



NEW TESTAMENT • LESSON 56

## A NEW CREATION

*Every Christian is a new creation.*



**MONDAY**

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### **THE STORY: 2 CORINTHIANS 5:11-15**

False teachers moved into the Corinthian church in Paul's absence and undermined Paul's ministry and the gospel. Paul's second letter to the Corinthians is designed to refute false teaching and affirm gospel truth. Here Paul is absolutely caught up in love for Christ and shows us where right motivation for all we do as Christians must come from.

Christ's love compels us and affects the way we live. Paul was telling the Corinthians what motivated him as well as declaring a standard for all Christians. 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.

### **TALK ABOUT IT:**

What motivated Paul? What lies behind all he does? (Paul is motivated by God's love demonstrated in the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross.)

How does Christ's death help us to obey? (It is hard to obey an evil king who demands hard labor in return for a place in the kingdom. But it is easier to obey a

righteous king who treats you with kindness and only gives you good gifts. Jesus, our King, gave us His life. How can we not obey His Word?)

Paul said that we are convinced that when Jesus died, all died (see 2 Corinthians 5:14b). What does Paul mean by “that all died”? (Jesus died that the power of sin might be destroyed. If we are convinced of this, we have confidence to live for Christ and say no to sin. Jesus’ victory on the cross ensures our victory over sin! This gives us confidence.)

**PRAY:**

Thank the Lord for the cross and ask God to help us live for Him by saying no to sin.



**TUESDAY**

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**THE STORY: 2 CORINTHIANS 5:16,17**

Anyone in Christ is a new creation. Not only can we live for Christ because sin has been defeated, we have also been changed! This change is so significant that Paul describes it as being created again! Our old self, which was a slave to sin, has been changed. Now we are free to live for Christ. The old has gone and the new has come; we have been created again! 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, this passage teaches us that he has been regenerated or re-created.

**TALK ABOUT IT:**

What did God do to make us a new creation? (God sent His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross so that we could be free from the bondage of sin and live for Jesus.)

Can we recognize a Christian by the way he or she lives? (Yes, unbelievers live for this world, but Christians have been freed from sin to live for Christ. When we see a person living for Christ, we can recognize him as a Christian. If a person consistently does not live for Christ, we can recognize him as an unbeliever who needs to be re-created by the Spirit of God.)

Can we re-create ourselves? (No. That is why we believe in Jesus and call out to Him to change us. There is no work that a person could do to change themselves in this way. Becoming a new creation is a work of God's grace that God promises to those who believe and place their faith in Jesus and His sacrifice on the cross.)

**PRAY:**

Ask God to regenerate every member of your family.



**WEDNESDAY**  
**WHERE IS THE GOSPEL?**

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**THE STORY: 2 CORINTHIANS 5:18-20**

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!

2 Corinthians 5:21 says, "For our sake he made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God." If we take out the pronouns this passage reads: "For [add your name]'s sake God the Father made Jesus to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Jesus [add your name] might become the righteousness of God".

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 (see 2 Corinthians 5:17).

**TALK ABOUT IT:**

Where do you see the gospel in this chapter? (Parents, help your children find the gospel in this passage. If they can read, have them look for verses. If they can't read, help them remember what you read together, or read through the passage again and have them raise their hand whenever they hear a part of the gospel.)

Why is it important to put our names in the Scripture to make it personal? (We need to remember that God is not just speaking to people in general. God is speaking to each one of us specifically. That is why it is good to see your own name in the verses of the Bible. God is speaking to you!)

**PRAY:**

Ask God to change each member of your family, make them a new creation, and help each one to see that the message of the gospel is especially addressed to them by God.



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**THURSDAY**

**THE STORY: 2 CORINTHIANS 5:20-6:2**

Christians speak for Christ. When God regenerates us or re-creates us, we become His ambassadors. We take His message to others. We don't just take the message of the cross without emotion, as though we were delivering a package. Instead 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.

**TALK ABOUT IT:**

What is the message God has asked us to take to others? (We are to take to others

the message of reconciliation. God has made a way for man to be at peace with Him. This is possible through the death of Jesus, His Son, who took our sins upon Himself so that the wrath of God against us would be satisfied and we could be forgiven.)

What do we call God's message of reconciliation? (We call it the gospel.)

Do most people know the gospel? (Although many people have heard about Jesus, a lot of them do not understand the gospel message. They don't understand that God is holy and that our sin separates us from Him. They don't realize they are enemies of God; they don't think they need to be saved or reconciled with God. When, by the Spirit of God, they understand they are enemies of God, bound for judgment in hell, the message of the gospel is good news. We have the privilege of giving them the best news they will ever receive in their lives!)

**PRAY:**

Ask God to give your family opportunities to share the message of reconciliation with those around you who need to hear.



**FRIDAY  
ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS**

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**THE STORY: PSALM 31:9-16**

Jesus quoted from Psalm 31:5 just before He died. In looking at the rest of the psalm, although it is written by David to describe his own suffering, we see the suffering of Christ as well. Jesus was consumed by anguish on the road to the cross, and his strength failed Him as He fell carrying the cross. He was deserted by the disciples, his friends. People slandered Him on every side.

Although these verses are not directly attributed to Christ, David's life itself is a shadow of the life of Jesus and points us forward to Christ. When we read this psalm, though we know it speaks of David, we should know that it also speaks of

the sacrifice of our Savior and His suffering.

**TALK ABOUT IT:**

Read through Psalm 31. Where do you see Jesus and His sacrifice in the sufferings and trials of David? (Help your children look for connections.)

How did David's faith in God reflect our Lord's trust in the Father? (David demonstrated great faith and trusted God in the midst of his suffering just as Jesus trusted His Father while on the cross.)

**PRAY:**

Thank God for giving up His Son, Jesus, to suffer on the cross for our sins.