



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Series: Lookin' for a Leader  
Fall Year 3, Lesson 26

# God Made You His New Creation

**Primary Scripture:** 2 Corinthians 5:17; Psalm 139:13-14

**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 want to feel special. We all do. According to the standards of our world, people are often deemed "special" based on attractiveness or outward appearances. Others might be rated "special" based on exceptional talents or accomplishments. Children need to see themselves the way God sees them and not compared to worldly standards. In God's eyes we are completely unique and special to him simply because he loves us. What's more, not only did he create us, fashioning us before birth; but he also gave us a new birth. He fashions us into the image of his Son, Jesus, as we come to faith in him. We can certainly say, "I am fearfully and wonderfully made" not only in our physical bodies but in our spirits as well.

## **How does Jesus fill this need?**

**Jesus for us:** God values us so much that he gave his Son for the remission of our sin so that we might have a personal relationship with him.

**Jesus in us:** The greatest creative work he does is to dwell in us through his Holy Spirit, making us a new creation in the likeness of Christ.

**Jesus through us:** We do not measure ourselves according to the standards of the world. Instead we are delighted to be who God made us, new creations in Christ. We become his image to others, giving them his love and acceptance, as well.

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## 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 forward the worship symbols, 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.*

Show the first 50 seconds of the movie *Hermie—a Common Caterpillar* (Max Lucado author, Tommy Nelson Publishing, 2002). Begin with the animation and credits and stop 50 seconds later right when the caterpillar lands on the rock and the name John Schmidt is credited.

*This video clip gives just enough image of a butterfly in flight to illustrate your point. The kids will want to see more and this will give them something to look forward to later in the service when the movie will continue from here into the story line.*

**Boys and girls, you have seen butterflies before. But did you know that butterflies are sometimes a symbol of the Christian? How is that so? It is because something very special happens to a butterfly. A butterfly has changed in some way. If you don't know what a butterfly started out as, just wait, you'll find out later in today's lesson. Before becoming a butterfly, this creature is not considered anything special. But afterwards, it changes into a beautiful creature that flies.**

**The Bible says, "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." Are any of you believers in Christ? Good. I hope you are all believers in Christ.**

**If you are, you can look at yourself and see that God is making you into a whole new creation. He takes away an old way of living, living**

selfishly, and gives us his heart, instead. That is what we will talk about today.

So let's worship him because, as his new creations, we love to do that.

## **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!*

Ask a good reader to read aloud Psalm 139:13-14 in between your songs. Point out that because God made us special, we can worship him.

## **The Power of the Cross:**

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

Bring four children up and have them stand in front of the group. Make mention how each one is different. Then ask the question,

**Have you ever wanted to be someone else? Maybe you want to be like someone bigger, taller, or thinner; maybe faster or smarter? It's okay to want to be taller, faster or smarter, but sometimes if we want to *be* someone else, it may be because we are not happy with who God made us to be. We might get the wrong idea that to be special we must be very handsome or beautiful.**

**But wait! Whose idea was it that these kids look so different? It was God's idea. He made each one unique in his/her own way. When we say to ourselves, "I don't like the way God made me, I wish I were someone else," we might be telling God that we don't like what he created. In fact, it was God's idea to make us just the way we are. He wants us to appreciate his creation—that's us! Not only that, he wants to take who we are and make us like new inside our hearts. God wants us to be filled with his love. This happens when we trust Jesus.**

**Let's take time now and pray to be filled with Jesus' love and to be thankful for who we are.**

**Dear God, thank you for making each one of us just the way we are. We are sorry for times we don't like ourselves, or we wish that you had made us differently.**

**We are also sorry for the times we are angry or mean to others because we don't like who we are inside.**

**We know you have a wonderful plan for each one of us, making us just the way we are. The best thing is how you make us new on the inside when we trust you. We know that Jesus gave his life for us on the cross, but he is no longer dead. He is alive and lives inside every believer so we can be a new creation in Christ. Please make us new creations as we serve and worship you. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

## **Song of Response:**

*Choose a song to help the children turn to Jesus. Or you may want 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 needed: a butterfly net*

Place the butterfly net on the altar where the offerings are collected. This reminds us that, like a butterfly is a new creation, so we are new creations and can give our gifts back to God since Jesus himself lives within us.



# 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.*

*Supplies needed: masking tape to mark starting line, Optional: snacks for all*

### “Shoepile Pickup”

Have every person in the room take off one shoe and put it in a pile in the middle. Mix the shoes up.

Relay: Divide the kids into groups of five. Have groups line up behind a line and one at a time retrieve their shoe from the pile. They must then put it on and return to their team and tag the next person to go.

Stress the following two learning points:

**Just as each shoe is unique, so is each person that God made. Each of us is special in our own unique way. Rather than being dissatisfied with ourselves and wanting to be something that we are not, we should be thankful that we are different than all others.**

**Like these shoes, when a foot is placed in it, the shoes serve a purpose and really become functional. The same is true for us. God “puts us on” when he lives inside us. He lives in us when we trust Jesus as our Savior. He then helps each one of us to walk in his ways!**

*Option: Let kids have a snack as a reward for playing the game with success. It will come in handy when they sit through a long movie.*

## Bible Reading:

*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.*

Read the Bible verse before starting the movie. 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.”***

**Show the movie *Hermie, A Common Caterpillar*. This lasts 33 minutes and is a delightful, animated film written by Max Lucado. The theme centers on Hermie, a caterpillar, and Wormy, his friend. They both seek to be special and in so doing want to be someone else. The children will enjoy Hermie’s amusing antics as he attempts to fly like a butterfly, be strong as an ant, have a house like a snail or be beautiful like a ladybug.**

**Hermie’s song has a message which most kids and adults can relate to.**

**“If I were only bigger, a little smarter, a little thinner, or maybe taller,  
Think of what I could do...  
How about a little faster, a little brighter if I was lighter,  
Think of what I could do...  
I know it’s not me, but all I want to be,  
Is just like you.”**

**There is a message from God in the video. God says, “Don’t worry, I’m not finished with you yet... I’m giving you a heart just like mine.” The story ends with Hermie becoming a butterfly. Then the message is clear. “Your story is not through...You gotta have faith that God isn’t finished with you.”**

**Discuss what a butterfly is before it becomes a new creature.**

**What does the caterpillar do to change into a butterfly? *(Nothing, it just waits on God to make the change.)***

**In the same way, God changes us into a beautiful creation, the image of him.**



## **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.*

Read Psalm 139:14, *"I will give thanks to you because I have been so amazingly and miraculously made. Your works are miraculous, and my soul is fully aware of this."*

Let each child think of something that is special about how God made them and let them give thanks for that characteristic, ability or trait. This is not a bragging show but a way to thank God who gave all those gifts. Have each child come forward with a small phrase to speak his thanksgiving into the microphone.

## **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.*

**Options:** (select one from the options below)

\_\_\_\_\_ **Prayer Line Option:** Kids line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone to speak their prayers briefly.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Prayer Chairs:** Adults or children with special prayer needs are invited to sit in the chairs. Kids gather around them, lay hands on their shoulders or knees and take turns praying.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and turns it toward kids who are raising their hands to pray. The kids speak their prayers into the microphone.

**Lord's Prayer:** Lead the children through the Lord's Prayer, phrase by phrase, or let them pray the entire prayer along with you.

## **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:*

- video: *Hermie—a Common Caterpillar*, Max Lucado, Tommy Nelson Publishing, 2002

## *Offering:*

- a butterfly net

## *Learning Game:*

- masking tape
- optional: snack for all

## *Bible Reading:*

- a Bible
- *Hermie* video

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