Pre-K & Kinder

**NEW CRE ATION**

LESSON **AT A GLANCE**

**WONDER TRUTH:** Jesus Makes Us New

**SCRIPTURE:** Romans 5

**GOD’S BIG STORY:** God loves us so much that He sent His Son to die so we can be forgiven and made new. Because of Jesus, our relationship with God is healed, and we can live with Him forever!

**WORD OF WONDER:** Jesus makes us new. —from 2 Corinthians 5:17

**CURIOSITY 15–20 minutes**

Hands-on activities to help kids begin thinking about the wonder of God.

* Play Stations:
  + Clean the Mess



* + Flowers and Butterfly and Sticker Play
  + New Creation Coloring Sheet
* Curiosity Activity: Clean the Penny
* Declaring God’s Wonder

**BELIEF 20 minutes**

A deep and interactive dive into Scripture that guides kids into knowing God more deeply, exploring His big story, and marveling at His wonder.

* Prayer of Invitation
* God’s Big Story: New Creation
* Word of Wonder: 2 Corinthians 5:17

**FAITH 15–20 minutes**

An intentional interactive discussion that helps kids discover the wonder of God’s story and how it connects to their own.

* Circle Time: A New Life
* Craft: Oyster Shell Treasure
* Game: Oyster Relay Race

**IDENTITY 15–20 minutes**

An interactive response activity that creates space for God to remind kids of these core truths: I am known, I am loved, I am led, and my life can tell of God’s wonder.

* Worship Response: A New Heart
* Prayer and Blessing
* Closing Game: What Time Is It, Hungry Caterpillar?



**FOR LE ADERS**



**INVITATION**

**We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father …**

# LESSON AT A GLANCE

**WONDER TRUTH:** Jesus Makes Us New

**SCRIPTURE:** Romans 5

**WORD OF WONDER:** From 2 Corinthians 5:17

My boyfriend in college used to buy me the fanciest gifts: brand new headphones and even a real phone. He was in vocational ministry at the time, so I knew he was not making that much money. And as much as I appreciated the gifts, I finally asked him how he was able to afford them. The secret was that he purchased certified refurbished items! He purchased items that were sent back to the creators, fixed, and resold at a discounted price, but they functioned as brand new!

In Romans 5, Paul tells us we are new creations through Jesus Christ. Have you ever wondered why Paul used those specific words? In order to be a new creation, just like the original creation, it had to be something only God does. Because, like Adam and Eve, we are easily fooled into trusting our “old self.” Our old sinful nature which distrusts God. What are some problems you try to fix for yourself instead of taking it to the original Creator? What are some remnants of the “old self” that you are holding on to?

Because God loves us and doesn’t give up on us, He sent His son Jesus to die on the cross, knowing that He will resurrect and save us from our sins once and for all. Jesus makes us new and now we are able to see the world through God’s eyes. He gives us the courage and ignites our passion to spread the Good News and transform the world. Are you living as someone who is created new?

**FOR LE ADERS**

**NEW CRE ATION**

**DID YOU KNOW?**

**FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS**

**WHO?**

Romans was written by Paul, a man who persecuted Christians before he knew Jesus. After his conversion, Paul devotes his life to sharing the good news about Jesus with Gentiles—non-Jewish people. He writes this letter to the Roman church, the majority of which is made up by Gentiles.

**WHAT?**

Romans is Paul’s most theologically systematic book. It is filled with explanations of the work of the gospel—God’s salvation, His plan, and His invitation to us. He often references the Old Testament as he explains God’s big story of salvation.

**WHERE?**

The church in Rome was at the heart of the Roman Empire, where Caesar was declared as the Savior of the world. Gentiles and Jews in the Roman church were called to live out the way of the kingdom of Jesus—the true Savior.

**WHEN?**

Paul likely wrote Romans in 57 A.D. while on his third missionary journey. Although it is the first of Paul’s letters that we read in the New Testament, it was likely written after he wrote to the Galatians, Thessalonians, and Corinthians.

**WHY?**

Paul writes to the Romans about the basics of the gospel—God sent Jesus to provide salvation for the whole world. He interweaves the whole of God’s big story to help the Romans understand the significance and the specifics of living for Jesus.

**Pre-K & Kinder**

**Spark curiosity, encourage exploration, and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.**



# LESSON AT A GLANCE

**WONDER TRUTH:** Jesus Makes Us New

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**WORD OF WONDER:** From 2 Corinthians 5:17

**Play Stations**

**SUPPLIES:** dirty objects that can be wiped down, such as plastic plate with food on it, sandal with dirt on it, non-breakable knick-knack that’s dusty, dry-erase board that has marker all over it; wet and dry- cleaning rags; Easter basket grass or packing grass (or shredded paper); shallow containers of various sizes; scissors (for prep only); coloring utensils

**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** Butterfly and Flower Sheet; New Creation Coloring Sheet (1 per kid)

Greet kids warmly as they arrive and briefly explain the play stations. Invite them to play at any of the play stations.

**Welcome to church! While we’re getting ready to start, you can play at any of these stations to help get ready for our lesson today. Do you have any ideas what we’ll be learning about today?**

**Play Station: Clean the Mess**

**Set-up:** Set out different objects that are dirty and need to be cleaned, and then set out cleaning rags, some wet, and some dry. Examples could be dusty (not breakable) knick-knacks, a dry-erase board that has marker on it, a plastic plate with food, a sandal with dirt.

**Play:** Let the kids take turns cleaning and wiping the dirty things with the rags. Encourage them to keep the same rag with the same item if possible.

**Play Station: Butterfly Play**



**Set-up:** Make a copy of the Butterfly and Flower Sheet. Cut out the shapes on the sheet. Set out shallow containers filled with packing “grass” (small brown scrunchy pieces) or green fake grass (which is used in Easter baskets) and small butterflies and flowers cut out from the Butterfly and Flower Sheet.

**Play:** Let the kids play with the small butterflies and flowers in the grass, burying them and making the butterflies fly from flower-to-flower in the grass.

**Play Station: New Creation Coloring Sheet**

**Set-up:** Set out the Coloring Sheets and coloring utensils.

**Play:** Let the kids color. The kids can also draw a picture of something in nature they think is beautiful

(such as flowers, sunsets, etc.).

**Curiosity STEM Experiment: Clean the Penny**

**SUPPLIES:** old, tarnished, dirty pennies; eraser; cleaning rag

Gather kids around you and show them the dirty pennies. Let the kids hold them and examine them up close. **Look at how dirty these pennies are! It looks like they have had years of filth and dirt caked on them! They are a totally different color than they were when they were brand new.**

Use the eraser to vigorously rub the pennies until the dirt is gone and they are shiny and clean. Rub them with a dusting cloth until they sparkle and shine and then hold them up for the kids to see. You can even pass them around for the kids to inspect up close.

**Leader Tip:** Use vinegar on a rag to make the penny clean and shiny.

**Look how clean they are now! They almost look brand new! Today, we’re going to talk about how Jesus can make us new!**

**Leader Tip:** Have some pictures ready either printed or in a slide show to show kids a caterpillar, cocoon, and butterfly to give them imagery of the different stages of a butterfly’s life.

**Have you ever been curious about something? Let’s take a moment and think: What bug are you curious about?** Allow the kids to respond. **What do you see in nature that makes you curious?** Allow the kids to respond. **Did you ever stop to think about how God changes us?**

**Today’s Wonder Truth is JESUS MAKES US NEW. Today, we’ll discover how Jesus loves each of us and changes us!**

**Declaring God’s Wonder**

**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** Early Childhood Declaration Video or Slide (optional)

**DIGITAL: Play the Declaration VIDEO so you and the kids will get an idea as to how it goes. Then, put up the Declaration Slide on the screen so you’ll have the words.**



**Let’s say these words together.**

**Thank You, God, that You made me!** *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Make prayer hands, then point up to God and to yourself.

**And I am Your kid!** *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Put your hands on your hips.

**Jesus loves me so much,** *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Spread your arms out wide to your side one at a time, then pull them in for a hug around your chest.

**His love for me is big.** *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Hold your arms up high and wide above your head.

**The Holy Spirit leads me,** *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Bring your arms down from the sky, making a path in front of you.

**And I can follow You.** *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

March like you’re following the leader.

**My life can tell Your story,** *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Hold your hands in front of you like an open book.

**I’m a wonder, this is true.** *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Put your hands up, shaking your fingers, celebrating (“praise hands”).

**Pre-K & Kinder**

**Guide kids into knowing God more deeply, exploring His big story, and marveling at His wonder.**



# LESSON AT A GLANCE

**WONDER TRUTH:** Jesus Makes Us New

**SCRIPTURE:** Romans 5

**WORD OF WONDER:** From 2 Corinthians 5:17

**Prayer of Invitation**

Before entering into God’s big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words: **God, thank You for each kid here today. Thank You for Your Word from which we can learn.**

**Thank You for giving us your Holy Spirit to live inside us and guide us. Thank You that You make us new and transform us with the power of the Spirit. Help us hear from You as we study Your Word. In Jesus’ name, Amen.**

**God’s Big Story: New Creation**

**SUPPLIES:** Bible

**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** God’s Big Story Video

Hold up a Bible and show the kids. Tell them today’s story comes from the Bible. Open a Bible and show them where the story is found.

**Bible Time Rhyme**

Say the Bible time rhyme (with motions) each week with the kids before the Bible story, to remind kids that what they’re about to hear is part of God’s big story.

**I open my Bible and what do I see?** *(Hands together then opening palms up, like opening a book.)*

**God’s big story, waiting for me!** *(Point to yourself.)*

**Let’s hear part of God’s big story, which comes from the book of Romans in the Bible.**

Read the God’s Big Story Script provided or read Romans 5:1–8 from the Bible.

GOD’ S BIG **STORY SCRIPT: NEW CRE ATION**

**Paul was a man who told lots of people about Jesus after having a personal meeting with God while on a walk. He wrote a letter to people in Rome to tell them about Jesus. He was on a mission to make sure the people in Rome knew about Jesus and how believing in Him can change their lives. In the passage we are reading, Paul started out by telling the Romans that we all sin and make bad choices. When we make bad choices, we cannot be friends with God and cannot be close to Him.**

**We start out far away from God. Bad choices keep piling on, and we are separate from God, and we cannot make our relationship with God right and cannot stop making bad choices all on our own. We need God’s help. That’s where Jesus comes in!**

**Repeat after me: Jesus saves!** Encourage kids to repeat the saying, “Jesus Saves.” You can add a hand motion pumping your first in the air for the kids to mimic as well.

**Paul says in the letter to the Romans that we will go through hard times in life. Just because we believe in God, our lives won’t necessarily be easy. But, God will give us the strength that we need to go through the hard times. When we put our faith in God, He makes us his friends again. We are no longer enemies with Him! He sees us as new, wonderful, and perfect creations.**

**If you hurt a friend, he probably would want to do something to hurt you back. , God is different. Even when we were His enemies, He came up with a plan to heal us from our sin, or bad choices, and He chose to make the relationship with us right again, even while we were making bad choices.**

**Repeat after me: God wants me to be His friend.** Encourage kids to repeat the phrase, and you can add motions such as giving yourself a hug, for them to mimic while they say the phrase.

**Paul also says the Holy Spirit promises to give us new life just like Jesus when He came back to life! The Holy Spirit gives us hope for the future, even when things in our lives are hard. When we put our faith in Jesus and choose to follow Him, He sees us as perfect and as his friends. He doesn’t see the mistakes we make.**

**Repeat after me: I am a new creation.** Encourage kids to repeat the phrase, and while you say it, put both arms up in the air over your head with open hands, encouraging kids to mimic your motions.

# PLAY THE GOD’S BIG STORY VIDEO



**Connecting the Wonder Truth**

Ask kids the following question to help them connect the Wonder Truth to God’s Story:

**Our Wonder Truth today is JESUS MAKES US NEW. Where did you see our Wonder Truth happen in the story?** Allow kids to answer freely.

**Word of Wonder**

**SUPPLIES:** Bible, pillowcases or sleeping bags (2), tape, individual boxes (to put Word of Wonder phrases on, 1 set for each team)



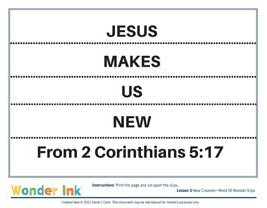
**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** Word of Wonder Sheets, Created New Word of Wonder Slide (optional)

Before kids arrive, tape two lines on the floor on opposite sides of your room.

Set out the sleeping bags or pillowcases behind one line and the individual

boxes with phrases of the Word of Wonder on them at the other end, one set for each team. Make sure the verses are scrambled and out of order. Have an adult ready to help kids by reading the words to them.

Divide the group into two teams and set a pillowcase in front of each team. **We’re going to take turns pretending to be wiggly caterpillars racing down to the other end of the room to get a piece of the Word of Wonder**



**and bringing it back to the rest of the team. The team will work together,**

**with a leader, to put the pieces of the Word of Wonder in order. The first kid in line will get inside the sleeping bag or pillowcase and wiggle on the ground to the other end. Then he will pick up a piece of the verse, put it in the bag with him, and wiggle back with it. She will give the piece of verse to her team. She will wiggle out of the sleeping bag and pass the**

**sleeping bag to the next kid to wiggle down and get another piece. The first team to get all of the pieces and get the verse in the right order wins!**

**Leader Tip:** If a kid is unable to wiggle with the pillowcase or sleeping bag on them, they can just lay on the ground and wiggle or even roll, or “army crawl” to the other end.

**We’re kind of like caterpillars who turn into butterflies! When we trust in Jesus as our Savior, He makes our hearts as new as butterflies. Just like our Word of Wonder says, we become new creations in God’s eyes!**

**Word of Wonder**

**Jesus makes us new.**

—From 2 Corinthians 5:17

Optional: Teach the kids motions to the verse and encourage them to say the words and do the motions with you:

* **JESUS—***Point fingers from left hand into right palm, then right hand into left palm (sign language for ‘Jesus’).*
* **MAKES US—***Both hands over your heart.*
* **NEW.—***Bring both arms out in front of you and down to your sides.*

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

* **How do we become new creations through Jesus?**
* **Do you think God changes? How do you think God changes us?**

**Pre-K & Kinder**

**Help kids see the wonder of God’s story and how it connects to their own story.**



# LESSON AT A GLANCE

**WONDER TRUTH:** Jesus Makes Us New

**SCRIPTURE:** Romans 5

**WORD OF WONDER:** From 2 Corinthians 5:17

**Circle Time: A New Life**

**SUPPLIES:** bean bag (or plastic Easter egg), scissors (for prep only)

**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** Parts of Me Cards



Before kids arrive, print and cut out the Parts of Me cards. Have kids sit in a circle and lay the Parts of Me cards in the middle of the circle. Turn the cards over so the picture is facing down and scatter them all over the

circle. Have kids take turns tossing the bean bag or plastic Easter egg on a card and then turning that card over.

**How do you think God can make this part of your life new? For example, if you land on the card that says, “My Thoughts,” you could say God can help you not be afraid and instead to be brave and strong. Each one of you will get a turn. It’s OK to use the same card more than once, because there are lots of ideas and answers for each card!**

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

* **What do you think it means for God to make you new?**
* **How has God changed your life?**
* **How does it make you feel to know that God rescued you and forgave you while you did things wrong?**
* **What is different about people who follow Jesus and people who don’t know Jesus?**
* **In God’s big story, what does Paul say the Holy Spirit does for us?**
* **What is our role in being made new?** (Putting our faith in Jesus, choosing to follow Jesus)

**God’s big story tells us that we will still go through hard times in life, even though we walk with Jesus. His Word also tells us that God will give us new strength and help us with His Holy Spirit. When we believe in God and choose to live for Him, He makes us new creatures, His friends, and He chooses not to see our mistakes, or sin. Let’s talk to God and thank Him for seeing us as new creations.**

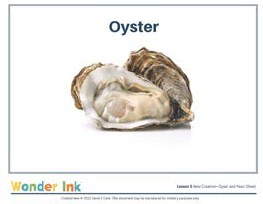
Invite kids to share prayer requests and praises and to pray for each other. Some kids may not be comfortable praying out loud. That’s OK! Encourage them to pray silently and thank God for hearing us and caring about us. God hears all our prayers!

**God, You hear each prayer request and praise that is shared today. Help us know You are working in our lives. We thank You for all the ways You have already worked things out for good! Thank You for sending Jesus to rescue us when we were still far from You, and for making us Your friends when we believe in Jesus. Thank You that You see us as brand new, amazing creations, and thank You for giving us Your Holy Spirit to help us. In Jesus’ name, Amen.**

**Craft: Oyster Shell Treasure**

**SUPPLIES:** fake pearls (usually can be found in the jewelry section at discount dollar stores) or picture of pearls, thin/flimsy paper plates (one per kid), colorful pom-poms (4–5 per kid, in varying sizes), coloring utensils, glue

**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** Oyster and Pearl Sheet



Ahead of time, print the Oyster and Pearl Sheet. **We learned about how God sees us as new and beautiful creations when we believe in Him.**

**Do you know how these beautiful pearls are made?** Hold up pearls or a picture of pearls from the Oyster and Pearl Sheet and allow the kids to respond.



**These pearls actually started as a grain of sand! Can you believe something so small, dirty, and ugly, can come out looking like this?! A pearl is formed when a piece of sand gets inside an oyster. It takes between six months to several years for the oyster to make the pearl. In that time, the oyster will cover the piece of sand with a special saliva, or spit, over and over again, making the layers of the pearl. It’s a long process to make a pearl.**

**When we put our faith in God, He makes us new! When we believe in Jesus, He instantly stops seeing our sin, and He instead sees us as forgiven, beautiful, perfect, and new.**

**We have gone from being a like piece of sand to a beautiful, perfect pearl in His eyes. To help us remember that we are new creations—like pearls—we’re going to make oyster shells with special pearls inside.**

**You can color both sides of your paper plate. When it’s colored, fold it in half. Then take a few pom-poms and glue them on the inside. These will be the pearls. When you take this home, every time you look at it, you can remember how God sees you as a new creation like these pearls.**

**Leader Tip:** Young kids might need help folding their plates and gluing the puffs on. You could “pre-fold” the plates to make it easier for young kids.

**Active Game: Oyster Relay Race**

**SUPPLIES:** 2 salad tongs or clappers (2), bag of cotton balls, bowls or buckets (4)

Divide the group into two teams. Give each team a pair of salad tongs and a bowl of cotton balls. Set another empty bucket or bowl across the room. The goal is for the teams to move all the cotton balls (pearls) from one bucket to the empty one on the other side of the room using only the tongs. Kids will go one at a time each taking a “tong-full” from the bucket to the other one and then run back and pass the tongs to the next teammate. The first team to get all their “pearls” in the bucket wins.

**You’re all going to pretend to be oysters! These tongs will be your shell. Oysters keep the pearls inside their shell, so you are going to use your shell to carry these pearls from one bucket to the other. Each kid will take a turn to get as many pearls in your shell as you can. Run to the other bucket and put the pearls** (cotton balls) **in the bucket. Then run back and give the tongs to the next person in line. The first team to get all their pearls in the bucket wins!**

**Make It Inclusive!**

For kids who are unable to use the clamp, have a large spoon or scoop or small shovel that they can use to scoop the cotton balls up and carry them. You may need to help them scoop up the cotton balls.

**Remember, you are like the pearl in the oyster’s shell. God doesn’t see you as sinful anymore, but He sees you as His friend, like the piece of sand becomes a new pearl.**

**Pre-K & Kinder**

**Create space for God to remind kids they are known, loved, led, and their lives can tell of God’s wonder.**



# LESSON AT A GLANCE

**WONDER TRUTH:** Jesus Makes Us New

**SCRIPTURE:** Romans 5

**WORD OF WONDER:** From 2 Corinthians 5:17

**Worship Response: A New Heart**

**SUPPLIES:** construction paper (red; 1 piece per kid, plus 1 for leader), scissors (for prep only); resealable sandwich bag (1 per kid, plus 1 for leader), washable markers and wet rags or baby wipes (1 per kid, plus 1 for leader)

Ahead of time, cut out heart shapes from red construction paper, one per kid and one shape for the leader.

Show the kids as you put the heart in the small sandwich bag and ask them to share ideas of things we do that are sinful, or bad choices that we make. As they share ideas, write them on the outside of the bag with a washable marker, over the heart.

**What are some ideas of things that we do that are wrong or sinful, and make God sad? We all make mistakes and make bad choices. Without Jesus, we can’t be close with God because of these things.**

When the heart is covered or the bag is full of writing, take a wet cloth and wipe the marker away. **Thankfully, God has a plan for us that allows us to become perfect, new, and beautiful! He doesn’t see our sin, or our mistakes anymore after we choose to believe in Jesus! Believing in Jesus makes us beautiful, perfect, new creations in God’s eyes, and allows us to be close with Him!**

Pass out hearts, resealable sandwich bags, markers, and wet wipes to kids. Instruct them to each to put a heart in their bag and then to scribble over the bag with a marker. Then, they can take the wet wipe or rag and wipe the marker off.

**Prayer and Blessing**

After the kids finish their activity, pray with them, thanking God for seeing us as new creations. **When I say “new creation,” spin around in a circle and throw your hands in the air, praising God that He sees us and treats us as new, perfect creations.**

**God, thank You for seeing us as new creations** (encourage kids to spin around in a circle and throw their hands in the air) **even though we didn’t do anything to earn it. When we put our faith in You, You make us new and forgiven, even when we mess up. Thank You for loving us so much that You sent Jesus to die for us to rescue us. Help us trust You and follow You as we live as new creations** (encourage kids to do the motion again)**. In Jesus’ name, Amen.**

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands were open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

**Blessing: God chooses to call us His friends even when we mess up. May you live in every day knowing you are a friend of God, and know that He sees you as beautiful, perfect, and new, and allow His Holy Spirit to give you strength.**

**Closing Game: What Time is It, Hungry Caterpillar?**

Have the kids line up at one end of the room. One person—ideally a leader—will stand at the other end of the room with his or her back to the line of kids.

Have the kids ask in unison, “What Time Is It, Hungry Caterpillar?” When the kid (or leader) standing at the other end of the room answers with a time, such as “Three o-clock,” the kids will take three steps forward toward that person, and then ask again. Continue until someone touches the person who is “It” or the person answers, “It’s lunch time!” and all kids run to the starting line. If anyone is tagged, they can either become the next It or those tagged can be out and sit down.

**Remember, caterpillars don’t stay caterpillars! They turn into new creations: butterflies! This game reminds us Jesus makes us new creations when we trust in Him!**