**Lesson Plan**

October 5th, 2025

**This Month’s Truth:** I Am Forgiven

**Bible Story:** Jesus called a tax collector (Matthew 9:9-13; Mark 2:13-17; Luke 5:27-32)

**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:** This October we are teaching kids that “I Am Forgiven.” Kids will learn that God forgives all our wrong choices and provides a new way to have a relationship with Him through Jesus. This week, we are teaching the story of when Jesus called Matthew (or Levi), a tax collector, to follow Him. Jesus forgave Matthew and welcomed him into a relationship with Him. (Read Mark 2:14,17.) Kids will know that we all make wrong choices, but Jesus came so we can be forgiven!

**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:** 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!)

**Match It Up**

**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.

**What You Say:** 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!

**Leader Tip:** Read the prompts out loud to help younger kids.

**What You Say:** 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!)

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

**What You Say:** 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!)

**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 Matthew 9:9-13; Mark 2:13-17; Luke 5:27-32.) 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!)

**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:** 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!)

**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 your 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 take some time now to learn a verse that will help us remember we are totally new when we trust in Jesus. 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)

Great job! Let’s try to say it again. This time let’s say it in a new way with high squeaky mouse voices.

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)

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

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

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

**What You Say:** 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!)

**Large Group Closing:**

**What You Say:** God forgives us for our sins when we trust in Jesus. All the times we sin and choose to do what we think is best rather than follow what God says is best are wiped away. God makes us totally new. What does He make us? (Totally new!) He gives us new life in Him, and we will also have life forever with Him! It is never too late to trust in Jesus and have all your sins forgiven. No sin is too bad for God to forgive; He wipes them all away. Let’s take some time to thank God for what He does in our lives.

**Closing Prayer:** God, thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus, to offer us forgiveness. It is because of Him that we can be forgiven of our sins, made totally new, and given a new start when we trust in Jesus. Help us turn to You and trust in You today. We love You. 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:** Let’s take some time now to talk about how God makes us totally new when we trust in Jesus.

1. If you have ever seen anything totally new, like a newborn animal, a new flower growing, or a brand-new pair of shoes, can you describe it? How could you tell it was totally new? (Allow kids to answer and share your own answer.)
2. When you crack a raw egg, the egg has a new start. It can now be used in new ways! How does God give us a new start? (Allow kids to answer. Remind them we get a new start because God makes us totally new when He forgives all our sins.)
3. The Bible tells us we are forgiven when we trust in Christ, and God gives us a new start. Let’s open our Bibles to Mark 2:14 and 17 and read about it together. (Invite kids to open their Bibles. Read the verses aloud, or invite a kid who volunteers to read the verses aloud. Be sure to have Bibles available for kids who need one. Help kids find the verses so everyone can follow along together.) Matthew chose to follow Jesus as soon as Jesus called him. What did it mean for Matthew to follow Jesus? (Allow kids to answer. Point out that Matthew gave up his job and the way he earned money when he followed Jesus, but he gained a new life forever with Jesus.)
4. Jesus died on the cross and came back to life so that everyone who trusts in Him can have a new start through a relationship with God. Why do we need forgiveness and a new start? What does it mean to be given a new start? (Allow kids to answer. Point out that getting a new start means having all your sins forgiven.)
5. The Bible tells us we are forgiven and given a new start when we trust in Jesus. Just like Jesus called Matthew, a tax collector, to follow Him, He wants us all to follow Him too. 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 Poster

**Leader Prep:** Use the Theme Verse Slide or display the Theme verse in a visible location for kids to see: 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)

**What To Do:** Let’s create our own Theme verse posters to keep at our houses for this month. I am going to give each of you either a blank piece of paper or a paper that has the Theme Verse already written on it. You can decorate your paper however you want. When everyone is done, we will say our Theme verse all together.

**Loud And Clear:** Even though we already had the Theme verse displayed, you made something new. This Theme verse reminds us that God makes us new when we have a relationship with Him. God makes us totally new when we trust in Jesus. We are totally new because He forgives all of our sins. Everyone, say, “I am forgiven!” (I am forgiven!) When we trust in Jesus, all our sins are taken away, and we are given a new start.

**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 a new start when we trust in Jesus. He makes us totally new because He forgives us for all our sins.

**Loud And Clear:** When Matthew chose to follow Jesus, God forgave Matthew’s sins and gave him a new start. Jesus paid the price for all our sins and wants us all to trust in Him and be forgiven too.

**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:** Thank you, Jesus, for dying on the cross so that everyone who trusts in You will be forgiven and given a new start. Thank You for taking away our old, sinful lives and giving us life forever with You when we trust in You. Help us remember it is never too late to trust in You and be given a new start. Thank You for forgiving all our sins, no matter how bad they are, when we trust in You. 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.