**Lesson Plan**

October 19th, 2025

**This Month’s Truth:** I Am Forgiven

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

**Theme Verse:** Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, and see, the new has come! (2 Corinthians 5:17)

**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!

**Share:** In today’s Bible story from Luke 5, Jesus calls Peter to be His disciple. (Read Luke 5:10b-11.) Jesus asked Peter to take Him out in his boat so the crowd could hear Him better. When He finished teaching, Jesus told Peter to cast his net into the water. Peter caught so many fish his net began to break. Kids will learn that Peter chose to turn away from his old life and bad decisions and follow Jesus. Kids can turn away from their bad choices and trust that Jesus really is the Son of God! When we make that choice, God gives us a new identity.

**Pray:** Lead the group in prayer, thanking God for the team and inviting Him to work in big ways in the hearts of kids today.

**Pre Service**

**Arrival time, please use this time to build relationships with kids and encourage them to build relationships with one another.**

**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:** 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.

**Four Favorite Corners**

**What To Do:** It is time to find out some of our favorites by playing “Four Favorite Corners!” What game are we playing? (Four Favorite Corners!) I will call out four different things in the same category and assign each thing to a different corner of the room. Decide which you like most and walk to that corner of the room. Once you are there, tell your other teammates in that corner why you chose that option.

**Category and Item Examples:**

Seasons: fall, winter, spring, summer

Colors: red, blue, green, yellow

Food: chocolate, apples, pizza, cheese

Ways to Travel: plane, car, train, bike

Toppings on Pizza: pepperoni, sausage, pineapple, only cheese

Ice Cream Flavor: vanilla, chocolate, cookies and cream, mint

Animal: dog, bunny, elephant, monkey

**Keep It Going:** Play multiple rounds by inviting kids to come up with their own categories for the corners.

**Leader Tip:** Join in and walk to the corners of your favorites as well!

**Connect It:** It was fun to learn about what everyone likes! Did you learn anything new about anyone? (Allow kids to answer.)

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!)

**Transition Script to go into the Intro Video:** 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 Intro Video**

**What You Say:** 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!)

**Worship**

**What You Say:** Let’s all come up front and 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:** (Open the Bible to Luke 5:1-11.) 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!)

**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:** 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 from 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!)

**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:** 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.)

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

**What You Say:** 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!)

Repeat after me: (Use the motions above.)

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, (Therefore, if anyone is in Christ,)

he is a new creation; (he is a new creation;)

the old has passed away, (the old has passed away,)

and see, the new has come! (and see, the new has come!)

2 Corinthians 5:17 (2 Corinthians 5:17)

That was wonderful! Let’s say the verse again. This time let’s pretend to be ninjas while we say the verse. Spread out, and show us your best ninja moves as we say the words.

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, (Therefore, if anyone is in Christ,)

he is a new creation; (he is a new creation;)

the old has passed away, (the old has passed away,)

and see, the new has come! (and see, the new has come!)

2 Corinthians 5:17 (2 Corinthians 5:17)

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!

**Option #2:** Play Memory verse video

**What You Say:** 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 Memory Verse Video**

**What You Say:** 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!

**Large Group Closing:**

**What You Say:** God forgives all our sins when we trust in Jesus. He takes our old, sinful lives away and gives us a new identity. Everyone, say, “God gives me a new identity!” (God gives me a new identity!) When we trust in Jesus, our sins are forgiven forever, and our new identity lasts forever! We will always be God’s children! This is a great truth to remember! Let’s spend some time thanking Him for our new and forever identity in Him.

**Closing Prayer:** God, thank You for forgiving all our sins when we trust in Jesus. Thank You for taking our sin away forever and giving us a new identity as Your child. Help us remember our identity is always in You. Help us to follow You each day as You change our lives. 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:** Now let’s take some time talking about what it looks like when God makes us totally new

1. What are some different identities people might give you, like brother, friend, classmate, and so forth? Who identifies you as those different roles? (Allow kids to answer.)
2. A yearbook shows you are part of a school. You have an identity of being a student at that school or in that class. When we trust and follow Jesus, He gives us an identity even better than where we go to school or who our teacher is. He calls us children of God! What are some good things that come when we have a new identity from God? (Allow kids to answer. Point out that God forgives all our sins and makes us His forever.)
3. The Bible tells us God gives us a new identity when He forgives our sins. Let’s open our Bibles to Luke 5:10b-11 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.) When Jesus called Peter, a fisherman, he left everything to follow Jesus immediately. What does it look like for us to follow Jesus today? (Allow kids to answer.)
4. Why do we all need a new identity from God? (Allow kids to answer. Point out that everyone has sinned, and everyone needs a new identity as God’s child.)
5. The Bible tells us Jesus forgave Peter for his sins and called Peter to follow Him for the rest of Peter’s life. Jesus made Peter’s life totally new when He called Peter. What is something you learned today? Is there anything you have questions about? (Allow kids to answer, and share your own answer.)

**Option #2:** Time to Change

**Leader Prep:** Cut sheets of tissue paper into small pieces. Set out supplies.

1. Give each kid a butterfly paper.
2. Glue pieces of tissue paper inside the wings.
3. As an alternative you can have the kids put stickers or their own design in the wings of the butterfly.

**What To Do:** When we trust in Jesus, God makes us totally new and gives us a new identity. Everyone, say, “Totally new!” (Totally new!) One example of something being made totally new is a butterfly. Butterflies start out as caterpillars. Then they become a “chrysalis” and hang upside down while the caterpillar transforms. After that, the caterpillar emerges as a butterfly! We are going to make some butterflies today!

I am going to hand you a paper with a picture of a butterfly and a message on it. Let’s read the message together. “God Gives Me a New Identity”

Glue pieces of tissue paper inside the wings. (Allow time.)

**Keep It Going:** Allow kids to use markers instead of tissue paper to decorate their wings.

**Loud And Clear:** You made some fantastic butterflies! Do caterpillars do anything as they turn into butterflies? (Allow kids to answer.) No! They do not do much; they rest and become transformed. When we trust and follow Jesus, God does all the work when He makes us totally new. He forgives our sins and gives us a new identity in Him that lasts forever!

**Option #3:** Activity Page

**What To Do:** This activity page helps us remember some big things we have 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:** Get to know the kids better. Ask them what they remember about the Bible story or remind them God gives us new identities when we trust and follow Jesus, just like He did for Peter. God forgives our sins when we trust and follow Jesus; this makes us totally new!

**Loud And Clear:** We are forgiven when we trust and follow Jesus because He takes all our sins away. God gives us a new identity as His children. The things we like and enjoy will always be a part of us, but the identity that God gives us as His children is the best thing we will ever have!

**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 knowing we need a new identity. Thank You for giving us a new identity in You when we decide to trust and follow Jesus. You make us totally new, and You make us Yours forever. Help us to tell other people about You and Your love for them, like Peter did after You called him. 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.