



Date: _____

Series: Discover the Design
Summer Year 1, Lesson 5

We Are a New Creation

Primary Scripture: Galatians 5:22-23, “But the spiritual nature produces love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control...”

Key Verse: 2 Corinthians 5:17, “Whoever is a believer in Christ is a new creation. The old way of living has disappeared. A new way of living has come into existence.”

How does this address a need in our kids' lives?

Kids need to live in the power given to them through faith in Christ. Christ has given his life for us that we might have forgiveness and the fullness of his presence in our lives. Being filled with Christ is being recreated in the image of God. As such, we also receive the characteristics of Christ. Examples of these characteristics might be called fruits of the spirit listed in Galatians 5:22.

How does Jesus fill this need?

Jesus for us: Jesus gave his life as a sacrifice for our sin and as a resource for our lives to be filled with the power of his presence.

Jesus in us: Jesus fills us through his Holy Spirit with the new characteristics made in the image of God.

Jesus through us: As we depend on his resources, Jesus works through us to reach the world with his love.

Stamp of Excellence:

Remind the kids what excellent worship looks like. We are in God's presence to honor him. Put on your best manners. This might include wearing your name tag, participating eagerly at all times, listening when the leader is talking, raising your hand to speak, not distracting others, playing the learning game with cooperation, singing enthusiastically, and praying reverently. Offer rewards or positive reinforcement to those who worship with excellence.



Worship

Invocation:

Let kids bring the worship symbols forward such as the cross, candles, Bible, and offering plate. Invite God's presence and call by name Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Attention Grabber:

Capture the children's attention and help them focus on the worship theme for the day.

Option 1:

Supplies:

- *video: The Fox and the Hound (Walt Disney Home Video, 1981)—order from <http://www.a1vcd.com/vcd/CL0012.shtml>*

Show excerpts from *The Fox and the Hound*. Show the excerpt that starts with Squeeks the caterpillar in the dead houseplant and ends with him crawling along the electric wires (cue video count to approximately 42.55-44.27). Then show the excerpt of him changing into a butterfly (video cue approximately 1.23.58-1.24.31). The scene begins with the birds peering into the tree trunk looking for a delicious meal and viewing the transformation of Squeeks into a butterfly.

Option 2:

Supplies:

- *real or plastic butterfly or a picture of one*

Talk about the change from a caterpillar to a butterfly.

Boys and girls, close your eyes and imagine you are a caterpillar crawling on the ground. What is it like? You can't move very fast. It is hard to see a whole lot above you. Things look very big. Will someone step on you? Now imagine you are a butterfly.

Show children the butterfly.

What does it feel like to fly? Can you see more things? Can you move faster? How do you feel now? Isn't it a lot more exciting? Don't you feel more freedom?

Today we are talking about becoming a new creation. The Bible tells us that when we trust in Jesus as our Savior and follow him, we have a change in our lives. It's like changing from a caterpillar to a butterfly!

Let's praise God that he gives us newness of life!

Songs of Worship:

Choose two or three songs. Briefly introduce songs so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God!

Your choice of music.

The Power of the Cross:

Jesus has given his life for us that we might have forgiveness and power to live for him.

Supplies:

- *two pictures of faces from a magazine*
- *dark marker*

Take a picture of a person from a magazine and draw a mustache, goatee, and horns on it.

You can see how I ruined the picture or distorted the image. This is a comparison of what happened to all of us when sin came into the world. Our image, created in holiness to be like God, was changed. Instead, we became selfish and sinful. The devil had control over our lives.

Close your eyes and think of a way this past week that Satan had control over your life and you did something that did not please God. Let's ask God to forgive us for that bad thing.

Have a time of silence for confession.

Let's take another picture and draw a halo over the person's head. Jesus says he defeated the power of the devil when he gave his life for us. When we believe in Jesus, he comes to live in our lives. He says that in God's eyes we are forgiven. We are forgiven of our sins. God sees us as perfect.

Can you imagine God smiling at you right now and saying, "Because of Jesus, I see you as completely perfect. That's how much I love you."

Because of what Jesus did for us, we have the power to live obedient lives for God.

Song of Response:

Choose a song to help the children turn to Jesus. Or, you may want to help them celebrate what God has done by singing a song of praise.

Offering:

Teach the importance of giving and talk about the mission activities they are supporting.

Supplies:

- *butterfly from the Attention Grabber*

Place a butterfly in the offering basket. When kids bring their offerings forward, they are reminded they are new creations that love to give back to God.



The Word

Learning Game:

Some churches dismiss children from the adult service at this time to join Kids Church. The learning game provides a fun kinesthetic activity to help kids connect with each other. The learning point will help reinforce the theme of the day.

There will not be a learning game today due to the length of the Bible Presentation and Interactive Drama.

Bible Presentation & Application: Interactive Drama

Help children pay attention by giving them a word or concept to listen for as you read. Consider letting a child read who could do so with excellence.

Supplies:

- *plastic drop cloth or newspaper*
- *Pop-Ice (in various colors) for each child*
- *trash cans available for wrappers*
- *moist towels for sticky hands*
- *five Pop-Ice treats for the leader to make a cross*
- *tape*
- *towel*
- *10 to 15-foot rope with a weight on the end*
- *dominos*

During the hot summer months, kids enjoy eating Pop-Ice, inexpensive frozen treats that come in various colors. At the beginning of the Bible Presentation, pass out these treats to the kids. Let the kids group themselves according to the color of Pop-Ice they receive.

Read 2 Corinthians 5:17. Then invite a child forward to help explain the Bible truth as follows. Coach the child to give facial expressions that reflect what you are saying.

When God first made people, he made them perfect. Look at this perfect smile on this perfect face. Point to child. People were made in God's image—holy just like him. They were going to live forever with him.

Then what happened? Sin came into the world when Adam and Eve disobeyed. Uh-oh. Look at the face. It is no longer smiling; it's a sad face. The child makes a sad face. See his posture slump? Slump. See his shoulders are down and his head droops? Droop.

God wanted to put his image back into people. He sent his Son who was perfect.

Make a cross by taping together five Pop-Ices, three vertical and two horizontal. Hold up the cross and say:

When Jesus gave his life for us and died on the cross, he paid for all the sin we have done and will ever do. He took our old sinful image on himself. It was like a trade. He gave us a new image—his perfection and holiness.

Hand the Pop-Ice cross to the volunteer. Then say:

As you are filling your tummies with these fruity ice treats, think of this as demonstrating how we are filled with the very spirit of Christ when we trust him as our Savior and Lord. What does God's infilling presence give us? It says in Galatians 5 that God's presence gives us the fruit of his spirit.

Galatians 5:22-25 reads, "But the spiritual nature produces love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control...Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified their corrupt nature along with its passions and desires. If we live by our spiritual nature, then our lives need to conform to our spiritual nature."

Let's see what this looks like.

The next five activities will allow the kids to come up according to the color of their Pop-Ice. They will be involved in an interactive activity that demonstrates the following.

Red: Love • Blue: Kindness • Green: Patience • Orange: Joy • Purple: Self-Control

Each of the learning activities is done for the whole group with special concentration on the group with the selected color of Pop-Ice being the most active. Kids can eat their Pop-Ice as they watch the other groups. After eating, they can also be identified by the color of their tongue.

Red: Love

During the following narration, have some of the children that received red Pop-Ice come forward. These kids will need to be able to speak quickly off the top of their head. Tell the kids they will help tell the story by filling in the blanks with an appropriate answer. It will be their turn when the microphone is placed in front of them so they can fill in the missing blank. They can make up whatever they want to say, though the narrator might have to give them some help from time to time.

Filled With Jesus' Love

Interactive Story

Jesus said, “I’m giving you a new commandment: Love each other in the same way that I have loved you” (John 13:34).

Once there was a boy named _____. He lived in the city of _____. On the way home from church, he was thinking about how all those who have Jesus in their life are new creations. Then he saw someone who might need his help. He saw another kid who just had an accident. This is what he saw:_____.

He remembered what he learned at church: “Jesus, you told me to love others as you loved me. Fill me with your love. I’m a new creation—created just like you.” So this is what the boy decided he could do to help:_____.

When he was back home playing in his neighborhood, he heard a laugh, then a thud, then he felt a sharp pain in his back. He turned around and saw _____ standing there with a _____ in his hand.

“What could be going on?” he thought to himself. Then he knew. This person had done him wrong. This person had _____.

He forgot all about God’s love. The first thing he wanted to do was _____. Then he remembered Jesus’ words, “Love each other in the same way I have loved you.”

When he thought of how God loved him, he remembered this about God:_____. So he decided he would forgive the person. He would show God’s love. He felt God’s power. He had an idea. Instead of getting even, this is what he did. He_____. After he did this, he knew God’s love was working through him—loving others the way Jesus has loved us.

Blue: Kindness

Call the blue group forward. Challenge them with the following.

Think of something you did this last week to show kindness and the power of Jesus working in your life. Raise your hand when you are ready to share something.

Green: Patience

Call forward two children from the green group and ask them to stand on plastic drop cloths or newspaper, holding their palms face up. Place two inches of an unwrapped Pop-Ice on both of their palms. Ask the kids to hold it until it melts away.

Is it hard to wait for the Pop-Ice to melt? Wouldn't you just like to quickly eat it?

Is there anything else you have a hard time being patient about?

After the kids have shared, help them clean their hands and give them a round of applause. Interview more kids from the green group about things for which they need patience. Pray for all the kids to have patience over some of these typical things.

Orange: Joy

This large group game is a game of spinning jump rope. A 10 to 15-foot rope with a weight on the end is spun around in the middle of the room while the orange group tries to jump and clear the rope as it comes towards them. When the orange group has completed this game, other groups are invited to follow.

All of this jumping reminds us of the joy we have because Jesus' love is with us at all times. Jesus, too, had joy when he served his Father, just like we can have joy serving God.

Purple: Self-Control

Invite two children from the purple group forward and give them dominos to set up in a line to be knocked down. Each should work independently. Read this story as these two children act it out.

Martha and Alexis like playing games together. One of the games they played was "Domino Trains." They placed dominos end on end until they made a long train. Then they would knock the train over.

As they were building one train, Alexis had a problem. She saw Martha's train and she was so-o-o tempted to knock it down. She just wanted to push one itty-bitty domino. It was hard to hold back.

Alexis reached over and pushed a domino. Down came Martha's domino train!

Boys and girls, has this ever happened to you? Have you ever been doing something with a friend and you just wanted to knock down what they were building? Have you ever had a time when it was hard to have control?

Well, the girls are back at building another train. What do you think will happen this time?

This time Martha looked at Alexis' train. She saw that it was a long train and it was so tempting. She thought knocking it down might be a good way to get even. Martha reached over and pushed one of Alexis' dominos down.

Alexis got very angry. The girls got in a fight and never finished their game.

The next week they got together to play again. Guess what they were playing. That's right—domino trains. They both built very long trains. The girls looked at each other's train and remembered they had the spirit of Christ living in them. He could control their urges to do things that were not right. Now the girls joined their trains together and knocked it down as one.

When we accept what Jesus did for us on the cross and understand how much he loved us, we receive his power and become new creatures. When we are tempted to sin, we can remember his words that have power to change us. We do not have to fall into that sin. Then he blesses us with joy for choosing to follow his ways.

Read 2 Corinthians 5:17 again.



Witness

Witness and Tell:

Give children opportunities to share how God is working in their lives. It is best to use a microphone to ask children interview questions around the theme for the day.

Invite anyone to come forward and try to remember the meanings behind the five colors used today. Then invite others to come forward and mention how they have seen one of those fruits of the Spirit demonstrated this last month by someone in this room.

Prayer:

Let the kids pray out loud. If you are using a microphone, invite children to form a prayer line and speak their thanksgivings or requests. If you have portable microphones, you can roam the audience. Kids can also go to prayer stations set up for specific types of prayer.

Invite anyone who is unsure if they are born again or are unsure if they know Jesus as their Savior and Lord to pray the following prayer.

Dear God, you said you would make me a new creation. Thank you for doing that. I now admit that I have sinned and I am sorry. I need a Savior. I know that Jesus gave his life for me on the cross and he didn't stay dead. I trust him. He is alive and is right here now even if I can't see him. Lord Jesus, by the power of the Holy Spirit, come into my life, and change me to be more like you. Amen.

Another prayer option is to have children stay in their color groups. Have a few kids from each group pray for ways that all can better show the spiritual fruit that is represented by that group.

Blessing:

Speak a blessing prayer over the children. Personalize this to your setting. Use a special scripture verse or blessing around the theme of the day.

Song of Sending:

Choose one song. Briefly introduce song so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God.

Supplies:

Attention Grabber:

- Option 1: video: *The Fox and the Hound* (Walt Disney Home Video, 1981)—order from <http://www.a1vcd.com/vcd/CL0012.shtml>
- Option 2: a real or plastic butterfly or a picture of one

Power of the Cross:

- two pictures of a model from a magazine
- dark marker

Offering:

- butterfly from the Attention Grabber

Bible Presentation Application:

- plastic drop cloth or newspaper
- Pop-Ice (in various colors) for each child
- trash cans available for wrappers
- moist towels for sticky hands
- five Pop-Ice treats for the leader to make a cross
- tape
- towel
- 10 to 15-foot rope with a weight on the end
- dominos

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