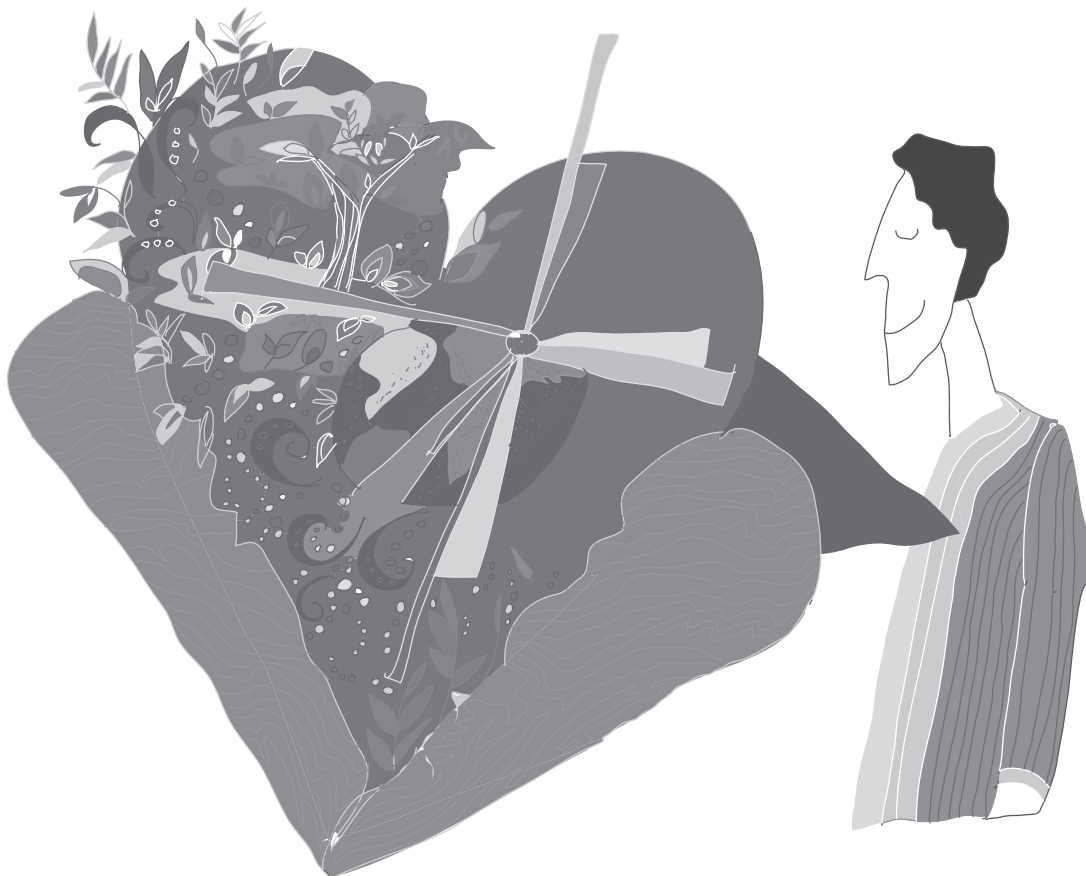


LESSON 56

A New Creation

2 CORINTHIANS 5:11 – 6:2



BIBLE TRUTH

EVERY CHRISTIAN IS A NEW CREATION

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. **OPENING REVIEW** **5 MIN**

Use last week’s lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

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

Read 2 Corinthians 5:11—6:2 from the Scriptures or read story 134, “A New Creation,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

3. **OBJECT LESSON 1** **15 MIN**

A New Creation

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ play dough (enough for each child to receive a small ball of dough)

4. **TEACHING/DISCUSSION** **10 MIN**

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

5. **OBJECT LESSON 2** **15 MIN**

Christ’s Love Controls Us

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ blindfold
- ✓ a candy bar

6. **WORD BIBLE MEMORY** **5 MIN**

7. **ACTIVITY TIME** **10 MIN**

Color a Picture

SUPPLIES:

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

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

9. **BONUS OBJECT LESSON** **15 MIN**

Ambassador Relay

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ eight index cards
- ✓ answer key (two copies)

TOTAL 90 MIN

PREPARING TO TEACH

TEACHING POINTS

Christ’s love moves us to be like him—False teachers moved into the Corinthian church in Paul’s absence and undermined his ministry and the gospel. Paul’s second letter to the Corinthians is designed to refute false teaching and affirm gospel truth. Paul wanted the Corinthians to remember that our obedience flows from our relationship with Jesus. Jesus died on the cross for our sins. Once God opens our eyes to see his amazing love in the death of his Son, we are transformed. We obey and follow God out of our love for Jesus. Paul said that Christ’s love controls us (2 Corinthians 5:14) and it moves us to want to be like Jesus and tell everyone about him.

The cross is the greatest declaration of love there could ever be. When our hearts open to the wonder of the cross, we are given the power to live for Christ. Jesus died on the cross so that we could die to sin and live for him. Our whole lives are changed by the gospel. When we live by the love of God in Jesus, we are compelled to live for Christ.

We are a new creation in Christ—We can’t work up obedience in our own strength. Merely knowing the facts of the gospel is not enough. We need the Holy Spirit to transform our hearts. Jesus said, “unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God” (John 3:3). In 2 Corinthians 5:17, Paul describes God’s work as making us into a “new creation.” When the Holy Spirit comes and transforms us, it is as though we are being created all over again. Our old self, which was a slave to sin, has been changed. Now that the old has gone and the new has come, we are free to live for Christ. The word used for “come” does not mean “to arrive” or “to get somewhere.” Rather, it signifies change and could be translated “generated.” In other words, if anyone is in Christ, he is a brand-new creation. What was old has passed away, and something new has been generated. When a person becomes a Christian, he has been regenerated or recreated.

Christ commissions us to speak for him—When God regenerates us or recreates us, we become his ambassadors (2 Corinthians 5:20). An ambassador’s job is to speak on behalf of the ruler of one country to people in another country. When God saves us, we become citizens of his heavenly kingdom. We are called as ambassadors to take the gospel message to those in the world who do not believe. In fact, we are to “implore” others to be reconciled to God. We are to tell others the gospel—that God made Jesus, who had no sin, to be sin for us so that in Christ we could be righteous! We are to convince others. We are to appeal, to urge, to passionately implore them to turn to God. We are to explain to them that there is no time to wait; today is the day of salvation.

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).

THE LESSON

OPENING REVIEW 5 MIN

Use last week's lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read 2 Corinthians 5:11—6:2 from the Scriptures or read story 134, "A New Creation," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

OBJECT LESSON 1 15 MIN

A New Creation

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ play dough (enough for each child to receive a small ball of dough)

The object of this lesson is to help the children understand the concept of re-creation.

Have the children roll their dough into a ball and then form a face with two eyes, a nose, and a mouth. Tell them that they have “created” a person.

While they are working, talk to the children about who created us and what it means to create something. When they have finished, tell the class that God created Adam and Eve perfectly, but that their sin affected everything. The whole creation was marred.

Now have the children stretch or squish their play dough face so that it is misshapen, but not so much that you can't tell it is a face. Explain to the class that this is how sin affected us.

Now, tell them to roll their dough back into a ball and make a “new creation” to look like the first one they made. While they work to recreate the faces, talk to the class about God's re-creation of each of us when we become Christians.

Read today's passage and discuss what God did to re-create us. Explain the gospel and that God causes us to come alive in Christ and gives us his Spirit to live inside us.

TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

OBJECT LESSON 2 15 MIN

Christ's Love Controls Us

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ blindfold
- ✓ a candy bar

The object of this exercise is to help the children see how sin has made us blind and how God opens our eyes and then helps us to know his amazing love so that we want to live for him. The blindfolded volunteer represents the person lost in sin, and the candy bar represents the goodness of God.

Blindfold a volunteer. (Place the candy bar in your pocket.) Explain to the class that we are born unable to see the love of Jesus. If left to ourselves we would go our own way.

Ask your volunteer the following questions:

- **What do you see?**
(Nothing, I am blindfolded.)
- **What do you want to do?**
(Go back to my seat.)
- **What is on your mind? Are you thinking about anything right now?**
(Accept any answer.)
- **Do you know what I have in my pocket?**
(no)

Now say, “I have a wonderful candy bar,” as you pull off the blindfold with one hand and show the candy bar with the other. Then describe the candy bar and say, if you would like the candy bar follow me around the room. Then walk a circuitous path around the room. Finally, give the candy bar to the child.

End the exercise by asking the child a few more questions:

- **Did I force you to follow me around the room?**
(no)
- **Why did you follow me around the room?**
(I wanted to get the candy bar.)
- **Why didn't you ask me for the candy bar while you were blindfolded?**
(I didn't know you had it.)

Have your volunteer sit down and then connect this object lesson to 2 Corinthians 5:14. Once God opens our blinded eyes to the truth of the gospel and God's amazing love in sending his Son Jesus to die for our sins, we are compelled to follow Jesus and live for him. We are not forced but compelled, just like the volunteer was compelled to follow you around the room to get at the goodness of the candy bar.

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 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 worker.

ACTIVITY TIME 10 MIN

Color a Picture

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.)

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

Pick several children to pray prayers based on the day’s Scripture passages.

BONUS OBJECT LESSON 15 MIN

Ambassador Relay

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ eight index cards
- ✓ answer key (two copies)

Write the following verses on two sets of index cards (one verse per card). Also make two other copies for the judges to use as answer keys.

“The love of Christ controls us” (2 Corinthians 5:14).

“He died for all” (2 Corinthians 5:15).

“If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation” (2 Corinthians 5:17).

“We are ambassadors for Christ” (2 Corinthians 5:20).

The object of this lesson is to demonstrate the work of an ambassador to take the message of the gospel to those who do not know it. (Your children will need to be able to read for this exercise. If you have a younger class enlist additional helpers to read the cards for them.)

Divide the class into two teams. You will also need two judges. Explain to the teams that they have been commissioned as God’s ambassadors. Tell them that the judges are the unbelievers to whom they are to take their message.

Each team will be given five verses written on index cards placed face down on a table. When the signal to begin is given, the first member of each team picks up a verse card to memorize. When he or she thinks they have the message memorized, they run to the “unbelievers” (the judges) and say their verse. If they get it correct, the judge will say “correct.” If they get it incorrect, they need to go to the end of the line while the next person on their team gives that verse a try.

Only the player trying to memorize the current verse can hold the card, although the next person can read it along with them in case they get it wrong. But as soon as they run to recite their verse to a judge, the card must go back on the table facedown.

The team that first successfully transmits all their messages to the “unbelievers” is the winner.

After going through the game, talk about the importance of getting our message accurate as ambassadors for Christ.

LESSON 56 - A NEW CREATION

