

# WEEK 1 LESSON GUIDE

## CHANGING GEARS



### BIG IDEA

We change when we know who God is.

### BIBLE

**The Transfiguration of Jesus:**  
Matthew 17:1-9

## WELCOME TIME

### MUSIC | Life-Changing Praise!

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** You can lead kids in worship with any songs of your choice, but here are some suggestions that go along with this month's theme. Make sure you have purchased any licenses required to play or perform these songs. For more information, [read this!](#)
  - "Robot Rock" (KidSpring Children's Ministry)
  - "Open My Eyes" (KidSpring Children's Ministry)
  - "2 Corinthians 5:17" (The Corner Room)
  - "God Makes Messy Things Beautiful" (Slugs and Bugs)

### ACTIVITY | Robots Dance

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play [this](#) song for your kids, having them join in the robot dance. This is a super fun movement song to get your preschoolers moving and grooving! Make sure to practice beforehand so that you know what to expect when you lead!
  - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Play one of the worship songs from the month's setlist, and have a big dance party!
- Robots move, friends! **Who here likes to move? Who here likes to groove?**
- Let's play a fun game together, dancing like a robot. This song will give you some instructions so listen carefully, and get ready to move like a robot!

### ACTIVITY | Home, Sweet, Home

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** On a big white board or easel paper, spend some time drawing a robot house, getting suggestions from the kids. Have them stand up and pretend to knock on the robot's door, step into the house, and greet the robot.
  - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Use a small playhouse that is decorated with a sign "robots live here." Toddlers can have fun walking in and out of the house like robots.
- **Where do you think robots live?** Just like we go home at the end of the day, I imagine robots have to go home, too!

- Think about your own house. Let's draw together what we think a robot's house would look like!
- Then, let's get up and pretend to visit our robot friend in his house!

## STORY TIME

### SCRIPTURE | Matthew 17:1–9 (The Transfiguration of Jesus)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read and tell the Bible story (or ask a volunteer) while [dressed as a robot](#). Or you could stand behind a robot prop (like [this](#)). Make your voice sound monotone like a robot or like a smart assistant (like Siri, Alexa, or Google). You can also use story images [like these](#) or the ones provided in the Teaching Videos folder.
- Hello. I am a storytelling robot. Today, I am going to tell you a story about Jesus.
  - **Are you ready?** I'm sorry. My sensors aren't picking up your answer. You must speak louder.
  - Please try again. **Are you ready?**
- One day, Jesus decided to go up a mountain with his friends, Peter, James, and John. Jesus loved his friends and he wanted to show them something really cool. He wanted to show them who he really was!
  - So they went up the mountain. They were probably tired!
  - I do not know what that means. **Could you show me what it looks like when you're tired?**
  - I understand now. Thank you.
- Once Jesus and his friends got to the place Jesus wanted them to, something strange
- happened. Suddenly Jesus' face and clothes were shining as bright as the sun!
  - Peter, James, and John were amazed. **Please show me with your face what "amazed" looks like.**
  - Oh, I see. **Am I doing it? Do I look amazed?**
- After Jesus started glowing, his friends heard a voice. It was God! God said: "This is my son, and I love him! I am very pleased with him. Listen to him!"
  - When they heard this, Peter, James, and John were afraid. They fell on their faces in front of Jesus.
  - Please help me understand this. **Could you show me what "afraid" looks like?**
- His friends were afraid because they heard with their own ears that Jesus is God's son. How could God's son be their friend?
- But Jesus helped them up to their feet. He didn't want them to be afraid! Jesus loved them so much, and he knew they were going to be changed forever by what they saw!
- That is the end of today's story. Powering down. *[Make a whirring noise and lower your head.]*

### BIG IDEA | We change when we know who God is.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Purchase a [Jack-in-the-Box](#) toy (or [make your own](#)), then write the Big Idea on an index card and attach it to the puppet inside. Tell the kids this is your Big Idea "mystery box," and the week's Big Idea is inside of it. Play this song while each kid comes up and cranks the box once. At the end of the song or whenever the box is opened, pull out the card and read it aloud. Use the hand motions to help them learn it.
- Today's big idea is . . .
  - **We change** (Spin your hands together horizontally.)
  - **when we know** (Point to your head with your pointer fingers.)
  - **who God is** (Point to the sky with your pointer fingers.)

## VIDEO | Changing Gears, Episode 1

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Play this week's episode of [Cali's World](#).*

## ACTIVITY | The Change Song

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Lead the kids in a song to the tune of "The Wheels on the Bus" (or another familiar tune you like). Use the motions from the Big Idea reveal to accompany the singing once they've got it down.*
- Let's sing a song together. It's a song you might know already but it sounds different because we are going to add the Big Idea to this song.
  - **We change when we know who God is**
  - **Who God is, who God is**
  - **We change when we know who God is**
  - **Who God is!**
- Just like how this song changed, **we change when we know who God is.**

## PRAYER

- Dear Jesus, you are so good! I know I am changed because of you. Help me to know more and more every day! Amen.

# SHARING TIME

## SNACK | Nuts and Bolts

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Here's a fun and simple robot snack! Put some snack mix in a sandwich bag, fold a treat topper label (printable) over the top of the bag, and staple it.*
  - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** *Instead of snack mix, try filling the ziplock bag with [puffs](#). These are always a hit in the toddler world! Robots need nuts and bolts to keep moving! If we're going to keep having fun together, maybe we should get a snack in our bellies!*
- **If you built a robot, what would you build it to do?**

## ACTIVITY | Circle Time

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Cover a small box in aluminum foil and attach googly eyes and pipe cleaners to make a robot face. Pass (not throw!) the robot face around in a game of hot potato, playing the month's worship songs. When the song stops, whoever's holding the robot gets to answer the review question. You will use this robot face each week.*
- Let's pass around my robot friend as we think about today's true Bible story, and our Big Idea: **We change when we know who God is.**
- When you hear music playing, pass around the robot. When the music stops, freeze! Whoever's holding our robot friend will get to answer a question! Ready? Let's go!
  - **Where did Jesus take his friends?**
  - **Whose voice did Jesus' friends hear coming from heaven?**
  - **What did God's voice say?**
  - **We change when we know who?**

## ACTIVITY | Shining Jesus Craft

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Gather some black construction paper and yellow finger paint. Help the kids paint their paper with yellow finger paint. Once the paint is dry, glue a person cut-out to the center of the page. Finger*

painting is messy, but so worth it! Have the kids put on a smock or an old T-shirt over their clothes when they paint. Consider having the kids do their crafts one by one during playtime.

✂ **TODDLER HACK:** For toddlers, try painting their hands and stamping them onto the paper several times, making the yellow on the paper out of handprints.

- When Jesus appeared to his friends, he showed them that **we change when we know who God is**. His friends were changed, and people around them noticed!
- Let's paint a picture together of what this moment might have looked like. I bet it was bright and colorful, like the sun!

### MEMORY VERSE | 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV)

- **"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this week, read the whole memory verse to the kids, then practice memorizing the first part. Have the kids repeat after you in their best robot voice.
- This month's memory verse is from 2 Corinthians 5:17. Today, let's focus on learning the first part of our memory verse!
  - **"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ"** (Point up high.)

## PLAY TIME

### ACTIVITY | Coloring Page

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Print and distribute the coloring page along with crayons or markers. As the kids color, you can review today's Bible story, Big Idea, and memory verse.

### ACTIVITY | In Gear

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Set out some [gear blocks](#) for the kids to play with and experience.

### ACTIVITY | Spongy Robots

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Set out plates with washable paint and sponges cut into different shapes. Allow kids to stamp their paper with different shapes. Then, use a pencil to add features to turn them into [a robot!](#) You could give them googly eyes to add to their robots, too.