



**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Series:** A Whole New You  
Fall Year 1, Lesson 22

# A New Mind

**Take Home Point:** \*We can have the mind of Christ.

\*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

**Bible Event:** 1 Corinthians 2:12, 16; Luke 19:1-9

**Key Verse:** Romans 12:2, "Don't become like the people of this world. Instead, change the way you think. Then you will always be able to determine what God really wants—what is good, pleasing, and perfect."

## We will help kids know:

- Satan uses the world's lies to try to conform our thinking to his standards.
- Through faith in Christ we have the Holy Spirit who gives us a new way of thinking: the mind of Christ.
- We need to renew our attitudes through the truth of God's Word, the influence of other believers, and prayer.
- The Bible event of Zacchaeus and how his life was changed after a personal encounter with Jesus.




## We will help kids feel:

- Discomfort over how easy it is to conform to the pattern of this world.
- Confident that Christ renews their thinking as they turn to him.

## We will help kids do:

- Identify thought patterns that are destructive when loaded into our minds.
- Pray for power to resist getting squeezed into the world's mold of thinking.
- Pray for a mind transformed in Christ.

# THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
<b>Small Group Warm-Up</b> 	3	The world tries to pressure or imprint our minds. Small group story.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>newspaper sections</li> <li>bouncing putty. e.g. Silly Putty®</li> </ul>
<b>Large Group</b> 	4  8      10      9	<b>Overview</b>  <b>Interactive presentation:</b> <i>Marty Morpheus Explains a New Mind</i> —a volunteer is called forward to demonstrate visually how the messages of the world can squeeze and shape our thinking.  <b>Dramatic monologue:</b> <i>Zacchaeus And a Whole New Way of Thinking</i> —An actor tells the story of Zaccheus and his encounter with Jesus from Luke 19:1-9.  <i>Option:</i> the video from Nest Entertainment, <i>Treasures in Heaven</i> .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Marty Morpheus explorer outfit (<i>see lesson 21</i>)</li> <li>ten volunteers</li> <li>slips of paper to poke into the bouncing putty (<i>see appendix - page 13</i>)</li> <li>large appliance box – big enough to hold a child. Cut a hole in the top and in the back.</li> <li>shower cap</li> <li><i>Option:</i> plastic toy vise</li> <li><i>Option:</i> Panama hat or prayer bubble to use as a hat</li> <li>stepladder strong enough to hold a person</li> <li>artificial tree – or add limbs and leaves to the ladder</li> <li>bag of foil-wrapped chocolate coins</li> <li>costume for Zacchaeus</li> <li><i>Option:</i> the video from Nest Entertainment, <i>Treasures in Heaven</i>. (<a href="http://www.nestfamily.com">www.nestfamily.com</a>)</li> <li><i>Option:</i> video clip of an old Frankenstein movie with the mad scientist looking at a new brain for his creation, Frankenstein. (<a href="http://amazon.com">amazon.com</a>)</li> </ul>
<b>Small Group Application</b> 	4	Kids review how Zacchaeus' mind was transformed, and hear a contemporary story of another person whose thinking was changed after meeting Jesus.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bible</li> </ul>

# Small Group Warm-Up: 15 minutes



**Purpose:** *Get pointed in the right direction!* Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.

**As kids gather:** Listen to memory verses from last week and give coupons for memory verses, remembering to bring your Bible, and bringing a guest.

**Begin:** Review the group covenant signed by all. This can be as simple as reading it and reminding all that they have signed it. (See lesson 16.) Welcome new kids and invite them to sign the covenant.

**Supplies:** Each student will need sections of a newspaper and bouncing putty to make imprints. Watch out for putty getting too warm as it works best at cooler temps.

After you have passed out the bouncing putty and newspaper pages say:

**Take the bouncing putty out of the container. As you are playing with the putty and molding it, I want you think of it as your brain. I know your brain is much bigger than this, but this putty is a small replica of your brain or maybe your thoughts.**

**What are some of your thoughts or daydreams? Now, find a word or a phrase, or even a picture from the newspaper that describes something you like thinking about... or that you think about from time to time. Imprint it on your putty by pressing the putty onto it. Once you have done this, share with the group why you imprinted what you did.**

After discussion, conclude with:

**The thoughts that we put into our mind make a difference in what we say or do. Ask yourselves these questions, "What kind of thoughts am I putting into my mind, and what kind of thoughts *should* I put into my mind?" We might discover that God has a whole new way of thinking for us. Today, we will learn that *\*we can have the mind of Christ.***

Collect the putty and hold it until the end of class. Then give it to the kids to take home.

## Large Group: 20-30 minutes



**Purpose:** *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible Event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

### Overview

**Interactive presentation:** *Marty Morpheus Explains a New Mind*—a volunteer is called forward to demonstrate visually how the messages of the world can squeeze and shape our thinking.

**Dramatic monologue:** *Zacchaeus Changes His Mind*—An actor tells the story of Zacchaeus and his encounter with Jesus from Luke 19:1-9.

*Option:* the video from Nest Entertainment, *Treasures in Heaven*--- the section on Zacchaeus.

## Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



**Purpose:** *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion, but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

*Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.*

### Observation Questions: What happened?

Have kids refer to Luke 19:1-9 in their Bibles.

**What event changed the life of Zacchaeus?** (*Meeting Jesus*)

**How did Jesus show Zacchaeus that he cared for him?** (*Luke 19:5. Jesus addressed Zacchaeus by name and went to visit Zacchaeus in his home.*)

**What did Zacchaeus do to show he changed his thinking?** (*Luke 19:8. He gave back to those he had cheated four times the amount. He gave half of his property to the poor.*)

### Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?

**Do you think Zacchaeus was still a rich man even though he seems to have given everything away?** (*He became rich in the love of Jesus. This is more valuable than any amount of money.* )

## **Application Questions: What does this mean to me?**

**How does Jesus come to us like he did Zacchaeus?** *(He calls us by name and will come take residence in our homes when we invite him in.)*

**How does having a relationship with Jesus change our lives like it did Zacchaeus?** *(Zaccheus returned money to those he took from. We can apologize to those we have hurt. Jesus will help us think with thoughtfulness and generosity.)*

After discussion continue with the story for application:

**I want you to listen thoughtfully to this story. You will get to make up part of the story.**

### **Small Group Story**

Mary was twelve and one the most popular girls in school. She seemed to have lots of money. She wore just the right clothes and went to all the right places. Mary was always concerned about what others thought of her so she was very careful as to whom she chose as her friends. She wanted to make sure that she'd never choose a friend who wasn't as important as her. After all, she was Mary, *the* girl with *the* looks and *the* clothes and *the* places to go.

However, Mary had a problem. In spite of having all these *things*, Mary wasn't very satisfied. As a matter of fact she was unsatisfied. Nothing seemed to be good enough. She always wanted more. She wanted to be better looking, have more clothes, and go to more places because these things eventually became boring. I guess you could say she was spoiled. Mary didn't respect her parents or their wishes. She often called them stupid behind their backs. She didn't respect others and made up stories, talking often about how dumb they were.

One day, the Social Studies teacher gave an assignment working together with a partner. Mary's partner was Sadie. Sadie was, in Mary's opinion, the dumbest girl around. Sadie never wore *the* right clothes. She was never at *the* places to be, and she just seemed boring. She wasn't even that smart. Mary knew she was going to have a terrible time with Sadie. They weren't going to get a good grade on the project. But Sadie turned out to be friendly. She invited Mary to her house so that they could work on their project together.

Mary found Sadie's house to be just what she expected. It wasn't a very rich home. It was very ordinary. Mary thought, "Oh, it figures." But after 30 minutes inside Sadie's home, she began to realize that things were really different there. Though Sadie and her family didn't

have much, they seemed to be genuinely happy. They were courteous to one other. Sadie's mom made them cookies and even laughed with them. They laughed and told stories together.

When they were making their project, Mary made the comment that she hoped everyone would think their project was the best. Sadie said something unusual. Sadie said, "I don't care what other people think. I just want to do my best." Wow, there was something different about her.

Before the evening ended, Sadie invited Mary to come to her church on Sunday morning. After all, they had been talking about life in King David's time. It fit right in with what they were studying in Social Studies. Though Mary knew it wasn't *the* place to be, she was curious about what happens at church. So, she accepted the invitation. That next Sunday, Mary went with Sadie and there were several things that caught her attention. People thought differently there.

Have the kids describe what they think could be some of the things Mary might have noticed about the teaching or the behavior of believers that have "the mind of Christ". For example: How much money you have doesn't indicate how important you are in God's eyes.

After taking a few thoughts, continue the story.

Mary continued to go with Sadie to church for several weeks until one Sunday things really made sense to her. Mary began to see that she wasn't perfect and she, too, had sinned against God. She needed Jesus' forgiveness and his power in her life. She had heard how God paid the price for all her sins by giving his Son Jesus to die in her place. She simply needed to receive Jesus' forgiveness by faith.

And, that's what she did. She admitted her sin and said, "I need you, Jesus, as my Savior. Please live in my life." From that day on, things began to change for her. She began to have a new way of thinking. What other people thought about her was no longer the most important thing to Mary. What God thought about her became more important than what others thought. She knew that God delighted in her and loved her just the way she was. God would help change her to become more like Jesus. She even had a new attitude because now she had the mind of Christ.

From the Bible event of Zacchaeus and the story of Mary, how do you think we can have a new mind?

Let kids who feel comfortable share the following.

Have you had any wrong thinking like Zacchaeus or Mary?

Review Romans 12:2:

***“Don’t become like the people of this world. Instead, change the way you think. Then you will always be able to determine what God really wants—what is good, pleasing, and perfect.”***

**Have you experienced a change of mind (or thinking)? How did you feel different? Did it change your outlook on things or give you a better attitude? Explain.**

**We can be confident that Jesus renews our minds when we turn to him. How do we set our minds on Jesus? *(Through God’s Word, prayer, and encouragement from other believers)***

**We have learned today that *\*We can have the mind of Christ.***

Closing Prayer:

Pray for the Holy Spirit's conviction where there may be any conforming to the world.  
Pray for all to have the mind of Christ and to become a new creation pleasing to God.  
Thank Jesus for his forgiveness and the power he gives to change the way we think.

**Safety and Security:** Safety and security procedures are important for each church to carefully define and implement according to their unique needs. The security, safety, illness and accident procedures described in this curriculum are provided for example purposes only and may not be appropriate, applicable or adequate for every situation. Each church is responsible for determining whether any security, safety, illness and accident procedures contained in the curriculum are appropriate, applicable or adequate for its unique situation. The activities described in this curriculum require adult supervision and may not be suitable for each child and each situation. Each church is responsible for ensuring that adequate adult supervision is provided for all activities and for determining whether an activity is appropriate for each child and each situation. Kids Kount Publishing disclaims all liability for the implementation of any procedures or the performance of any activities described in this curriculum.

## Large Group Presentation

In advance, the presenter selects ten kids to bring their bouncing putty with them to Large Group. He/she gives them a slip of paper that they poke into the bouncing putty leaving the end of the paper sticking out like an antenna. (See appendix page, *Bouncing Putty Antennae Slips*.) These ten volunteers will be asked to come forward in the Large Group presentation.

*Additional supplies needed: a large appliance box with a hole cut in the top and back so that a kid can crawl into it and poke his head out the top hole, a shower cap, and a vise or gripper*

### **“Marty Morpheus Explains a New Mind”**

#### Audience Participation Presentation

**Hello, I’m Marty Morpheus, the famous explorer and discoverer of new species. My specialty is to find creatures that have emerged as new from something old. For example, my favorite is the butterfly. Once a caterpillar crawled into a cocoon and then emerged as a new creature, a butterfly.**

**Though that is amazing, it’s not as amazing as the new creature we have with us today. This creature is called a believer. Our “New Creatures Manual,” the Bible says in 2 Corinthians 5:17, *“Whoever is a believer in Christ is new creation. The old way of living has disappeared and a new way of living has come into existence.”* So let me call up a believer and look at the new creature that he is.**

Call a volunteer forward. Review last weeks lesson by pointing to the heart.

**Last week we learned the new believer has a new heart. His hard heart has been replaced with a heart that says, “I trust you, God, and I want to do what you want.”**

**Well, today we’ll see how God trades the old mind for a new mind. Believer, please step into our “mind transfer machine.”**

***Option:*** Show video clip of an old Frankenstein movie with the mad scientist looking at a new brain for his creation, Frankenstein. Marty Morpheus could comment that this is one effort at putting a new brain into an old creature but this is not quite what God had in mind.

Have the volunteer crawl into the large appliance box and poke his head up through the hole. Place the shower cap on his/her head. Refer to the student and continue with:

**Here we have an average sixth grade mind. Now the Bible says in Romans 12:2, *“Don’t become like the people of this world, instead change the way you think.”* Another version says it this way, *“Don’t***



***conform to the pattern of this world.***” What does that mean? It means that the world tries to squeeze you into its shape with its messages and lies. What are some of the messages of this world? Let’s have my ten volunteers come forward with some of those ideas that try to pressure you into the shape of this world.

Read this list of the strips of paper/bouncing putty antennae that was passed out before the large group presentation. As you read each message, have the student with the corresponding paper strip stick their putty antenna glob onto the shower cap covered head of the believer in the box. (After the presentation, they can return to get their putty.)

- Money is so important that it is okay to hurt others in order to get what you want.
- A little white lie isn’t a lie, its just bending the truth a little bit.
- There is no such thing as right and wrong. Everyone can choose what is right for them.
- The most important thing in the world is what others think about you.
- A little cheating is okay, because everyone does it.
- If you take God’s name in vain, by saying, “Oh my God”, it’s not really that bad because they do it on television all the time.
- You are important if you do well in school or in sports.
- It’s okay to join in whenever anyone makes fun of someone else.
- It really doesn’t matter what God you follow just as long as you are sincere.

During this time all the types of putty on the head should make quite a picture of the world trying to press its influence to the thinking of the person. To further illustrate this, take your hands or a plastic toy vise, and gently squeeze the head like a vise, to further illustrate the world trying to shape the head and mind into its pattern of thinking.

Continue to teach according to Romans 12:2.

**We are not to conform our thinking to the pattern of the world, but instead have our minds renewed. It means our thinking changes to become like Christ. That change happens as we listen to God’s word, listen to the support of other believers, and spend time in prayer with him.**

Have the volunteer take off the shower cap and return to his seat. Option: you may replace the shower cap with a Panama hat or place a prayer bubble over the head to take away the shower cap.

**Let’s look at an example of how God changed the mind of a man named, Zacchaeus.**

Go to the monologue: *Zacchaeus and a Whole New Way of Thinking* or show the video from Nest Entertainment, *Treasures in Heaven*. Show the section on Zaccheus from 18:21 to 21:52. (3 ½ minutes)

# **Zacchaeus and a Whole New Way of Thinking**

## **A dramatic monologue**

*Props needed:*

- *a step ladder that can be climbed and sat upon*
- *an artificial tree beneath it, or limbs and leaves wired to the step ladder*
- *a bag of foil-covered chocolate coins*
- *headpiece and period costume for Zacchaeus*

Zacchaeus enters and goes up the step ladder and talks:

**What are you looking at? Haven't you ever seen a man sit up in a tree? Actually, it's not so bad up here. It's a good place to be, for me anyway. My name is Zacchaeus. I like to come up in this tree to think. It reminds me of the time my life changed not too long ago. Now, I think of things entirely differently than I did before. Can I tell you my story?**

**Well, some people call me short. But I'd rather refer to myself as "height challenged." If you're tall, some people respect you or think you're more important. But I thought of a better way to gain importance and respect. I thought I could find significance in money and power. If I just had enough money and power, I could buy all that I needed, including my friends. So, that's what I concentrated on. More money, more power, more fine things of life, and more friends....that is, if I shared my wealth with them. My goal was to get rich and live it up. Here's what I did.**

**I became a tax collector. Not only a tax collector, but head of all the tax collectors in my city of Jericho. Now in other places, a tax collector is respected, but not in Judea. That's because the taxes I collected were going to the Romans. Our people hated the Romans. The Romans ruled over us and the Romans worshiped false gods. Our people considered it an insult that they were forced to pay taxes and give it to a foreign country... especially one that worshiped false gods. But the Romans had a problem-- they needed to collect the money. They needed someone like me, someone who knew the value of making money, lots of it, and would do so even if it meant a little compromise.**

**So I agreed to collect taxes for the Romans. And they agreed I could collect extra, if I wanted, for my own salary. I could even get others to help collect taxes. And since there were Roman soldiers to help back me up, the people had to pay. I got rich. All I thought I could buy with money, I tried to buy. I had parties and thought I could buy happiness. I bought things for people and thought I could buy**

friends. I bought fine food and a spacious house and thought I could buy peace and security. But after buying all this, I still felt empty inside. On the outside, the people of my city hated me. I was known as Zacchaeus, the tax collector. Pitoo.. (Give an imaginary spit to the side.)

Since I was short, excuse me, “height challenged,” I made sure that I wasn’t left alone without a Roman escort or soldier, or in crowds of people where someone might, well, clobber me.

One day, I had heard that the famous, traveling teacher named Jesus was coming to town. He attracted big crowds wherever he went because he claimed to do the works of God. He claimed to be the Son of God himself and taught with great wisdom. I thought this was a show I did not want to miss. But how would I see him? I couldn’t see over the crowd of people and I didn’t want to get accidentally pushed down, so I came up here in this tree and waited for a glimpse of the special one many called the Messiah.

As Jesus came down the road, he passed right by my tree. But then, he did the most unusual thing. He stopped and looked up at me and called me by my name. Imagine that. It was as if I really mattered to him. He said, “Zacchaeus, come down from the tree. I must come have lunch at your house today.” Can you imagine that! Jesus, himself, singling me out! Maybe he didn’t know that I was a tax collector, someone everyone else hated. But I didn’t want to waste the opportunity. I scrambled down the tree as fast as I could.

Climbs down from the ladder.

I hurried to meet him and said, “Come quickly. Let’s go to my house.” People murmured along the way. I could hear them. They thought it was shameful that Jesus was going to my home. “How could a respectful man of God be seen with a tax collector?” they said.

But Jesus was thinking something else. He stayed at my house and we had a meal together. He met my friends. What a wonderful time. He showed me that I was important to him, and that there was still room for me in the kingdom of God, even if I had cheated people of their money by taking taxes from them all those years. He talked about God’s forgiveness and suddenly I understood in a whole new way. You see, thinking that such things as having enough money, power, or influence would make me happy, was foolishness. God doesn’t work that way at all.

Jesus showed me that I could turn my thinking back to God and say, “I’m sorry. I need your forgiveness. I would rather live for your

**purposes instead of living for money, power and fame.” That day, I felt like a whole new man because I had discovered a whole new way of thinking. Because I thought differently, I acted differently.**

Reach into the bag and throw chocolate coins into the audience with each of the following phrases:

**So I took my wealth, and I went back to people that I’d cheated. I gave back all the money I took from them. I gave them back not only the amount I took, (throw coins) not two times as much money, (throw coins,) not three times as much money, (throw coins) but four times (throw coins) as much as I had cheated them. Then, I took half of all my possessions and gave them to the poor. Why? God gave me a new way of thinking.**

**The treasure that really lasts is not the treasure of money or homes. The treasure that really lasts is in your heart. It comes when you know and believe in the God of the universe. True joy came to me when I met God’s Son Jesus, who showed me his forgiveness and taught me that I mattered to God.**

**Well, that’s my story. So, next time you see a short person, I mean a “height challenged” person, remember my story. You don’t become “big” collecting money and stuff or trying to get others to like you. You become “big” when you understand how big God’s love is for you, just like I experienced.**

Marty or the presenter concludes with prayer:

**Dear God, Thank you that because of what Jesus has done for us, we can become a new creation with a new mind. Help us to no longer believe the lies of Satan or the messages of the world that try and deceive us. Instead, we can change the way we think. Thank you that we can have the mind of Christ to determine what you really want---what is good, pleasing, and perfect. In Jesus’ name, Amen.**

## **Large Group “Bouncing Putty Antennae Slips”**

Note: Copy on cardstock so that the strips of paper will look like antennae when placed in the putty.

<b>Money is so important that it's okay to hurt others in order to get what you want.</b>
<b>A little white lie isn't a lie, its just bending the truth a little bit.</b>
<b>There is no such thing as right and wrong. Everyone can choose what is right for them.</b>
<b>The most important thing in the world is what others think about you.</b>
<b>A little cheating is okay, because everyone does it.</b>
<b>If you take God's name in vain, by saying, "Oh, my God," it's not really that bad because they do it on television all the time.</b>
<b>You are important if you do well in school or in sports.</b>
<b>It's okay to join in whenever anyone make fun of someone else.</b>
<b>It really doesn't matter what God you follow just as long as you are sincere.</b>