

BIG TRUTH: GOD IS MAKING MY HEART NEW

Ezekiel 11:19; 36:26; John 7:38; Acts 4:32; Romans 6:17; 10:10; 2 Corinthians 5:17

BIBLE VERSE: 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

BIG IDEAS

- God offers new life.
- God offers peace instead of worry.
- God offers hope instead of hopelessness.
- God offers love instead of selfishness.
- God offers joy instead of emptiness.

BIBLE STORY: LUKE 5:1-11 (JESUS CALLS HIS DISCIPLES), MATTHEW 16:15-19

When we are in Christ, we are a new creation. God is continually working in us through His Holy Spirit to make us more like Jesus. He is making us new. We see an example of this in the Bible with the disciples. At the beginning of Jesus' earthly ministry, He calls several men to follow Him and to be His disciples, including Peter. Throughout Jesus' ministry, we see Peter grow as he walks with Jesus, and ultimately God makes Peter be the start of His church. Like Peter, when we are in Christ, we are made 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**Every child should know that:**

- God is giving His people new hearts

**Every child should feel:**

- Peace and joy because of who God is

**Every child should:**

- Talk about how God gives us a new heart

**Every child should want:**

- To experience new life in Christ

REVIEW

Guide 9 acts as a review for the preceding weeks. Use this guide and devotion to support, reinforce, and review concepts learned throughout the past weeks and to test your child's understanding and memory of these truths.

DISCOVER IT: *(Use the passage to illustrate the Big Truth.)*

Luke 5:1-11, Matthew 16:15-19

THINK ABOUT IT: *(Use the commentary to reinforce the Big Truth.)*

When Jesus began His earthly ministry, He taught many people truths about God and Himself. One day, He was near the seaside and saw three fishermen washing their nets. He saw that their boats were ready. Jesus got into one of their boats and asked them to row them out from shore a little. The fishermen did what Jesus asked and He taught the crowd from the boat. After Jesus finished teaching, He told the fishermen to cast their nets over the boat. They did what He said, and their nets were overflowing with fish. Their nets were so full of fish that they began breaking and when they pulled the nets into the boat, the boat began to sink. Simon Peter, one of the fishermen, immediately fell at Jesus' feet and confessed that he was a sinner. Jesus called Simon Peter and his two friends, James and John to be His followers that day. He promised to change their lives by making them "fishers of men" instead of fish. Jesus was going to make them into completely new people, because Jesus changes everything about us. As the disciples followed Jesus throughout His ministry, He continued to teach them and to change them. Later on, before Jesus is crucified on the cross, Peter confesses that Jesus is the Christ. Jesus tells Peter that he will be the start of the church, of God's people. This is because God had given Peter a new heart and had changed everything about him.

TALK ABOUT IT: *(Use the questions to discuss the Big Truth)*

- What did Jesus tell the disciples to do with their nets? (He told them to cast them over the boat.)
- How did Simon respond when he saw all of the fish in the nets? (He confessed his sin to Jesus and began following Jesus.)
- How did Jesus change the disciples' lives? (He made them fishers of men instead of fish.)
- How does Jesus change His people? (He gives them new hearts and makes them new)



As a family, memorize 2 Corinthians 5:17 by creating a matching game. Write the words of the verse on an index card twice. Take turns making matches. When all of the matches are made, put the verse together and say it out loud several times.



Take your child to your local park and lead him or her on a walk through the park. Each time you make a turn, talk with your child about how our lives change when we experience God's salvation. We have new hearts and new desires.



As a family, make a batch of sugar cookies. Cut them out in the shape of a fish. As you spend time decorating them, talk with your child about how the disciples' lives changed just like our lives change when we experience God's salvation.



Spend some time this week sharing with your child how God has changed your life since salvation. Talk with them about how God made you new and your desires are different now than they used to be.

Spend some time this week praying, thanking God for making us new when we have saving faith in Jesus.