**TODDLER TIME**

**April 16, 2023**

LESSON 5

**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!

**OBJECT LESSON: Dirty to Clean Heart**

**ACTIVITY: Caterpillar and Butterfly**

**God’s Big Story**

**New Creation** Script

**Prayer and Blessing**

**ACTIVITY: Butterfly Bursts**

**Object Lesson: Dirty to Clean Heart**

**SUPPLIES:** scratch pad/paper, toothpick or pick that comes with the scratch pad (can be found in craft section of dollar discount stores)

Greet the kids warmly and welcome them to church.

Welcome! I’m so glad you are here today! We are going to learn about how God gives us a new heart! We all make mistakes and have bad thoughts in our hearts and heads. But God cleans away all of the bad inside us and makes us beautiful and new!

Draw a heart on the scratch pad. Hold up the scratch pad with the heart on it and show kids the dark, black heart, telling them it is full of sin and bad choices.

This heart is starting out dark, full of sin, or bad choices. Sin separates us from God. It’s the bad things that we do that make God sad.

Take the toothpick or pick that comes with the scratch pad and slowly scratch away the black inside the heart, letting the kids watch.

The heart is becoming more and more beautiful as I clean away the black. In the same way, God cleans away the sin, or bad choices, from our hearts, and gives us new and beautiful hearts when we believe in and trust Him!

**Activity: Caterpillar and Butterfly**

Today, we’re talking about becoming new creations. God makes us new when we believe in Jesus! Did you know a caterpillar doesn’t stay a caterpillar? It changes into a new creation: a butterfly!

Let’s pretend to be caterpillars and butterflies! When I call out “caterpillar,” you will crawl and slither on the ground like a caterpillar. When I called out, “butterfly,” you will stand up and pretend to fly around the room like a beautiful butterfly!

Call out each word a few times and encourage the kids to do the actions.

We’ll learn today how Jesus makes us new, kind of like butterflies! Our Wonder Truth today is: JESUS MAKES US NEW!

Encourage the kids to do the following motions while you repeat the Wonder Truth. Older toddlers can

say the words with you as they do the motions.

**JESUS—**Point up with both hands.

**MAKES—**Start with both hands bunched up in front of you and then have them explode to open hands like you’re creating something out of thin air.

**US—**Point to yourself.

**NEW—**Put your hands and arms over your head in a Y shape with open hands.

**God’s Big Story**

**SUPPLIES:** magnets (2)

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

**Our God’s big story today is about how God makes us into new creations. Can you repeat after me and say, “new heart?”** Encourage kids to say, “new heart.”

Tell the kids God’s big story is found in the book of Romans, which is in the New Testament. Read the story from the Bible in Romans 5:12–20, read from the Script included, or show the God’s Big Story Video.

**New Creation** Script

**A man named Paul wrote a letter to people in Rome, and it’s part of the Bible. Paul told the Roman people that everyone is separated from God because of our sin.** Start with your hands touching and then pull them apart so they are separated.

Show the kids two magnets. Start with them touching and then flip one around so they push each other away. Invite the kids to try to put the magnets together, but emphasize that they can’t be together. **As much as we want to be close to God, just like we want the magnets to touch and be together,**

we can’t be close to God when we have sin inside us. Sin is the bad choices that we make that separate us from God.

**Paul said when we believe in Jesus, God’s Son, He comes to live inside of us and gives us a new heart! When we have a new, clean heart, God forgives our sin, and we can be close with Him again!** Flip the magnet around and have it touch the other one again. Let the kids try to put the magnets together so they touch.

We can only be close with God with the new heart Jesus gives us. Even when things are hard, we can be strong and can still be happy because God is with us. God takes our sinful heart and makes it brand new and clean and beautiful!

**Prayer and Blessing**

Let’s talk to God. When I say “new creation” you jump up and put your hands up in the air.

God, thank You for taking our sins and our hearts and turning us into a new creation. Thank You for loving us and sending Jesus. 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: Paul told the Romans that God wanted to be close to them, and in order to do that, He needed a plan to give them a new heart. May you go out today knowing that God can give you a new heart when you believe in Jesus.

**Activity: Butterfly Bursts**

**SUPPLIES:** roll of toilet paper

For this game, kids will pretend to be new butterflies emerging from their cocoons. Wrap toilet paper around the kids a few times and have them squat down and then jump and burst out of the cocoon. You can do this one at a time or wrap them all up and have them jump up at the same time.

Today, we learned about how God transforms us into new, beautiful creations, just like a caterpillar goes into a cocoon and comes out a beautiful, new butterfly!

**Leader Tip:** For toddlers younger than 18 months, instead of using toilet paper, they can jump up from the ground, bursting open their hands, then pretend to be a butterfly flapping its wings.