

A NEW CREATION

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: 2 CORINTHIANS 5:14-21



The STORY

Read about becoming a new creation in 2 Corinthians 5:14-21. (The children may have a difficult time following this passage so feel free to paraphrase the biblical text where needed.) Explain that reconciliation means friendship with God which is impossible when our trespasses (sins) stand in the way.

***Please note:** The discussion questions in the following sections are written to serve as a guide in teaching our youngest children. Three to six year olds are not going to be able to answer these questions like their older brothers and sisters. Please refer to the God's Story Preschool Curriculum Outline for additional ideas.*

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

- Does anyone know what Paul is talking about when he tells us that Christ reconciled us to Himself? (Our sin makes us an enemy to God. Jesus' sacrifice on the cross pays the penalty for our sin and allows us to become friends with God. In our sin we cannot be with God, but once that sin is paid for by Jesus we can be in God's presence.)
- 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 be reconciling or helping 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 be able to be friends with God.)

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ASSEMBLY WARM UP

In today's lesson we will see that God can see what is hidden in our hearts

Does anyone remember what Samuel is? (A prophet.)

Can anyone tell me who's words a prophet speaks, does he speak what every he wants or does he speak the words of God? (The words of God.)

Does anyone remember what Saul was? (Saul was King over Israel.)

Was he a good king? (No, he did not follow God.)

Prior to class pick up a small stone and a quarter.

In class place the stone in one closed hand and the quarter in the other. Tell the class that you have a stone in one hand and a quarter in the other. Ask them to look real hard and tell you which hand contains the stone. (They of course can only guess. Press them to give you a reason for their answer and try to help them to see that they can only guess.) Show them which hand contains the stone.

Ask them who do they think could get the answer correct every time if you did it one hundred times. (Steer them to the answer God and then help them to see that only God knows what is hidden.)

Tell the class that the stone is like sin and the coin, the treasure of loving God. Tell them that in today's class they are going to learn that God can see into our hearts just to see what is in there.

Pray that God would bless the teaching class today and help the children put the treasure of loving God into their hearts.



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CRAFT QUESTIONS

Coloring sheets have been provided that exemplify today's lesson: a man drops a dirty cloak revealing a bright new sparkling one. Engage the children by asking:

- What happened to the man's cloak in the picture? (He had a dirty cloak but now he has a bright and 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 the testimonies of their parents.)

SNACK QUESTIONS

While the children are eating the snack, engage the children by asking:

- 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.)



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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).

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

BE A DOER OF THE WORD

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.

