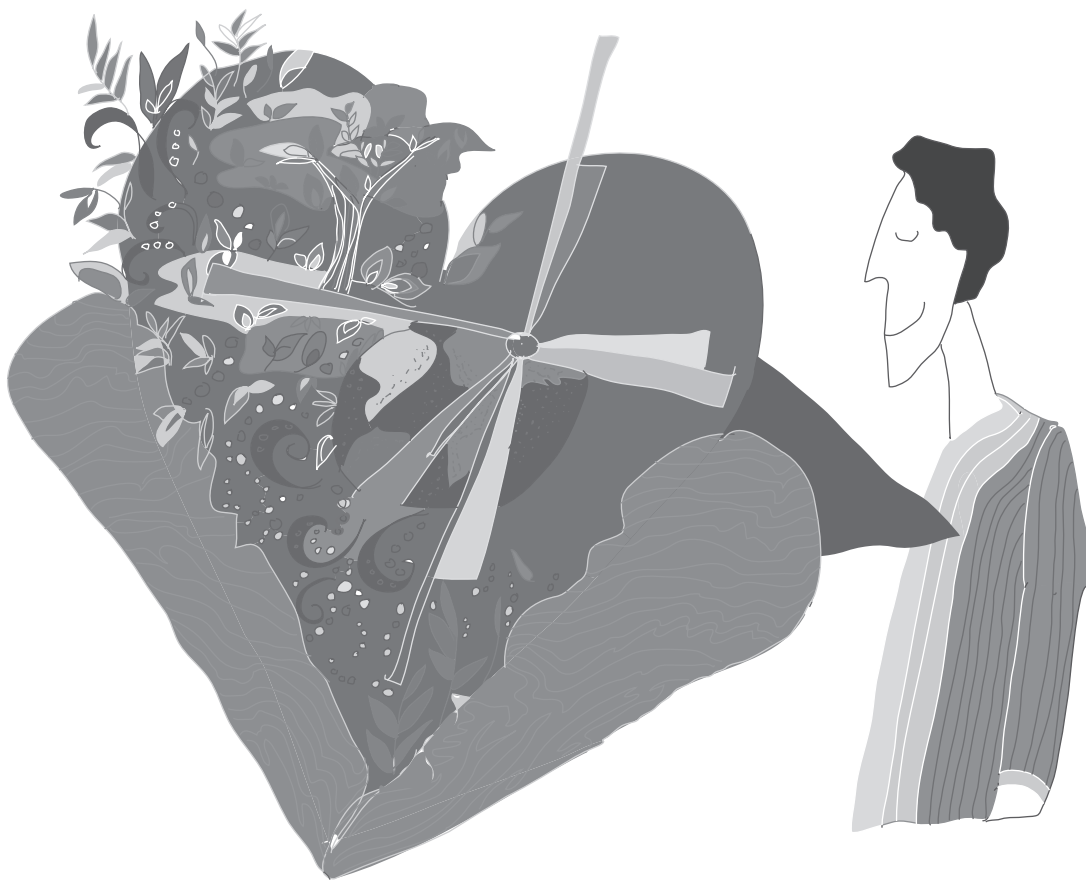


LESSON 56

# A New Creation

2 CORINTHIANS 5:14-21



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**BIBLE TRUTH**

EVERY CHRISTIAN IS A NEW CREATION

**LESSON SNAPSHOT**

1. **OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION** . . . . . **5 MIN**

**SUPPLIES:** *The Gospel Story Bible* (story 134)

2. **BIBLE STORY** . . . . . **10 MIN**

**SUPPLIES:** Bible (ESV preferred); Review “Where Is the Gospel?” to prepare

3. **BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION** . . . . . **5 MIN**

**Where Is the Gospel?**

**SUPPLIES:** Bible (ESV preferred); Review “Where Is Jesus?” to prepare

4. **SNACK QUESTIONS** . . . . . **10 MIN**

**SUPPLIES:** snack food and beverage

5. **SWORD BIBLE MEMORY** . . . . . **5-10 MIN**

6. **ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS (CHOOSE ONE OR MORE)** . . . . . **20-30 MIN**

**Coloring Activity**

**SUPPLIES:** coloring page for NT Lesson 56—one for each child; markers or crayons

**A New Creation**

**SUPPLIES:** a washbasin with some water; a sponge; a colorful plate or china cup from a secondhand store (try to get one with flowers or some pattern)

Note: In this lesson you will coat the plate or cup with mud and dirt or make up a nasty blue, black, and green color in water-based paints and paint over the cup (let it dry). You might want to wash the cup at home prior to class to make sure you can fairly easily make it look new.

**Reconciled to God**

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ three round disc magnets    ✓ glue    ✓ white construction paper
- ✓ black construction paper    ✓ red construction paper

Note: You will need to prep the magnets and paper ahead of time. See instructions in today’s lesson.

7. **CLOSING PRAYER** . . . . . **5 MIN**

**TOTAL 60-75 MIN**

**THE LESSON**

**OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION . . . . . 5 MIN**

In today’s lesson the children will learn how God recreates a person when he touches their lives.

Start the lesson by leading the class in pretending to be flowers. Have everyone stand and put their hands on their hips, pointing their elbows out to make the leaves. Then smile real big and tell them that their smiling faces are the flower blossoms. Have them stamp down with their feet one at a time, and tell them these are their roots.

Tell them to pretend they are flowers living in the garden of Eden with Adam and Eve. When Adam and Eve sinned, death came to all people. Have them pretend to shrivel up and die. Some might even fall to the floor. Be dramatic and say, “Oh no! Sin caused death!”

But God, by sending Jesus, breathes new life into sinful people by his Holy Spirit. Tell the children that when you tap them on the head they are to stand up and become a new flower, and lift their arms in the air to praise God, and sway back and forth. As you touch each child, explain that when God saves a person from their sin, he puts his Spirit into their heart and makes their spirit brand new so that they are like a brand new flower. God calls this becoming a new creation. Tell them that when this happens to people they stop living for themselves and start living for Jesus. They still make sinful mistakes, but the power of sin over their lives is broken.

Take time to pray and thank God for making us new. Pray for the remainder of the class time before moving forward with the lesson.

**BIBLE STORY . . . . . 10 MIN**

Read story 134, “A New Creation,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

**BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION . . . . . 5 MIN**

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion:

- Does anyone know what Paul means when he tells us that Christ reconciled us to himself?  
*(Our sin makes us an enemy of God. Jesus' sacrifice on the cross pays the penalty for our sin and allows us to become friends with God.)*
  
- What does it mean to be "in Christ"?  
*("In Christ" is a way to describe those who believe and trust in Jesus. The Bible tells us that everyone who believes in Jesus and trusts him becomes a part of the body of Christ, which is the church. So, when we believe, we join with Christ and are said to be in him.)*
  
- This passage also tells us that we are to help others become friends of God. What can we tell them that will help them believe?  
*(We can tell them the story of Jesus and that he died on the cross for our sins. All those who believe in him and place their trust in his work on the cross will be saved and become friends with God.)*

**Where Is the Gospel? \_\_\_\_\_**

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

This passage, and indeed all of 2 Corinthians 5, is filled with the gospel. Through Christ's work on the cross we have been reconciled to God. That, in short, is the gospel!

"For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God" (2 Corinthians 5:21). Read the verse again, replacing the pronouns: "For [your name]'s sake God the Father made Jesus to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Jesus [your name] might become the righteousness of God." The gospel is God's call to each one of us to turn from our sin and trust in Jesus.

This is the message of reconciliation that has been entrusted to us. We call this message the gospel. The message applied in our lives so transforms us that we become new creations (2 Corinthians 5:17).

**SNACK QUESTIONS . . . . . 10 MIN**

While the children are eating the snack, engage them by asking the following questions:

- What does it mean to be an ambassador?  
*(An ambassador is someone who speaks to others on behalf of a president or king.)*
  
- What does it mean when Paul calls Christians Christ’s ambassadors?  
*(Jesus has given Christians the task of sharing the story of the gospel with people who do not know it.)*
  
- What are some ways we can share the message of the gospel with others and become Christ’s ambassadors?  
*(We can tell people about what God has done in our lives. We can invite others to church. We can help others and be prepared to share the reason for our hope in Christ when they ask why we are so filled with joy and willing to help.)*

**SWORD BIBLE MEMORY . . . . . 5-10 MIN**

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult.

**ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS. . . . . 20-30 MIN**

**Coloring Activity**

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ coloring page for NT Lesson 56—one for each child; markers or crayons

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

- What happened to the man’s cloak in the picture?  
*(He had a dirty cloak, but now he has a bright new one.)*
  
- How does this picture tell the story of what God wants to do in the life of a sinner?  
*(God wants to make our hearts clean and forgive our dark and sinful ways.)*

- Who do you know whose life God has changed like the man in the picture?

*(Have some of the children share testimonies they have heard.)*

### A New Creation

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ an colorful plate or china cup from a secondhand store (try to get one with flowers or a pattern)
- ✓ a washbasin with some water
- ✓ a sponge

Coat the plate or cup with mud and dirt or make up a nasty blue, black, and green color in water-based paints and paint over the cup. Let it dry. You might want to wash the cup at home prior to class to make sure you can fairly easily make it look new.

Pass the soiled item around the class and ask them to describe it. They will be able to tell you it is a cup or plate, but they will not be able to describe the color or pattern hidden beneath the dirt.

Read 2 Corinthians 5:17 and explain that when God saves us he completely changes us. Explain to them that he washes away our sin (by the blood of Jesus) and reveals what we were intended to be, reflecting the image of God.

Wash the cup and then pass it around to the children again. Explain to them that sin has completely affected our lives, but we can be completely changed if we trust in the atoning death of Jesus on the cross. Jesus said the Pharisees washed the outside of the cup (they looked clean on the outside), but they had left the inside (their hearts) dirty (Matthew 23:25). Jesus is able to wash and change all of us!

### Reconciled to God

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ three round disc magnets
- ✓ glue
- ✓ white construction paper
- ✓ black construction paper
- ✓ red construction paper

Glue one magnet to a sheet of white construction paper. Glue a second magnet to a piece of black construction paper and cut out the silhouette of a person (make sure that the magnets attached to the black and white papers are oriented so that the two sides facing outward are the sides that repel). Cut another silhouette of a person out of red construction paper (attach the magnet to the red paper so that it is attracted to the magnet on the white paper.)

The children will likely not know the meaning of reconciliation. To put it simply, reconciliation is about reestablishing a friendship. Sin broke our fellowship with God. As long as we are in our sin we cannot be a friend to God. Jesus came to earth to be a friend of sinners. His death on the cross paid the penalty for our sin so that we could come near God, who is holy.

To illustrate how sin separates us from God, show the black and white papers attached to magnets that repel each other. Have each of the children in the class feel the invisible force keeping the magnets apart. Tell them that this shows what sin does in our relationship with God.

Then show the red silhouette that represents a person covered by the blood of Christ.

Demonstrate how these two magnets attract rather than repel. Jesus Christ makes us new creations and changes our hearts so that we can be reconciled to God (in other words, be his friends again instead of his enemies). Explain to the children that it is the love of God that draws us, and with the blood of Jesus we are no longer rejected by God but can be reconciled to him.

This is the perfect lesson to take time, if you have not recently, to share a simplified version of your testimony. Use the language of this passage such as “new creation” and “reconciled to God” to help the children understand this passage.

**CLOSING PRAYER . . . . . 5 MIN**

Take time at the end of class to thank God for what you learned today. Include parts of your Bible lesson in your prayer as a way for the children to remember today’s lesson.

LESSON 56 - A NEW CREATION

