



## Elementary Leader Guide

October 5 –The Warehouse 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>

**Monthly Theme:** I Am Forgiven

**Today's "Big Deal" Theme Tie:** God Gives Me a New Start

**Bible Story Reference:** Jesus Called a Tax Collector (Matthew 9:9-13; Mark 2:13-17; Luke 5:27-32)

*\*Previews of all videos listed below can be found on the Teacher Resource Page in the corresponding digital media folder.*

## Arrival & Small Groups

Upon arrival children will go to their designated pod based on their grade level for small group connections time. Each "pod" will have a leader waiting for them to begin connections conversations to start the morning.

**Small Group Leaders:** Introduce yourself to families you don't know and use this time to welcome kids as they arrive.

Use these questions to help you get to know kids as they arrive. Ministry happens best through relationships. By spending this time with kids at the beginning, you will be able to make stronger connections as you begin teaching about how God knows them!

- *What was the best part of your week?*
- *What is your favorite thing to do during your free time?*
- *Would you rather have a pet dinosaur or a pet shark and why?*
- *What other state do you most want to visit and why?*
- *If you could only eat one type of food for the rest of your life, what would it be and why?*

## Countdown Video/ Leader Welcome:

*\*Tweens arrive as countdown video begins.*

**Script:** Hi, everyone! My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I am so glad you are here today! Turn to a friend, and wave hello. *(Allow kids to wave.)* Today we will take some time to talk about how God makes us totally new when we trust in Jesus. Everyone, say, “Totally New!” *(Totally New!)*

## Theme Song/Offering/Worship Song:

Between songs remind children of the purpose for giving an offering. Give them examples of ways the offering contributes to the church and community. Ask students if they know how else our giving reaches out. Then remind them that during the next worship song they can bring their offering forward and drop it into the basket.

*\*Tweens Leave After Worship Song*

## Stage Game:

**Game Rules:**

1. Play the video.
2. Find two matching items, and follow the prompt when you spot them.
3. Reveal the answer and celebrate the wins.

**Script:** Now, we are going to play a game called “Match It Up!” This game has several pictures of things people may like. Not everyone likes the same things—this is part of what makes us unique. Look for the match in each on-screen set. When you find the match, follow the prompt on the screen. You will see things like, “Clap your hands” or “Jump up and down!” Then, we will see if you were right!

There will be seven puzzles. How many of the matches do you think you will find? *(Allow kids to answer.)* Pay close attention because the puzzles will get more difficult as we go! Stand up and let’s play! Count down with me! 3-2-1!

Play Stage Game Video.

**Script:** Great job finding those matches! Go ahead and have a seat. *(Allow time.)* We all have unique things about us that make us who we are. All the things we like and do not like help make up our identities. While our likes and dislikes may remain the same, today, we are going

to talk about how we become totally new when we trust in Jesus. Everyone, say, “Totally new!” *(Totally new!)*

**Script:** If you are ready for something totally new, say, “I’m ready!” *(I’m ready!)* If you are ready for action, say, “Let’s go!” *(Let’s go!)* If you are ready to check out something called the “Totally New Challenge,” say, “Totally New Challenge!” *(Totally New Challenge!)*

Play Main Idea Video.

**Script:** I sure am glad Doctor Proton and Jet Viper got a new start. Their new attempt was a total success! I am even more glad to know the truth that God offers all of us a new start too! We never need to feel stuck in the past or stuck in our mistakes because God loves us and forgives us when we ask Him. Let me hear you say, “**God gives me a new start!**” *(God gives me a new start!)*

## Object Lesson:

### **Supplies:**

Raw egg 1 per group

Bowl 1 per group

Bible 1 per group

**Script:** Take a look at this raw egg. When this egg gets cracked *(crack the egg into the bowl)*, it may seem like it is ruined. However, the truth is that we can do a lot of new things with a cracked egg, like making scrambled eggs, baking a cake, frying an egg, or baking cookies. Once the egg is cracked, it can be used in many ways. Cracking the egg gives the egg a new start.

We all *sin*, which is when we choose to do what we think is best rather than follow what God says is best. When we ask God to forgive our sins and trust in Jesus, we get a new start too. God forgives us for all our sins, and we get a new life in Him. Everyone, say, “**God gives me a new start!**” *(God gives me a new start!)*

Just like this egg becomes a lot more useful once it is cracked, God uses broken things in totally new ways for His purpose. He gives us a new start! He forgives us completely and does not hold any of our sins against us.

## Bible Story Video:

**Script:** *(Open the Bible.)* The Bible is 1 book made up of 66 different books. Our Bible story today is found in three books of the Bible: Matthew, Mark, and Luke. All three of these books are found in the New Testament, which is in the second part of the Bible. These three books tell us a lot about Jesus' life while He was on earth. We learn a lot about what Jesus taught, how He changes people's lives, and how He makes people totally new. Everyone, say, "Totally new!"  
*(Totally new!)*

Play Bible Story Video.

## Make the Connection:

**Script:** Jesus completely changed Matthew's life when He told Matthew to follow Him. Matthew was a tax collector. During Bible times, tax collectors were not honest people. They took too much money from people and kept the money for themselves. Jesus called Matthew to follow Him, and Matthew left everything behind when he did. *Sin* is when we choose to do what we think is best rather than follow what God says is best. For example, God says honesty is best, but we may be tempted to think it is best to tell a lie to keep ourselves out of trouble.

When Matthew chose to follow Jesus, God forgave Matthew's sins and completely gave him a new start. It did not matter what Matthew had done in the past. God forgives all our sins and gives us a new start when we trust in Jesus too. Everyone, say, "**God gives me a new start!**"  
*(God gives me a new start!)*

*(Circle one)* In the beginning, we all had a fresh start. The entire world and everything in it was perfect, including people! There was no death, sadness, crying, or tears. Everything was perfect when God created the world.

*(Circle two)* Sin came into the world when people chose to do what they wanted to do instead of what God said was best. Once the first people, Adam and Eve, sinned, the world became broken, and they knew it. They were in need of a new start. Since then, we still live in a broken world. Sin is all around us, and we are even born sinners. We all experience brokenness in our hearts, in our lives, and with our families and friends, even in our identities and the way we feel about ourselves. Because of our sin, we are separated from God. We all need a new start and forgiveness so we can come back to Him.

(Circle three) The good news is that God had a plan from the beginning to give us a new start. Jesus, God's only Son, came to earth and lived a perfect, sinless life. Even though He never sinned, He died on a cross to take the punishment we deserved for our sin. Jesus rose again three days after He died, defeating sin and death. Jesus offers life forever with Him to anyone who trusts in Him. Jesus wants everyone to come to Him and be forgiven.

Just like He wanted the tax collectors and sinners who He sat with at Matthew's party to trust in Him, Jesus wants all of us to trust in Him too. He wants to forgive all of us so we can have life forever with Him. Everyone, say, "I am forgiven!" (*I am forgiven!*) If you would like to learn more about being forgiven and getting a new start, please come talk to your Team Leader or me. We would love to share about the gift of forgiveness and the new start God gives!

## Team Game:

One kid acts as a detective and tries to guess which kid is leading the rest of the group in a motion.

**Big Goal:** Remember that Jesus called a tax collector to follow Him, and we can follow Him too.

**Script:** Now it is time to play "Who Is the Leader?" One of you will be the "Leader" and one of you will be the "Detective." The detective will close your eyes while I choose the leader. Then, the leader will lead the group in doing any motion you choose. Detective, be sure to keep your eyes closed while the leader starts the motion! I will tell you when you can open them. For example, if I am the leader and I start hopping on one foot, everyone else except the detective will start hopping on one foot. When I tell you to open your eyes, you will watch everyone closely and give your best guess for who the leader is! Everyone, say, "Let's go!" (*Let's go!*)

When you were following the leader in the motions, you had to watch closely. When you were the detective, you had to watch closely to figure out who the leader was. In our Bible story, Jesus called a tax collector to follow Him. He calls us to follow Him too by asking Him for forgiveness, turning away from our sin, and following Him with our lives. We know Jesus is the best leader, and the One we can always follow. He will always lead us in the best way. Reading our Bibles, spending time in prayer, and going to church are just a few ways we can follow Jesus.

## Theme Verse Video:

**Theme Verse Motions:**

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, *(Point to the sky.)*  
he is a new creation; *(Cross open palms in front of your body, moving upward.)*  
the old has passed away, *(Start with your hands out, right hand facing up and left hand facing down. Flip your hands so that the right hand is facing down and the left hand is facing up.)*  
and see, the new has come! *(Spread your hands in front of body with palms facing up.)*  
2 Corinthians 5:17 *(Hold your hands out like a book.)*

**Script:** Let's take some time now to learn a verse to help us remember that we are totally new when we trust in Jesus. Everyone, say, "Totally new!" *(Totally new!)*

Play Theme Verse Video.

**Script:** Everyone who trusts in Jesus is "in Christ." This means we are no longer separated from God, and we get to be called His children! God makes us a new creation because He forgives us for all the sins we have ever done or will do, and He gives us a new start. Everyone, say, "God gives me a new start!" *(God gives me a new start!)*

## Theme Song:

**Script:** When we trust in Jesus, God forgives us for all our sins. Everyone, say, "I am forgiven!" *(I am forgiven!)* God also makes us totally new and gives us a new start. Let's sing about it with the Theme song!

Play Theme Song Video.

## Small Groups:

\*Big Deal/Key Verse Review & Prayer Requests/Prayer Time

Finish up time in your small group pod by reviewing the Theme for the month, the verse and the "Big Deal" for today's lesson. Ask for prayer requests, pray and wrap up.

## Pick Up Time:

*During this time children may wait around the room while videos play on the screen. There must be a leader at the door to receive parents and a second leader checking tags as they exit the room.*



## Elementary Leader Guide

October 12 –The Warehouse 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>

**Monthly Theme:** I Am Forgiven

**Today's "Big Deal" Theme Tie:** God Gives Me a New Heart

**Bible Story Reference:** Jeremiah Told of a New Promise (Jeremiah 11:1-10; 17:1-10; 31-33)

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## Arrival & Small Groups

Upon arrival children will go to their designated pod based on their grade level for small group connections time. Each “pod” will have a leader waiting for them to begin connections conversations to start the morning.

**Small Group Leaders:** Introduce yourself to families you don't know and use this time to welcome kids as they arrive.

Use these questions to help you get to know kids as they arrive. Ministry happens best through relationships. By spending this time with kids at the beginning, you will be able to make stronger connections as you begin teaching about how God knows them!

- *What was the best part of your week?*
- *What is your favorite thing to eat for lunch?*
- *If you could run fast like a cheetah everywhere or fly like a bird everywhere, which would you choose and why?*
- *What games would you play if you were planning a game night?*
- *If you could pick one season to always live in, which one would you pick and why?*

## Countdown Video/ Leader Welcome:

*\*Tweens arrive as countdown video begins.*

**Script:** Hi, everyone! My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I am so happy you are here today! Everyone, turn to a friend next to you and give him a high five! Today, we are going to talk about being totally new. Everyone, say, "Totally new!" (*Totally new!*)

## Theme Song/Offering/Worship Song:

Between songs remind children of the purpose for giving an offering. Give them examples of ways the offering contributes to the church and community. Ask students if they know how else our giving reaches out. Then remind them that during the next worship song they can bring their offering forward and drop it into the basket.

*\*Tweens Leave After Worship Song*

## Stage Game:

### Game Rules:

1. Play each video and decide if the object is old or new by moving to that side of the room.
2. Reveal the answer, then return to the middle to play again.

**Script:** We have all seen new things, and we have all seen old things. Maybe you have tried to watch your favorite show on an old TV with a bad picture, tried to ride an old bike with the chain falling off, or gotten a chance to ride a brand-new bike that rides smoothly down the street! Today, we will get a chance to act like we are using some old objects and some new objects.

Watch the screen and try to decide if the hidden object is old or new. You will walk to the left if you think the object is old and to the right if you think the object is new. There's one catch though! You will also pretend to use that object as you go! Let's see how many you can get right. If you are ready for our game, stand up and say, "I'm ready!" (*I'm ready!*)

Play Stage Game Video 1.



**Script:** The first object is a car! Pretend to drive to the left if you think it is old and drive to the right if you think it is new. *(Allow time until the answer is revealed.)* It is old! Do you think it would be fun to drive an old car? Let's go back to the middle and see the next one.

Play Stage Game Video 2.

**Script:** It's a bike! Pretend to ride your bike to the left if you think it is an old bike and ride your bike to the right if you think it is new. *(Allow time until the answer is revealed.)* It is new! That bike looks awesome! Come back to the middle and let's check out the next one.

Play Stage Game Video 3.

**Script:** It's a soccer ball! Pretend to kick your soccer ball to the left if you think it is old and kick it to the right if you think it is new. Be sure not to kick your friend on the way! *(Allow time until the answer is revealed.)* It is an old soccer ball! It has probably seen a lot of feet. Head back to the middle. We have three more puzzles to do. Show the next one!

Play Stage Game Video 4.

**Script:** It's a pot! Pretend like you are stirring your favorite food. Go to the left if you think it is an old pot and to the right if you think it is new. Do not forget to stir as you go! *(Allow time until the answer is revealed.)* It is a new pot! I bet that would make some great food. Come back to the middle, and let's see what we have next.

Play Stage Game Video 5.

**Script:** It's a jump rope! Go left jumping rope if you think it is an old jump rope and jump rope to the right if you think it is new. *(Allow time until the answer is revealed.)* It is an old jump rope! Hurry back to the middle because we have one more. Let's see it!

Play Stage Game Video 6.

**Script:** A basketball! Pretend to dribble and shoot toward the left if you think it is an old basketball and dribble and shoot to the right if you think it is new. *(Allow time until the answer is revealed.)* It is a new basketball! Great job, everyone! Go ahead and head back to your seats.

There are some big differences between old things and new things! Sometimes, old things *need* to be replaced with something new. You did a great job pretending to use those objects! Some

of you really had me thinking you were on a basketball court! Today, we are going to talk about how God makes us totally new when we trust in Jesus. Everyone, say, “Totally new!” (*Totally new!*)

Now we get to enjoy something amazing! Something incredible! Something action-packed and totally fun! It is time for the “Totally New Challenge!” Let’s get our video started by calling, “Action!” in 3-2-1! (*Action!*)

Play Main Idea Video.

**Script:** It looks like Jet Viper and Doctor Proton learned that what is *inside* a car is just as important as what is on the *outside* of the car. And a brand-new inside made for brand-new action! Let me hear you say, “Brand-new action!” (*Brand-new action!*) When we trust in God, He gives us a new heart so we can follow Him. He transforms what is on the inside of us. He helps our thoughts, emotions, and motivation change so what is on the inside of us loves and follows Jesus. Say, “**God gives me a new heart!**” (*God gives me a new heart!*) God’s forgiveness changes us from the inside out!

## Object Lesson:

### Supplies:

Brown paper bag 2 per group  
Plastic ziplock bag 1 per group  
Pitcher of water 1 per group  
Clear container 1 per group  
Bible 1 per group  
Towel 1 per group (optional)

**Script:** (*Hold up the brown paper bag without the ziplock bag inside.*) What will happen if I pour water into this bag? (*Allow kids to answer. Hold the bag over the container and pour half of the water in the paper bag.*) The bag will hold the water for a little while, but eventually this water is going to break through the bag, and the bag will fall apart. We can try to keep the water in the bag, but it won’t work.

(*Hold up the paper bag with the plastic ziplock bag inside.*) This bag has something *new* in it. (*Pour the rest of the water into the plastic ziplock bag inside the paper bag.*) This bag is not breaking, and the water is staying in the bag! That is because I put something new inside this bag—a plastic bag that will hold the water. This is similar to what it is like when God gives us a new heart.

When we live without God, we might feel like everything is OK for a little while, but eventually, everything will start to fall apart. When we ask God for forgiveness and trust in Jesus, God gives us a new heart that helps us know Him, love Him, follow Him, and live the way He created us to live forever! Everyone, say, **“God gives me a new heart!”** (*God gives me a new heart!*)

## Bible Story Video:

**Script:** (*Open the Bible.*) Our story today comes from the book of Jeremiah. That is in the Old Testament, the first part of the Bible. Even though the Bible is 1 big book, there are actually 66 smaller books inside it! Jeremiah was a *prophet*, a person who shared special messages from God. Today, we will look at some of the words from God that Jeremiah spoke to the people of Judah. We will see how Jeremiah gave the people a message about making them totally new. Everyone, say, **“Totally new!”** (*Totally new!*)

Play Bible Story Video.

## Make the Connection:

**Script:** God made a *covenant*, or a special promise, with the people of Judah. God promised He would bless them if they obeyed Him. But the people of Judah did not obey Him—they chose to sin. *Sin* is when we choose to do what *we think* is best rather than follow what *God says* is best. For example, God says kindness is best, but sometimes, we choose to say mean things to our siblings or friends.

Sin caused a big problem for the people of Judah. They lost their land, their money, and their freedom. Jeremiah warned the people of Judah about the bad things to come because of their sins, but his message also gave hope. He talked about a day when God would change people’s hearts and write His name on their hearts. Now, did Jeremiah mean our physical hearts inside our bodies? (*No!*) Instead, Jeremiah used “hearts” to mean the things we think, feel, and want.

The day Jeremiah talked about came when Jesus died on the cross for the sins of the whole world and rose again. Everyone, say, **“God gives me a new heart!”** (*God gives me a new heart!*)

(*Circle one*) Adam and Eve were the first people God created. At first, they lived in a perfect world—there was no sin! People did not *need* new hearts. They lived perfectly—at peace with God.

*(Circle two)* But Adam and Eve sinned, and immediately, the world became broken and sinful. The people in our Bible story could not live perfect lives, and neither can we. We all need a relationship with God and forgiveness for sin, and we need a change in our hearts to make us new again. God knew, even before He created Adam and Eve, that we would all sin and need new hearts. God told Jeremiah He would write His laws on the hearts of His people. This means God Himself helps those who trust Him to obey Him. He knows we cannot obey Him on our own. He also told Jeremiah that He forgives those who trust in Him, and we will be His people forever. That is great news!

*(Circle three)* Jesus is the One who gives us new hearts, forgiveness for our sins, and makes us part of God's family. God sent Jesus, His only Son, to live a perfect life on earth and die on the cross for our sins. Unlike everyone else in the world, Jesus is the only person who can ever live a perfect life. When we trust in Jesus, He takes away all our sins and gives us a new heart. He writes His name on our hearts and makes us His forever. Another reason God changes our hearts when we trust in Jesus is so we can follow Him. If you have any questions about the forgiveness of God and the new heart God gives when you trust in Jesus, your Team Leaders and I would love to talk to you!

## Team Game:

Kids use cups to design new buildings.

**Big Goal:** Celebrate that God changes us, guides us, and leads us.

**Leader Prep:** Set out supplies.

**Supplies:**

Plastic cups 2 per child  
Timer or stopwatch 1 per group

**Script:** Today, we get to see how many buildings we can make by playing "Make It New!" What are we going to play? *(Make It New!)* You and 4 of your teammates will be given 10 plastic cups to build a building. Once you have used all 10 cups and finished the building, take it down and build another. We will set a timer for four minutes. How many minutes? *(Four!)* Keep building new buildings until the time runs out. Count how many buildings you can build during the four minutes. If you are ready, say "Make It new!" *(Make It new!)*

You all had some creative designs for your buildings! What was it like to start over each time? *(Allow kids to answer.)* Thankfully, when God gives us a new heart, it only happens once. After that, He will always guide us, refresh us, and lead us in serving Him. When we trust in Jesus, we are right away and forever changed into something totally new. Everyone, say, "Totally new!" *(Totally new!)*

## Theme Verse Video:

### Theme Verse Motions:

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, *(Point to the sky.)*  
he is a new creation; *(Cross open palms in front of your body, moving upward.)*  
the old has passed away, *(Start with your hands out, right hand facing up and left hand facing down. Flip your hands so that the right hand is facing down and the left hand is facing up.)*  
and see, the new has come! *(Spread your hands in front of body with palms facing up.)*  
2 Corinthians 5:17 *(Hold your hands out like a book.)*

**Script:** We are going to take some time to say the Theme verse to remember Jesus makes us totally new. One way God makes us new is by giving us a new heart when we trust in Jesus. Everyone, say, "God gives me a new heart!" *(God gives me a new heart!)*

Play Theme Verse Video.

**Script:** When we trust in Jesus, we become new creations because God gives us new hearts. He makes us totally new by forgiving our sins and giving us new hearts to love Him, serve Him, and glorify Him.

## Theme Song:

**Script:** God forgives everyone who trusts in Jesus. He makes us all totally new. Everyone, say, "Totally new!" *(Totally new!)* Let's sing about how we are totally new with our Theme song.

Play Theme Song Video.

## Small Groups:

**\*Big Deal/Key Verse Review & Prayer Requests/Prayer Time**

Finish up time in your small group pod by reviewing the Theme for the month, the verse and the "Big Deal" for today's lesson. Ask for prayer requests, pray and wrap up.

## Pick Up Time:

*During this time children may wait around the room while videos play on the screen. There must be a leader at the door to receive parents and a second leader checking tags as they exit the room.*



## Elementary Leader Guide

October 19 –The Warehouse 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>

**Monthly Theme:** I Am Forgiven

**Today's "Big Deal" Theme Tie:** God Gives Me a New Identity

**Bible Story Reference:** Jesus Called Peter (Luke 5:1-11)

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**Small Group Leaders:** Introduce yourself to families you don't know and use this time to welcome kids as they arrive.

Use these questions to help you get to know kids as they arrive. Ministry happens best through relationships. By spending this time with kids at the beginning, you will be able to make stronger connections as you begin teaching about how God knows them!

- *What was the best part of your week?*

- *What day of the week is your favorite?*
- *If you could live on the beach or live in the mountains, which would you choose and why?*
- *What are your favorite things to do during a relaxed night at home?*
- *If you had a time machine, would you rather travel to the past or the future and why? What would you want to see?*

## Countdown Video/ Leader Welcome:

*\*Tweens arrive as countdown video begins.*

**Script:** It is great to have everyone here today! My name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I am so happy to see you! Everyone, turn to a friend next to you, and say, "Totally new!" (*Totally new!*) God makes us totally new when we trust Him! Let's learn more about that today.

## Theme Song/Offering/Worship Song:

Between songs remind children of the purpose for giving an offering. Give them examples of ways the offering contributes to the church and community. Ask students if they know how else our giving reaches out. Then remind them that during the next worship song they can bring their offering forward and drop it into the basket.

*\*Tweens Leave After Worship Song*

## Stage Game:

### **Supplies:**

Buckets 6 per group

Pit balls 100 per group

Hula hoops 6 per group

Pool noodles 6 per group

Plastic cups 6 per group

**Leader Prep:** Set out supplies. Place one bucket for each team on one side of the floor, with the pit balls, hula hoops, and pool noodles on the other side of the floor.

### **Game Rules:**

1. Identify one player from each team to stand next to the team buckets.

2. Explain that the goal of the game is for kids to get as many pit balls in their bucket as they can in two minutes.
3. Tell kids that they can only put one ball in their bucket at a time. Also, they must use a new way of getting their pit balls in their buckets each time.
4. Start the video.
5. See how many balls each kid got in their bucket at the end of the countdown.
6. Declare the player with the most pit balls in the bucket the winner.

**Script:** Today, we are going to play a game in which we try to get pit balls into buckets in different ways. We will pick one person from each team to show us how many ways they can get these pit balls into their team's bucket. *(Select one kid from each team.)*

You will have two minutes to get as many pit balls in your bucket as you can, but there is one catch. You have to get your pit balls across the front and into your bucket in a *totally new way* each time! Everyone, say, "Totally new!" *(Totally new!)* You can carry your pit ball to the bucket, push your pit ball with the pool noodle, kick the pit ball across, or push the pit ball with your hula hoops. But once you choose an object or new way to get your pit balls into your bucket, you cannot use that object or way again. You must then find a totally new way! Let's see how many different ways you can get your pit balls to your buckets.

Let's get this game started! If you are your team's representative, go to the side by the pit balls and decide how you want to get your pit ball to the bucket first. Remember, you can only use each object and way one time. Once you have used your hands or your feet, you can't use them anymore to touch the ball. However, you can keep using your hands to hold your pool noodle, hula hoop, and cup. You can keep using your feet to walk to the buckets. For the rest of the teams, cheer for your teammates! Let's get this countdown going and start the game! Count down with me! 3-2-1!

Play Stage Game Video.

**Script:** You came up with some creative ways to get your pit balls in your buckets! It is fun to be creative and think of new ways we can do things. Today, we are going to talk about how we become totally new when we trust in Jesus. We become totally new because God forgives all our sins. *Sin* is when we choose to do what we think is best rather than follow what *God* says is best. For example, God says honoring our parents is best, but sometimes, we choose to disobey them. God completely forgives our sins when we trust in Jesus. Everyone, say, "I am forgiven!" *(I am forgiven!)*



If you could choose between being a world-famous scientist, inventor, or a world-famous action star, which would you choose? Let me hear your answer in 3-2-1! (*Allow response.*) No matter which you chose, we get to watch a video featuring both! Get our video started by saying, “Totally New Challenge!” in 3-2-1! (*Totally New Challenge!*)

Play Main Idea Video.

**Script:** That totally new action challenge was totally awesome! Say, “Totally awesome!” (*Totally awesome!*) Even more awesome is the truth that God gives us a new identity when we trust in Him. Say, “**God gives me a new identity!**” (*God gives me a new identity!*) When we follow God and receive His forgiveness, He makes us totally new. He calls us His children and says we are a part of His family forever! That is good news! Everyone, say, “Totally new!” (*Totally new!*)

## Object Lesson:

### Supplies:

Yearbook 1 per group

Bible 1 per group

**Script:** This is a yearbook. If your picture is in a yearbook, it shows people who you are by showing your name, grade, and what school you attend. People can identify you by looking at your picture in a yearbook. If you go to a different school, your picture will be in a different yearbook. So, people will identify you with a different school. Your identity in a yearbook is temporary since you will finish at that school one day.

When we ask God for forgiveness, He gives us a completely new identity that will last forever. He takes away all our sins: all the times we choose to do what we think is best rather than follow what God says is best. When we ask God for forgiveness and believe in and follow Him, we become His children. He makes us totally new and gives us a new identity. Everyone, say, “**God gives me a new identity!**” (*God gives me a new identity!*) This identity will not change like your picture in a yearbook if you go to a new school. The identity God gives you, as His child, lasts forever!

## Bible Story Video:

**Script:** (*Open the Bible.*) The Bible story we will hear is written in two books of the Bible—Matthew and Luke. Even though the Bible is 1 big book, it is filled with 66 individual books that all teach us about God. The books of Matthew and Luke are in the New Testament, which is the

second part of the Bible. Matthew and Luke's books *both* tell us about Jesus' life on earth and how He changes our lives. The story today tells us we are totally new when we trust in Jesus. Everyone, say, "Totally new!" (*Totally new!*)

Play Bible Story Video.

## Make the Connection:

**Script:** Peter's life changed in a major way when he met Jesus on the shore that day. One night Peter went out fishing as usual, and he ended up leaving his normal life behind to follow Jesus. Jesus' miracle showed Peter that Jesus is *holy*. That means Jesus is set apart and different than anyone else because He is God's Son. Peter also recognized he was a sinner who needed a new identity. God gave Peter a new identity as a child of God right away when Peter chose to follow Jesus. Just like Peter, God gives all of us a new identity when we trust in Jesus. Everyone, say, "**God Gives Me a New Identity!**" (*God Gives Me a New Identity!*)

(*Circle one*) When God created the world, the first people—Adam and Eve—had a perfect identity as God's children. Everything was perfect. People knew God, knew they were His, and spent time with Him.

(*Circle two*) Then, people chose to go their own way, and sin entered the world. *Sin* is when we choose to do what we think is best rather than follow what *God* says is best. God's original design was for people's identity to be God's child and be perfect, but sin broke that identity. People turned away from following God and living as His children. Even when we try really hard to do good things, we still make wrong and sinful choices. We need Someone to rescue us from sin and give us a new identity as children of God.

(*Circle three*) God knew all of this was going to happen before He even created the world. He had a plan to give those who trust in Him new identities and make us His people again. Jesus was that plan. God sent His Son, Jesus, to come to earth and live a perfect, sinless life. Even though Jesus did nothing wrong, He took on all our sin when He died on the cross.

Thankfully, the story does not stop there. Jesus came back to life on the third day after He died, giving everyone the chance to trust in Him and be forgiven of sin. Everyone, say, "I am forgiven!" (*I am forgiven!*)

Peter's life was instantly changed when he met Jesus, and Jesus instantly changes our lives too when we put our trust in Him. Jesus told Peter that from then on, his job would be to fish for

people—to help other people know Jesus and believe Jesus is the Son of God. Peter gave up everything in his life to follow Jesus, even the job he relied on to provide money! God offers us that same identity when we trust and follow Jesus.

When we trust and follow Jesus, we can still enjoy many of the things we did before. If you are a soccer player, a middle child, a good singer, or a helpful friend, all of those are still true. But the most important part of your identity is that you are a follower of Jesus. Come talk to me or a Team Leader if you would like to learn more about the new identity God has for you in Jesus. We would love to talk to you!

## Team Game:

Kids try to guess their new names as other kids give them clues.

**Big Goal:** Celebrate that God gives us new identities.

**Leader Prep:** Use paper and tape to create name tags.

### **Supplies:**

Blank paper 1 per child

Marker 1 per group

Masking or painter's tape 1 per group

**Script:** God gave Peter a new identity, and He wants to give all of us new identities as well. We know our real identities come from God, but today, we are going to pretend to give you *new* identities. A leader will give you *pretend* new names! You will get a name tag with your *new* name on your back, but do not look at it!

Ask kids around you for clues to help you guess your new name. When you think you know your name, take a guess. Here is the first clue for everyone: your first name is a color, and your last name is a type of fruit. When you guess your new name, move your name tag to the front of your shirt and tell us if you like the color or the fruit in your name. Let's see what your new names are!

### *Suggested New Names:*

*Green Banana*

*Orange Pumpkin*

*Purple Grape*

*Yellow Apple*

Red Blueberry

Pink Raspberry

Blue Tangerine

Teal Watermelon

Brown Orange

Silver Lemon

**Keep It Going:** Allow kids to play another round by using different categories for their first and last names.

**Script:** Was it hard to guess your new names? *(Allow kids to answer.)* People around you knew your names because they could see your name tags. These names will not last forever, and you will go right back to your normal name when you leave here. When God gives us a new identity, it *does* last forever! No one can change it or take it away from you! Everyone, say, **“God gives me a new identity!”** *(God gives me a new identity!)*

## Theme Verse Video:

### **Theme Verse Motions:**

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, *(Point to the sky.)*

he is a new creation; *(Cross open palms in front of your body, moving upward.)*

the old has passed away, *(Start with your hands out, right hand facing up and left hand facing down. Flip your hands so that the right hand is facing down and the left hand is facing up.)*

and see, the new has come! *(Spread your hands in front of body with palms facing up.)*

2 Corinthians 5:17 *(Hold your hands out like a book.)*

**Script:** Let’s say a verse now to help us remember that God makes everyone who trusts in Jesus totally new. Everyone, say, **“Totally new!”** *(Totally new!)*

Play Theme Verse Video.

**Script:** God makes us “a new creation” when we trust in Jesus. This means we have a new identity as children of God because the sin in our lives no longer defines us. God makes us His; no one can ever change that!

## Theme Song:

**Script:** Everyone who trusts in Jesus is forgiven. Everyone, say, “I am forgiven!” (*I am forgiven!*)  
When we believe in Jesus, we are forgiven and given a new identity as children of God. Let’s sing about this wonderful news in our Theme song!

Play Theme Song Video.

## Small Groups:

**\*Big Deal/Key Verse Review & Prayer Requests/Prayer Time**

Finish up time in your small group pod by reviewing the Theme for the month, the verse and the “Big Deal” for today’s lesson. Ask for prayer requests, pray and wrap up.

## Pick Up Time:

*During this time children may wait around the room while videos play on the screen. There must be a leader at the door to receive parents and a second leader checking tags as the exit the room.*



## Elementary Leader Guide

October 26 –**The Warehouse 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>**

**Monthly Theme:** I Am Forgiven

**Today’s “Big Deal” Theme Tie:** God Gives Me a New Hope

**Bible Story Reference:** Joel, the Prophet to Judah (Joel 1–3)

*\*Previews of all videos listed below can be found on the Teacher Resource Page in the corresponding digital media folder.*

## Arrival & Small Groups

Upon arrival children will go to their designated pod based on their grade level for small group connections time. Each “pod” will have a leader waiting for them to begin connections conversations to start the morning.

**Small Group Leaders:** Introduce yourself to families you don’t know and use this time to welcome kids as they arrive.

Use these questions to help you get to know kids as they arrive. Ministry happens best through relationships. By spending this time with kids at the beginning, you will be able to make stronger connections as you begin teaching about how God knows them!

- *What was the best part of your week?*
- *What is your favorite thing about fall?*
- *If you could have night vision to see everything in the dark or supersonic hearing to hear miles away, which would you choose and why?*
- *What snacks would you grab if you were going on a road trip?*
- *What planet would you visit if you knew you could visit safely and return home?*

## Countdown Video/ Leader Welcome:

*\*Tweens arrive as countdown video begins.*

**Script:** Hello! My name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I am so happy to see you here today! We will spend some time talking today about how great it is that God makes us totally new. Everyone, stand up, turn around in a circle, and say, “Totally new!” (*Totally new!*) Sit down, turn to a friend, and say, “Let’s go!” (*Let’s go!*)

## Theme Song/Offering/Worship Song:

Between songs remind children of the purpose for giving an offering. Give them examples of ways the offering contributes to the church and community. Ask students if they know how else our giving reaches out. Then remind them that during the next worship song they can bring their offering forward and drop it into the basket.

*\*Tweens Leave After Worship Song*

# Stage Game:

## **Supplies:**

Table tennis balls 60–80 per group

Buckets 4 per group

Stopwatch or timer 1 per group

**Leader Prep:** Place several table tennis balls in two buckets, placing them in the middle of the front. Place the two empty buckets on the far sides of the front, aligned with the table tennis buckets in the middle.

## **Game Rules:**

1. Select one kid from each team to come to the front, grouping together Red, Orange, and Yellow players on one team and Green, Blue, and Purple players on the other team. Line up each team between the buckets with one player by the table tennis bucket, one player 3 feet away from the empty bucket, and one player in between.
2. Start a 30-second timer.
3. Direct players closest to the table tennis buckets to bounce a table tennis ball to their teammates in the middle. Middle players will pass the table tennis balls to the third players. Players closest to the empty buckets will shoot the table tennis balls into their empty buckets.
4. Play for 30 seconds.
5. Call, “Move!” at the end of the time, then restart another 30-second timer.
6. Instruct players to switch places with their teammates when you call, “Move!” with the players near the table tennis buckets moving to the middle spots, players in the middle spots moving to the “empty” buckets, and players by the “empty” buckets moving to the table tennis buckets.
7. Call, “Move!” at the end of the time, then restart another 30-second timer.
8. Instruct players to switch one last time.
9. Call time and count the table tennis balls that successfully made it into the “empty” bucket. Declare that team as the winner.

**Script:** It is time to play “Bounce, Pass, Shoot!” What are we playing? (*Bounce, Pass, Shoot!*) I will invite one player from each team to join me at the front. (*Select one player from each team, assigning the Red, Orange, and Yellow players to one team and Blue, Green, and Purple players to the other team.*)

This will be a head-to-head competition between these two teams. One player from each team will stand near the buckets filled with table tennis balls in the middle. Another player from each team will stand about three feet away from the empty buckets. And the final player from each team will stand between your teammates. (*Assist kids with getting place.*)

I will set a timer for 30 seconds. How many seconds? (*30!*) The players nearest the buckets with the table tennis balls will bounce them one at a time to your teammate in the middle. When that player catches one, you will turn and pass it to your next teammate. When that player catches it, you will shoot it into your bucket. If any players miss, you just keep going!

But there is a twist! Everyone, say, “Ooo, a twist!” (*Ooo, a twist!*) At the end of the 30-second timer, I will call, “Move!”

When I do, the players by the buckets will move to take the place of the players in the middle. The players in the middle will move to take the place of the players who are shooting the table tennis balls into the buckets. And those players will hurry over and take the place of the players who were bouncing.

You will want to move fast because I will be starting the timer again right away. And then, at the end of another 30 seconds, I will call, “Move!” again and the players will move again, playing the last positions that they have not yet played. Players, if you have got it, give me a thumbs-up and say, “Got it!” (*Got it!*) The team with the most table tennis balls in its bucket at the end wins!

For those of us not playing the game, let’s cheer on our teammates and help them count how many times they get the table tennis balls in your Color Team bucket. If you are ready, say, “I’m ready!” in 3-2-1! (*I’m ready!*)

Our winners are the players from the \_\_\_\_ Teams! Let’s cheer for all our players as they return to their seats. (*Allow time.*) Great job working as a team to bounce, pass, and shoot! The game was challenging because you really wanted to get those table tennis balls into your team bucket, but you were not totally in control. You had to count on other people to make it happen. Today, we are going to talk about the truth that, no matter how hard we try, we cannot love and follow God on our own. But there is good news! Everyone, say, “Good news!” (*Good news!*) The good news is that we can count on God to forgive us and make the way for us to have a relationship with Him. Everyone, say, “I am forgiven!” (*I am forgiven!*)



It is time for action! We get to see the best, most incredible, super intense—but still safe—action-packed event called “The Totally New Challenge” Wow, that’s a mouthful! If you are ready for the action, let me hear you say, “I’m ready!” (*I’m ready!*)

Play Main Idea Video.

**Script:** We know we should *not* try and break the world free fall record, even if we have feathers or a parachute. Like Jet Viper, we may think we know what will happen, but we cannot be sure! One thing we can be sure of is the hope we have because of God’s forgiveness. *Hope* means trusting that something good will happen. We have hope when we have confidence that God will keep all of His promises to us because He is in control. When we experience the forgiveness only God can give, we have a new hope that we get to live with Him now and forever. Say, “**God gives me a new hope!**” (*God gives me a new hope!*)

## Object Lesson:

### **Supplies:**

Bible 1 per group

Bag of candy 1 per group

“Allergy Alert” printable 1 per group

Small toys 1 per child (optional)

**Script:** (*Hold up one piece of candy.*) If I told you I had one piece of candy, who would want it? (*Allow responses.*) If I gave it to only one of you, you would be really excited, but there would be a whole lot of people disappointed. (*Hold up the entire bag of candy.*) Thankfully, our relationship with God is like a whole bag of candy! No one will ever be disappointed because there is always enough for everyone! Ask, “Enough what?” (*Enough what?*) There is enough of God’s love, enough of God’s help, and enough of God’s forgiveness! When we experience forgiveness through Jesus and start a new relationship with God, He gives us a new hope. We trust that God makes us His children, and know that He gives us life forever with Him.

Sometimes life gets hard, and sometimes we sin. *Sin* is when we choose to do what we think is best rather than follow what *God* says is best. For example, God says showing respect to teachers is best, but sometimes, we are disrespectful. When we believe in Jesus and follow Him, we have a new hope because God is always with us, and He always forgives us when we ask. Everyone, say, “**God gives me a new hope!**” (*God gives me a new hope!*) When we believe in Jesus, we can have this new hope of life with God now and forever! This is great news because we can always look forward to His love and forgiveness. We know we can have hope in

God, and we can trust Him to always be loving, faithful, and the God who keeps His promises. The hope we have in God is so much better than any hope we could have in this world.

## **Bible Story Video:**

**Script:** (*Open the Bible.*) Today, we are going to talk about a man named Joel. He was a *prophet*, a person who shared special messages from God. Joel was given special messages from God to share with God's people. Our story comes from all three chapters in the book of Joel. Joel is one of many smaller books that make up the entire big book of the Bible. The book of Joel is in the Old Testament—the first part of the Bible. Let's see what Joel says about God making us totally new. Everyone, say, "Totally new!" (*Totally new!*)

Play Bible Story Video.

## **Make the Connection:**

**Script:** God's people were doing what they wanted to do, and they deserved judgment and punishment for their sins. *Sin* is when we choose to do what we think is best rather than follow what God says is best. God's people deserved judgment and punishment for their sin, but God also offered them forgiveness. After Joel gave his special message from God to His people, they turned away from their sins and asked God to forgive them. When God forgives us instead of punishing us, this is called *mercy*. When God gives us love we do not deserve, this is called *grace*.

(*Circle one*) When God created people, they did not need forgiveness because they were not sinful. There was no judgment for people because everything was perfect. People did what God wanted and lived at peace with Him.

(*Circle two*) Sadly, that peace was gone once sin entered the world. *Sin* is when we do what we think is best instead of following God's best. Like the first people, Adam and Eve, the people Joel gave his message to sinned; they did not do what God wanted them to do. Because God is a good, right, and fair, He could not ignore the people's sins.

(*Circle three*) Thankfully, God also shows grace and mercy to those who turn to Him. Before God even created people, He knew they would sin and follow their own desires. But God had a plan for us—Jesus, God's only Son, came to earth and lived a perfect life. Then, He died on the cross to take the judgment, or punishment, for our sins. Jesus rose again on the third day, ultimately conquering sin and death. God gives His grace, mercy, forgiveness, and love through Jesus.

When we believe in and follow Him, we can be forgiven forever. We can have hope and look forward to life now and forever with God because of our forgiveness. Everyone, say, "I am forgiven!" (*I am forgiven!*) Because those in Christ are forgiven, we have a new life in God now and forever. If you would like to hear more about the new hope God gives, please come talk to me or your Team Leader. We would love to talk about it with you!

## Team Game:

Kids throw cotton balls in plastic cups.

**Big Goal:** Remember that we are forgiven when we trust and follow Jesus.

**Leader Prep:** Set out supplies. Tape lines on the floor for kids to stand behind.

### **Supplies:**

Plastic cups 1 per group  
Cotton balls 5 per child  
Masking tape 1 per group  
Timer or stopwatch 1 per group  
Trash can 1 per group

**Script:** Today, we are going to play a game to help us remember God forgives all our sins when we trust and follow Jesus. Everyone, say, "I am forgiven!" (*I am forgiven!*) Everyone will be given five cotton balls. How many cotton balls will we each get? (*Five!*) Yes! Now, stand behind the line and throw your cotton balls into the plastic cup. You will have some challenges, though! Everyone, say, "Challenges?" (*Challenges?*) Yes, challenges! I'll pick three people to stand between you and the cup. These people will try to stop your cotton balls from getting into the cup. If you are up for the challenge, say, "I'm up for the challenge!" (*I'm up for the challenge!*) Look at how full our cup is! (*Hold up the cup full of cotton balls.*) These cotton balls represent our sin; we do not want to keep them. We may try *not* to sin, but no matter how hard we try, we cannot be perfect. Jesus is the only One who ever lived a perfect life. Thankfully, God forgives our sins when we trust and follow Jesus. This means when we believe in Jesus and ask God for forgiveness, all the sins we did in the past, all the sins we do now, and all the sins we will do in the future are forgiven forever! Like our sins are gone forever, let's get rid of these cotton balls for good by throwing them in the trash. (*Allow kids to throw the cotton balls in the trash can.*)

## Theme Verse Video:

### Theme Verse Motions:

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, *(Point to the sky.)*

he is a new creation; *(Cross open palms in front of your body, moving upward.)*

the old has passed away, *(Start with your hands out, right hand facing up and left hand facing down. Flip your hands so that the right hand is facing down and the left hand is facing up.)*

and see, the new has come! *(Spread your hands in front of body with palms facing up.)*

2 Corinthians 5:17 *(Hold your hands out like a book.)*

**Script:** Now, we will take some time to learn a verse about how God makes us totally new when we trust and follow Jesus. Everyone, say, "Totally new!" *(Totally new!)*

Play Theme Verse Kids.

**Script:** God gives us a new hope when we trust and follow Jesus because He makes us a new creation. We become totally new because all our sins are forgiven; they are gone forever so we can have a new life with Jesus forever!

## Theme Song:

**Script:** Let's sing a song about how God forgives all our sins and makes us totally new when we trust and follow Jesus. Everyone, say, "I am forgiven!" *(I am forgiven!)* This is a pretty amazing truth to sing about!

Play Theme Song Video.

## Small Groups:

\*Big Deal/Key Verse Review & Prayer Requests/Prayer Time

Finish up time in your small group pod by reviewing the Theme for the month, the verse and the "Big Deal" for today's lesson. Ask for prayer requests, pray and wrap up.

## Pick Up Time:

*During this time children may wait around the room while videos play on the screen. There must be a leader at the door to receive parents and a second leader checking tags as they exit the room.*