

Lesson Plan

August 31st, 2025

This Month's Truth: I am Designed for a Purpose

Bible Story: New life in Jesus (Colossians 3)

Game Changer Theme Verse: For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:23)

Teachers rally with your team a few minutes before kids start to arrive: Rally is a pre-service time for you to be expectant and equipped before the kids start arriving. Go over the lesson and any ideas for the day! Pray over your space and for the kids that will be coming that they will be connected to the person of Jesus!

Celebrate: Share a story of seeing God at work in your life or the life of one of the volunteers.

Connect: What steps can you take to live in a way that points others to God? (Share your own story, or invite volunteers to share.)

Read: Colossians 3:23-24

Share: In our Game Changer session this week, we will teach from Colossians 3, where Paul wrote that we have a new life in Jesus. (Read Colossians 3:23-24.) Kids will learn that we are broken because of sin, yet God offers us a relationship with Him and a new way to live through Jesus.

Pray: Lead the group in prayer, asking God to help kids understand and believe that they can be made new through Jesus.

Pre Service

Arrival time, please use either one of these options as kids arrive for the morning to build relationships with kids and encourage them to build relationships with one another.

Option # 1: Connection Questions

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 something you like to do in school and why?

- Would you rather only be able to whisper or only be able to shout? Why?
- What is one thing you would love to never have to do again for the rest of your life?
- If you could pick a toy, stuffed animal, or video game character to come to life for a day, which would it be and what would you do together?

Service

What To Do:

- **Teacher** Start 5-minute countdown **5 minutes prior to service start time**. The Countdown Video is meant to be played as a signal to transition to Large Group. The video is fun and interactive with opportunities for the kids to respond and cheer. Help kids engage and interact with the video by calling out what's happening, asking for their guesses, and cheering with them.

Teacher Opener: Helllloooooo, friends! If you're ready for a game-changing kind of day, let me hear you say, "Oh, yeah!" (*Oh, yeah!*) My name is _____, and I'm pumped because—you guessed it—today is Game Changer! Let's get started with an awesome game!

Pencil Flip

Game Rules:

1. Split your group into two teams.
2. Choose one player from each team to join you on stage.
3. Give each player one pencil. Instruct players to hold out one hand (palm down), and place a pencil on the back of their hands.
4. Start the countdown video. Players will quickly flip up their hands then try to catch the pencil.
5. Declare the winner as the first player to catch the pencil before time runs out.
6. Allow kids to compete to catch the pencil first in the event of a tie.

What You Say: For our game today, I'm going to split you all into two teams (do this either by grades, ages, gender, etc.). I need a volunteer from each team! These volunteers will need to have really fast reflexes! If you want to be chosen, jump up in the air as quickly as you can! Wow, some of you were really fast! (Choose two volunteers.)

This game is called "Pencil Flip." What's it called? (Pencil Flip!) Each player will balance one pencil on the back of her hand. On "Go," you will flip your hand over and try to catch your

pencil. Each time you catch it, give yourself a point! After 60 seconds, the player with the most points will win points for your team! Ready?

Leader Tip: Allow kids to have one practice round to get the feel for the game. Instruct players to play one more time in the event of a tie, declaring the first player to flip and catch the pencil as the winner.

What You Say: Wow, those pencils were really flipping, but our players did a great job at catching them! Congratulations to _____! You all were expert pencil flippers! Awesome! (Direct players to sit back down.)

Keep It Going: Play another round with players using their non-dominant hand.

What You Say: Who remembers what that game was called? (Pencil flip) Where do we use pencils the most? (Allow for answers.) One place I always used pencils was at school! What is really cool about the start of the school year is that you get to start over completely new. At the beginning of a new year, everything is exactly that—new! The tough moments from last year can be put behind you, and you can start fresh. Today, we are learning that God makes us new. When we trust in Jesus, we find a new life, and we can live in a new way. God makes who new? (God makes you new!)

Transition Script to go into the Intro Video: God designing us for a purpose is a Game Changer! Let's watch the Game Changer Game Show to see what the contestants will have to do today! Yell, "Game Changer" to start the video in 3-2-1! (Game Changer!)

Play Intro Video

What You Say: That was awesome! I'm excited to keep learning with you about how God makes us new. Everybody, say, "New life!" (New life!) Awesome! When we trust in Jesus, we are made new! That is really good, game-changing news!

Worship

What You Say: Come on up front and let's worship together!

What To Do:

- Turn lights off
- 2-3 songs of worship
- **Teachers and Small Group Leaders worship with the kids, modeling what it looks like to give God our praise. Stand in the front of the room, or next to the kids- but not in the back.**
- Dismiss the kids back to their seats when the songs are over

Bible Story Video

Transition script Teachers please use this to set-up the Bible Story and to encourage the use of Bibles in the classroom with the Kids: Today, we are reading from the Bible, God's true message to us about Himself. In our Bible story today, a man named Paul wrote a letter to people in a place called Colossae (koh LAHS sih). Everyone, say, "Colossae"! (Colossae!) In this letter, Paul talked about God's purpose for our lives. Let's hear our Bible story in 3-2-1!

What To Do:

- Play the Bible Story
- When it's over, turn lights back on and ask what the Bible story was about (as well as the questions below), have kids respond, take some answers from the **small group leaders** and share some yours as well, use the script below to help make the connection for the kids.

Questions to consider asking after the video:

- What is something that you learned about God from the video?
- What is something that you learned about people?
- What can you take away from the video?
 - How can you apply the lesson from today into your life?

Making The Connection Script: (Open the Bible.) Wow! Isn't it cool that God created the world and everything in it? Isn't it even cooler how that same God created us too? God cares for us and designs us for a specific purpose. Like we saw in our Bible story, when we love and follow Jesus, we become a part of God's special people. This means we are holy and loved by Him—not because of anything we do on our own but because of what Jesus did for us. Because of sin, our lives are broken without Jesus. We make choices that hurt others, hurt us, and hurt God. Even when we try our very best, we still can't live perfectly. God loved us so much that He didn't want to leave us in our brokenness! He made a way for us to have a new

life—through Jesus! Jesus took the punishment that we deserve by dying in our place. But Jesus didn't stay dead! He beat sin and death and rose again! We have a new life in Him!

When we trust and follow Jesus, He makes us new. Ask, "What does that mean?" (What does that mean?) Being made new means that we are different. God forgives our sin and heals our brokenness. He helps us live in a new way, living out the purpose God designed us for us—to honor Him and show people His love. We are designed for a purpose, and that purpose is to glorify God! What a game-changing way to live! God makes who new? (God makes you new!) Let's watch this video to learn more about how Jesus changes the game for us!

Play Three Circles Video:

What You Say: Life with Jesus leads us to live out the purpose God designed us for. He makes us new so we can enjoy Him, point others to Him, and show people His love. If you want to know more about this new life, find me or your Small Group Leader. We would love to talk with you more about how you can have a new life in Jesus!

Offering

What To Do:

- Play video explaining offering to kids
- Play offering time video while kids pass the bucket
- Ask a student(s) to come up and pray over the offering

Theme Verse Review:

Choose between the Video-Led Theme Verse option or the Host-Led Theme Verse option.

Theme Verse Motions: For the wages of sin (Hold your left palm face up and slide right hand over it in a back-and-forth motion as a sign for money.)

is death, (Make an X with your arms in front of your chest.)

but the gift of God (Hold both your palms up, and extend your arms forward.)

is eternal life (Throw your hands in the air, and jump around.)

in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Touch each palm with the middle finger of the opposite hand.)

Romans 6:23 (Bring your hands together to make a Bible.)

Option #1: Put the memory verse slide on the screen.

What You Say: Let's learn our Game Changer Theme verse! We're learning this together because it comes from the Bible—God's Word! The Bible is God's true message to us about Himself. It is true and important. God tells us to know His Word so that we can know Him how to follow Him. This verse shows us what new life with God is like!

Repeat after me: (Use the motions above.)
For the wages of sin (For the wages of sin)
is death, (is death,)
but the gift of God (but the gift of God)
is eternal life (is eternal life)
in Christ Jesus our Lord. (in Christ Jesus our Lord.)
Romans 6:23 (Romans 6:23)

Well done, friends! I have an idea! Let's say the first part in a sad voice and the last part in a happy voice to celebrate!

For the wages of sin (For the wages of sin)
is death, (is death,)
but the gift of God (but the gift of God)
is eternal life (is eternal life)
in Christ Jesus our Lord. (in Christ Jesus our Lord.)
Romans 6:23 (Romans 6:23)

Forever life with God is a gift that we're given when we trust and follow Jesus! That new and forever life starts right when we decide to follow Him. God has designed each of us for a purpose—to love Him more and to help others do the same. What a gift!

Option #2: Play Memory verse video

What You Say: Let's learn our Game Changer Theme verse! We're learning this together because it comes from the Bible—God's Word! The Bible is God's true message to us about Himself. It is true and important. God tells us to know His Word so we can know how to live. This verse shows us what new life with God is like! Let's begin in 3-2-1!

Play Memory Verse Video

What You Say: Forever life with God is a gift that we're given when we trust and follow Jesus! That new and forever life starts right when we decide to follow Him. God has designed each of us for a purpose—to love Him more and to help others do the same. What a gift!

Large Group Closing:

What You Say: I've got a question for you! God made who new? (God made you new!) That's right, we are each designed for a purpose, and that purpose is to know and love God and help others do the same! This is the new life the Bible tells us about! That is a Game Changer! Let's pray in 3-2-1.

Closing Prayer: God, we love You, and we want to know You more. Thank You for making us new. We know we don't deserve it and still aren't perfect, but we thank You for loving us all the same. Help us point others to You and show them your love. In Jesus' name, amen.

Transition to Small Group Time: Split the kids into small groups. This can be done either by age, grade, or gender.

Small Group Time:

Option #1: Connection Questions

What To Do: Jesus changes the game by giving us new life! Let's group up and talk about that together!

1. Have you ever broken something and gotten something new to replace it? Tell me about that time. (Allow kids to answer, and share your own answer.)
2. When something is recycled, it is made into something new. How can this remind us about our new life in Jesus? (Recycled things can be made into something new, and so can we!)
3. The Bible tells us we are designed for a purpose, and God makes us new. Let's open our Bibles to Colossians 3:23-24 and read about it together. (Invite kids to open their Bibles. Read the passage aloud, or invite a kid who volunteers to read the passage aloud. Be sure to have Bibles available for kids who need one. Help kids find the passage so everyone can follow along together.) Who should we do things for—people or God? Why? (Guide kids to the correct answer: God, but reasons may include because when

Community Big Kids

we believe in Jesus, God changes our hearts to do things from the heart; we want to give God, not people, glory; God wants us to love and serve Him, and so forth.)

4. Where does new life come from? (New life comes from Jesus.) Do you have any questions about what new life in Jesus looks like? (Allow kids to answer.)
5. The Bible tells us that new life in Jesus lets us live out the purpose we were designed for. What is something you learned today? Is there anything you have questions about? (Allow kids to answer, and share your own answer.)

Option #2: Theme Verse Memory Match

What To Do: Who thinks you have a good memory? (Allow kids to answer.) Perfect! You'll need one for this next game! We'll form teams of two kids, and each team will work together to find matching cards for each word of the Theme verse. One teammate at a time will flip over two cards. If the cards are a match, you can remove them from the grid and set them aside for later.

If they are not a match, flip them back over. Continue doing this until you find matches for all the words. Once you have found all the matches, grab one card of each word, and work together to put the words in order. The first team to find all the matches and put the words of the Theme verse in the correct order wins! If you're ready, say, "I'm ready!" (I'm ready!)

Leader Tip: Ensure kids are taking turns and letting all kids participate as they play. Use a marker to dot a color or a shape on the bottom corner of each card so early readers can match up colors or shapes instead of words.

Loud And Clear: Wow, you found those matches so quickly! When you messed up, there was always another turn for you to flip over the correct card. In life, sin causes brokenness—it is kind of like a bunch of mess-ups in the game—but God makes us new. He gives us new life in Jesus. Even when we mess up, we can find forgiveness and love—not because of anything we've done but because of Jesus!

Option #3: Activity Page

What To Do: This activity page helps us remember some big things we've learned about today. As you color and work on activities, talk to a friend about some of your favorite parts of our time together.

Leader Tip: This is a great time to get to know the kids better. You can ask them what they remember about the Bible story, or you can remind them that God is always with them, no matter what. Followers of Jesus are never alone because the Holy Spirit is always with them!

Loud And Clear: Even when we feel alone, we can know that God is always with us. Jesus made a way for us to have a relationship with God, and He promised everyone who follows Him that the Holy Spirit will be with us. Because of Jesus, we are never alone! Jesus changes the game!

Close out in prayer:

What To Do:

- Ask for any specific prayer requests
- Pray with the group
- Lead the group in the prayer below.

What You Say: God, thank You for giving us new life when we trust and follow You. Help us love You more and point others to do the same. Thank You for having a good purpose and plan for our lives. Help us trust You and obey You each day. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

Dismissal:

Leader Tip: Work with your team to dismiss the kids in a fun, manageable, and safe way. As kids leave, make sure they have all of the crafts and papers. Share with the person picking them up something positive you observed today. Invite them back next week.