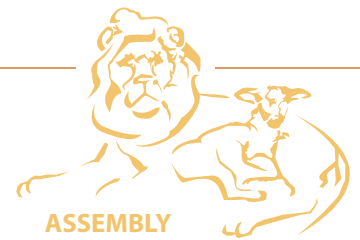


## A NEW CREATION

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: 2 CORINTHIANS 5:14-21



*The following are some ideas for creative ways that you can present this material.*

## LESSON IDEAS

## A NEW CREATION

**Supplies**

- purchase a colorful plate or china cup from a secondhand store (try to get one with flowers or some pattern)
- a washbasin
- 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 try washing the cup at home prior to class to make sure you can fairly easily wash the cup and get it looking 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 changes our hearts and gives us salvation He completely changes us. Explain to them that He washes away our sin (by His blood) and He 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 (Matthew 23:25) were a people that washed the outside of the cup (how we look on the outside) but they had left the inside (their hearts) dirty. Jesus is able to wash and change all of us!

## A NEW CREATION

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: 2 CORINTHIANS 5:14-21

### RECONCILED TO GOD

#### Supplies

- purchase three round disc magnets
- glue
- white card stock
- black construction paper
- red construction paper

Glue one magnet to a sheet of white card stock. Glue a second magnet to a piece of black construction paper and cut out in 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). Create 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.)

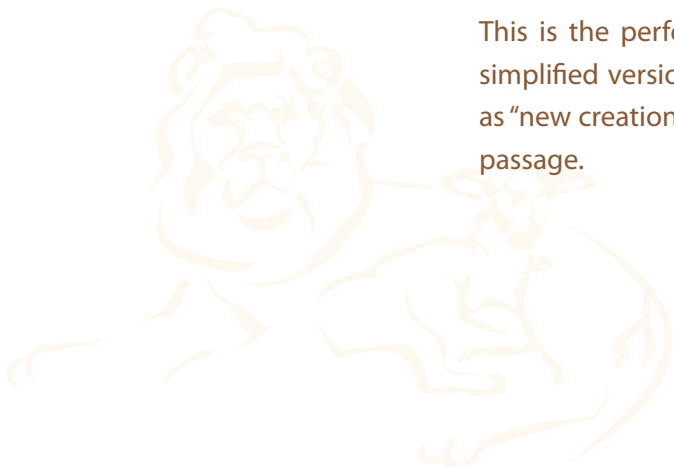
The children will likely not know the meaning of reconciliation. A simple way to explain reconciliation is to re-establish a friendship. Sin broke our fellowship with God. As long as we are in our sin we cannot be a friend to God. Jesus came to earth to be a friend of sinners. His death on the cross 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 which draws us and with the blood of Jesus we are no longer rejected by God but can be reconciled to Him.

### SHARE A TESTIMONY

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.



## A NEW CREATION

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: 2 CORINTHIANS 5:14-21

### WHERE IS the Gospel?

*Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the Gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.*

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 so transforms us that we can be seen as new creations (verse 17).

