

GOD OFFERS A NEW LIFE

STORY: NEW CREATION / YEAR: VALUE

BIG TRUTH: GOD OFFERS A NEW LIFE

Romans 6:4-6; 8:3-6; Galatians 5:19-25; Ephesians 2:1-5; Colossians 2:13-15; 3:1-4

BIBLE VERSE: GALATIANS 2:20

"I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."

BIG IDEAS

- Sin makes us dead, but God raises us to life.
- In Christ our lives are no longer normal; we are made brand new.
- New life in Christ means new desires and a new purpose.

BIBLE STORY: LUKE 19:1-10

Zacchaeus was a small man with a big job. He was a tax collector and he was rich because he took more money than he should have taken from people. He was not very well liked because people considered him a thief. Jesus passed through Zacchaeus' town one day and Zacchaeus met Him. His life was never the same. He believed in Jesus and his life was made brand new.

STORY: NEW CREATION

Part of the beauty of the gospel is that God does not just rescue us from the power of sin, but He is also making everything new. God offers new creation to those who place their faith in Jesus. This newness comes in two ways. The first is that by breaking the power of sin, Jesus is making men and women into brand new people with new identities. Second, God is not only making people new, but He is also going to make a new heaven and a new earth for us to live on and worship Him in.

BIG AIMS



KNOW

Every child should know that:

- God offers us new life (new desires, purpose) through Jesus



FEEL

Every child should feel:

- The need to live differently because of Jesus



DO

Every child should:

- See life in light of God's promises to those who are in Jesus



WANT

Every child should want:

- To be freed and rescued from their sin and given new life in Jesus

FAMILY DEVOTION: A WHOLE NEW LIFE

Our lives are dead without Christ. When we have saving faith in Christ, our lives are made brand new. We have new desires and a new purpose. We are new creations.

BIBLE VERSE: GALATIANS 2:20

"I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."

God loves each of us as individuals.

- We all possess a sin nature, and Jesus paid the price for that sin nature on the cross.
- Though Jesus died once for all, the work He did is applied to each of us individually.
- God does not just see us as a group, but as individuals.
- God loves each person individually and knows each person who has saving faith.

When we repent and believe, we die to our sin nature.

- Our sin nature is who we are before Christ.
- We are not separate from our sin nature until we repent and believe in Christ.
- When we repent and believe, our old sin nature is crucified with Christ.
- We are no longer slaves to it.
- We can walk in freedom from it because Christ lives in us.
- Because Christ lives in us, we have a new nature that results in a new life.

Our faith in Christ helps us live our new life free from our sin nature.

- Though our sin debt is paid and we are no longer held captive to our sin, we still need help to walk in freedom.
- When we have saving faith in Jesus, the Holy Spirit comes to live inside of us.
- The Holy Spirit is our helper and teacher.
- He guides us and reminds us of the right way to please God.
- Our faith in Christ enables us to have the Holy Spirit, which helps us live in freedom from our sin nature.

BIBLE STORY: LUKE 19:1-10**Opening Illustration:**

Give each child a copy of the "Jesus Makes All Things New" bookmark or allow them to cut it out themselves. Have them decorate their bookmarks with crayons, colored pencils or markers. Finished bookmarks can be mounted to colored cardstock strips or covered in clear Contact paper to make them more sturdy. As the children work, talk about how caterpillars are transformed into beautiful butterflies through the process of metamorphosis and we can be transformed (or made new) by believing in Jesus' saving work on the cross for us.

BIG IDEA: SIN MAKES US DEAD, BUT GOD RAISES US TO LIFE.¹**Our lives before Christ are sinful and selfish.**

- Zacchaeus was a wealthy man.
- He became wealthy by taking money from people. He took more money than he should because he was greedy.
- His life was lived for himself. He was selfish and focused on making himself great.
- Our lives are the same as Zacchaeus before we know Christ.
- We are selfish and live to make ourselves happy.



Divide the children into small groups and give each group a blank piece of paper and a marker. Ask the groups to make a list of the selfish things that people do, such as not sharing, being unkind, promoting self, etc. Ask the groups to share their answers and then talk about the hope we have in Jesus to give us new life.

We do not have to remain dead in our sin.

- Our sin makes us dead.
- We cannot really live a full life apart from God.
- We are only headed toward physical and spiritual death when we do not know Christ.
- Zacchaeus had material things, but he was still missing something.
- We are not really living until we know Christ.
- God raises us to a new, true life in Christ when we repent and believe in Jesus.
- The things we did for ourselves no longer satisfy us. We, instead, seek to please God, to bring Him glory.

What makes us dead? (Our sin makes us dead.)

How does God give us new life? (Through the work of His Son, Jesus, we receive new life when we repent and believe in Him.)

1. Ephesians 2:1-6: We were dead in our sin, but, through Jesus, God raised us up to new life.

BIG IDEA: IN CHRIST OUR LIVES ARE NO LONGER NORMAL; WE ARE MADE BRAND NEW.

When we follow Christ, we are transformed.

- Following Christ means turning away from our sin and believing that Jesus died for us.
- When we follow Jesus, our lives are never the same.
- We are made into new people.
- Our hearts are new and no longer enslaved to sin.
- Zacchaeus met Jesus and his life was changed.
- He became a new person. He no longer desired to grow wealthy by taking money from people.

Jesus changes us into new creations.²

- When we follow Jesus, we do not remain the same.
- We think differently, act differently, and feel differently.
- We become new people as we become more and more like Jesus.
- Zacchaeus met Jesus and chose to follow Him.
- Zacchaeus' encounter with Jesus changed who he was.
- He stopped living to make money for himself.
- Jesus changes us, too.
- Our old desires no longer rule us or make us happy.
- We are no longer held captive by our sin.
- We are freed to live for God's glory through the help of the Holy Spirit.



Bring in a magnifying glass and a print with lots of small details. Show the print to the children and ask them to describe it. Next, allow the children to take turns looking at the print, pointing out something new they see, and sharing it with the class. Tell them that when we become followers of Christ, we see things differently, just like Zacchaeus saw things differently.

What happens when we follow Christ? (Our lives are transformed.)

How was Zacchaeus' life different after he met Jesus? (He gave to the poor, and repaid the people he took money from.)

2. 2 Corinthians 5:17: *When we are in Christ, we become new creations, or new people. Our desires change to match those of God.*

BIG IDEA: NEW LIFE IN CHRIST MEANS NEW DESIRES AND A NEW PURPOSE.**Our hearts are made new when we follow Christ.**

- When we repent and believe, our hearts are set free and cleansed.
- We are changed because our hearts are new.
- We do not pursue the same sinful things.
- We are led by the Spirit of God who continues to makes us more like Christ.



Give half of the children two or three coins. Have the children with the coins pay back the children without coins. Swap and let the children without coins have a chance to pay back. Talk with the children about how our lives are changed when we follow Jesus. Zacchaeus' life was changed so much he paid back the people he stole from.

Christ gives us new desires.³

- Zacchaeus changed after choosing to follow Christ.
- His desire was no longer to get wealthy by stealing from people, but to give to those who needed it.
- When we choose to follow Christ, our desires change.
- We no longer care only about ourselves, but care about God and His people.
- We become more like Christ and seek to serve others.

Christ gives us a new purpose.

- When we follow Christ, our purpose changes.
- We no longer live to please ourselves.
- We live to please God.
- We live to glorify Him.
- Zacchaeus' purpose changed when he met Jesus.
- He began living for Jesus and he stopped living for himself.
- He began giving to others instead of taking from them.

What changes about our lives when we follow Christ? (Our desires and our purpose changes.)

How did Zacchaeus' life change? (He stopped taking from people and began giving to people.)

3. Philippians 4:7: *When we know Christ, He guards our hearts and makes us new creations.*

HOOKS



KNOW

Pin Zacchaeus On The Wall

Help the children draw branches and leaves on a large piece of paper and tape it to the wall. Next, have the children draw a picture of Zacchaeus and cut it out. Use a bandana as a blindfold and let the children take turns pinning their Zacchaeus on the tree. Talk with them about how Zacchaeus' life was changed when he met Jesus and how our lives are changed when we meet Jesus.



DO

- Everything about Zacchaeus' life changed when he met Jesus.
- He began giving to people instead of taking from them.
- Our lives are changed when we believe in Jesus, too.
- Our desires are different. We begin to desire the things that God desires.



FEEL

Little Man Picture

Draw a small man-figure in the lower left corner of a poster board. On the upper right hand corner, write the words "Sin" and "Forgiveness". Next, ask the children to write words from the story that show sin and the forgiveness for the sin. Talk with them about how we are all sinners, but God offers us a new life when we believe in Jesus.



WANT

- Zacchaeus was a tax collector who took more money than he should have from people.
- He was a sinner, yet Jesus still went to his house.
- When Zacchaeus met Jesus, he believed in Him and his life was changed.
- When we meet Jesus and believe in Him, our lives are changed. We are made into new creations.