ☐ Two buckets per team (labeled Old Life and New Life)
- ☐ Items to carry (e.g., crumpled paper for old, clean paper hearts for new)

How to Play:

- Divide kids into teams.
- On one side is the "Old Life" bucket filled with crumpled paper (symbolizing sin, selfishness).
- On the other side is the empty "New Life" bucket.
- Players relay race to take an "old" item, carry it across, and replace it with a clean paper heart in the "New Life" bucket.
- First team to replace all items wins.

Connection to Lesson: Illustrates moving from old life (sin) to new life in Jesus.

Game: Born Again Obstacle Course

Materials Needed:

- ☐ Chairs, cones, pool noodles, or other items to create a simple obstacle course
- ☐ Signs for stages: Old Life → Cross (Jesus) → New Life

How to Play:

- Set up an obstacle course.
- Kids start at "Old Life," going through the obstacles.
- Midway, they reach the "Cross," where they pause, spin around (symbolizing transformation).
- Then they finish the course to "New Life."
- At the end, they shout, "I'm a new creation in Christ!"

Connection to Lesson: A fun way for kids to physically experience the journey from old life to new life in Jesus.

Printout 27.1

OLD VS. NEW CHOICES



Printout 27.2

RESPONSE AND REFLECTION

