

WEEK 3 LESSON GUIDE

CHANGING GEARS



BIG IDEA

Jesus changes how we see things.

BIBLE

Jesus Heals a Blind Man: John 9:1-41;
Ephesians 5:8-14

LARGE GROUP TIME

Gear up for another week of *Changing Gears*! So far we've been learning different things about change, like the ways we change when we know who God is and how our past doesn't change God's love for us. Today's topic is about how we can adjust our eyes (and our hearts) to see things the way Jesus does! Let's dive in!

WHAT? What are we talking about today?

MUSIC | Worship

- **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!](#)
 - "Not the Same" (North Point InsideOut)
 - "Won't Look Back" (SEU Worship)
 - "You Never Change" (Gateway Kids)
 - "2 Corinthians 5:17" (JumpStart3)

ACTIVITY | Robotic Freeze Tag

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Split kids into two teams. The goal is to try to tag members of the opposite team. No running allowed – kids must walk around like a robot. When kids are tagged, they pretend they are malfunctioning by spinning in a circle until they're "reprogrammed" (tagged by a fellow team member) and can move forward again. For small groups, play with one person being "it" who tries to tag the remaining players. Consider playing some themed music (like [this](#)) while kids play.
 - ✳ **PRETEEN HACK:** Have preteens play "Red Light, Green Light," but theme it up by saying, "Power Off, Power On." Have two teams line up at the starting line while you, the leader, face away from them all. Have a co-leader or a volunteer student be the spotter. When you say "power on" with your back turned, players move towards the finish line, but when you say

“power off” and turn around, players must freeze in place. Spotters call out anyone who is still moving during the red light and that person has to return to the starting line. First team to get the most members across the finish line when time is called wins!

✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Instead of having those that are tagged spin until they are “reprogrammed”, have them simply freeze until tagged. This can improve the inclusivity of the activity, allowing those that may struggle with mobility and gross motor difficulties.

- It’s time to get your robot moves on again with this game of robotic freeze tag!
- **During this game, how easy or hard was it to “reprogram” your malfunctioning robot teammates while trying not to get tagged by the other team?**
- Today, we’re going to talk a little bit more about how we can see past our own needs to care for others!

ACTIVITY | Did You See That?

- Sometimes seeing things can be tricky. Let’s see how closely you are paying attention!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Show kids [this](#) video and see if they can notice the changes. Then have them play a game where they have to pay attention to detail again.
 - Pick one or two kids to step outside of the room.
 - Designate one person in the room to be the “prototype” and everyone else to be “replicas.” The prototype does a series of actions, changing it up whenever they want. The replicas have to immediately follow it, but they have to try to do it without giving away who they’re following.
 - The volunteers will step back into the room and try to figure out who the prototype is!
- Even when we’re paying close attention, it’s easy to miss things.
- Today’s Bible story is going to tell us about how Jesus helped a man be able to see and, by doing so, taught us something very important about seeing things the way God sees them!

QUESTION | What is the biggest change you’ve seen in yourself or someone else over the past year?

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Ask a volunteer to share about a time they changed schools or a similar situation. Then ask a few kids to share their responses to the question below.
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Steer the conversation away from asking about someone else because this could potentially turn into gossip. Instead, ask the group how many people like change and how many try to avoid change. If interested, ask a few to share why. Then ask about changes they experienced that they initiated willfully and the changes they had to go through that were outside of their control.
- Just as we heard, change can be challenging. Sometimes, we can feel overwhelmed by all the changes we experience.
- **What is the biggest (positive) change you’ve seen in yourself or someone else over the past year?**

SO WHAT? Why does it matter to God and to us?

SCRIPTURE | John 9 (Jesus Heals a Blind Man)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read and act out the script while sharing the Bible story from John 9 as [an inventor](#) in the lab showing off robot inventions. Recruit another leader to play the robot character, [dressed as a robot](#) and speaking in a robotic voice, or operating a [robot puppet](#) instead.
- [Inventor and Blinky are set up in the lab. Blinky, as the name suggests, blinks rapidly and excessively before speaking every time.]

- **Inventor:** Ah, I see you've come back to the *Changing Gears* laboratory! Couldn't stay away, could ya? I don't blame you . . . we do lots of exciting stuff here. Well, you're just in time for me to show off my latest invention. Tada!
- **Robot:** *[In robotic voice and blinking wildly]* Greetings, I am Blinky. I am a storytelling rowboat. Error. Recalibrating. I am a storytelling donut.
- **Inventor:** The word is "robot," Blinky. Well, I'm still working out the kinks, as you can see, but Blinky will help me tell you the story in John 9 about a man who was born blind. As most of my storytelling robots do, Blinky will tell the story from the point of view of that man. Take it away, Blinky! Activate story mode!
- **Robot:** *[In regular speaking voice]* One day, Jesus and his friends were passing by when they saw me. You see, I have been blind since the day I was born, so they were curious. I heard them asking Jesus whose fault it was that I was blind.
- **Inventor:** That's a weird question to ask. Why would it be anyone's fault?
- **Robot:** The disciples, like many people at the time, believed that I was blind because I had done something wrong. Or maybe my parents had. But Jesus told them that one had nothing to do with the other. In fact, God was going to do something amazing right then and there.
- **Inventor:** What happened?
- **Robot:** Jesus spat on the ground, made some mud with it, and put it on my eyes. Then he told me to go wash in the pool of Siloam. So, I did. And suddenly, I could see!
- **Inventor:** Wow. I never knew mud could do that!
- **Robot:** Mud can't, but Jesus can! With this one action, Jesus not only made it possible for me to see, but he also changed the way people looked at me.
- **Inventor:** Oh, I bet there were a lot of people who didn't believe your story.
- **Robot:** Correct. They questioned my parents and tried to make me say that it wasn't Jesus who helped me see. You see, a lot of these religious leaders were not happy that Jesus was doing these things. They tried to make me say that Jesus was no good. But I didn't know what else to say. The one thing I knew for sure was that before I met Jesus, I couldn't see. Now I can! Coincidence? I think not!
- **Inventor:** What's interesting is that because they were so concerned about how you went from being blind to seeing, they missed the whole point! They should have been happy for you and given thanks to God with you for this miracle. Instead, it seems they chose to be blind to the truth.
- **Robot:** Yes. That is more or less what Jesus said, too. All Jesus ever did was show everyone the truth about who he was and what God sent him to do. Once I realized who Jesus was, I had to worship him. He's the real deal.
- **Inventor:** That is such an inspiring story about change. Thanks for being such a great storyteller, Blinky. Would you mind grabbing a cup of water for me?
- **Robot:** Sorry. I am not programmed for that function. Would you like me to tell you another story?

BIG IDEA | Jesus changes how we see things.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Write the Big Idea on an 8.5x11" piece of paper and affix it to the torso of the GrowBot. Then, cover it with a flap until it's time for the big reveal. (You may choose to display the Big Idea from each week on a bulletin board to make space for the new one.)
- It's GrowBot time! And the Big Idea is *[lift the flap]*: **Jesus changes how we see things.**

VIDEO | Changing Gears, Episode 3

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

VIDEO | “Look for a New Angle”

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Show two clips from “Big Hero 6.” Start with [this one](#) to show how Hiro got his idea, and then show [this next one](#) to show what that idea was.
- Hiro had once created a robot called Megabot. One day, while his brother was holding him upside down, Hiro saw Megabot from a different perspective. That’s when he got the idea for the microbots.
- Sometimes, all we need to do is take a second look. **Jesus changes how we see things.**

ACTIVITY | Eye Exam

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Place the printable at a reasonable distance away from the group, then turn the lights off in the room. Use painter’s tape to cover up all the rows except for one. Ask a volunteer if they can read that line out loud. Cover that line up with tape, then peel off a different row. Ask a different volunteer to read that. Afterward, peel off all the tape and ask kids what message is on the eye chart. (You can simulate a real vision test by having kids cover each eye as they read for an added challenge.)
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** You can have kids experience “seeing” differently by playing a game where they have to feel different objects with their eyes closed or reach inside a container they can’t see the contents of, and have them figure out what the object is.
- When you see these letters on their own, they might not make much sense. Besides, you were so focused on just trying to make out the letters that you weren’t really paying attention to what these letters spell.
- But once we remove all these things that block our vision, we were able to get the bigger picture, which is a very important truth we’ve been talking about today: **Jesus changes how we see things!**

SCRIPTURE | Ephesians 5:8–14

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read Ephesians 5:8–14. Then use a mirror and a flashlight to talk about this passage with the kids. If possible, turn off all the lights during this time.
- We may not all be able to understand what the man in our Bible story was going through, but this passage tells us that we were all like that man. Maybe not physically, but before we knew Jesus, the Bible tells us that it was like living in darkness.
- Unless you have super night vision, almost everything is harder to do when it’s dark. You don’t know where you’re going, and it makes you feel lost. Maybe even a little scared. But once Jesus came into your life, it was like someone turned on the light.
 - [Turn on the flashlight.]
- Now you can see! This means that you start to understand how to love God and follow what the Bible teaches us to do.
- Ephesians 5 tells us that not only does the light make the darkness go away and helps us see everything, everything that the light shines on also becomes a light!
 - [Have a volunteer hold up a mirror and shine the flashlight on it.]
- This mirror is helping me spread the light in the darkness. And you know what? You are the mirror. Once you know Jesus – the light – you and I are to reflect that light so others can know Jesus, too.
- The best way to do that is to tell others about Jesus and what kinds of changes Jesus has made in your life – just like what the man in the Bible story did!

NOW WHAT? *What does God want us to do about it?*

ACTIVITY | Rice Krispies Robot Snacks

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Invite kids to build and decorate a Rice Krispies Robot Snack.

- Today, we're building another robot snack! Take a Rice Krispies bar as the base and attach six other pieces to build your robot. Don't forget about its eyes!
- Some of us may never know what it's like to be visually impaired or blind. Maybe some of you can understand a little better. You've had glasses for a long time or you've not been able to see well from a young age.
- If that's you, you have a special superpower to be able to relate to this person's story. Not only did Jesus heal someone physically but also changed their perspective. No matter what our vision is like, we all need Jesus to help us see and experience things differently.

RESPONSE | Gears of Change

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Just as you did in previous weeks, set up a makeshift [assembly line conveyor belt](#) using butcher paper and two long tables. Distribute a pre-cut printable to each kid, or hand out scissors for kids to cut these out themselves, and some markers. Kids will write or draw their responses on a different gear each week to add to the assembly line.*
- **Have you ever heard the saying, "Day by day nothing changes, but suddenly everything is different?"**
 - For example, fingernails grow two to three times faster than your toenails. I bet that you have never felt your fingernails or your toenails growing.
- We don't always notice the change happening around us, but it is definitely happening. But **Jesus changes how we see things.**
- **What are some things that we don't notice changing until they have changed?** Let's write or draw our answers on a gear and add the gear to our assembly line.

MEMORY VERSE | 2 Corinthians 5:17

- **"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"**
- It's time to practice our memory verse, but this time we're going to bring the words to life!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Help the kids memorize 2 Corinthians 5:17 by playing this "living skit" game. Print the following words on 8/5x11" paper: anyone, Christ, new creation, come, old, gone, here. Assign each sign to a kid volunteer and instruct them to enter on their cue as you read the passage aloud. After a practice round or two, the rest of the kids can be invited to shout the words at the appropriate time. Kids can wear fun [robot masks](#). For smaller groups, feel free to give more than one word to each kid.*
- **(Don't forget to also check out the memory verse signs – a combination of SEE and ASL – available in your Programming folder or at growcurriculum.org/2Corinthians5-17.)**

PRAYER

- Dear God, thank you for your miracle-working power in the Bible story we heard today. Thank you that you miraculously change the way we see things, too. We pray that you help us to see the world and people around us like you do. Help us to be the change that helps change others to be more like you. Amen.

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- **What question did the disciples ask Jesus as they passed by the blind man? Why do you think they asked this question?**
- **What did Jesus do when he saw this blind man? How does this show us how we should respond to people in need?**
- **In what ways were the religious leaders who saw or heard about this miracle, "blind"?**

- Ephesians 5:13 says that everything that the light touches also becomes a light. What do you think that means?
- How do you know God is with you even though you can't see God?
- What does it mean to live in the light and not darkness?
- Can you think of one way Jesus challenges and changes our way of seeing and thinking?

ACTIVITY | Natural Light

- **Jesus changes how we see things** — just like how we can up-cycle old crayons into something new using the power of heat from a hairdryer. Use your new creations to remind yourself to live in the light of Jesus this week!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Use a collection of old crayons with the labels peeled off and a hairdryer to mold crayons into new shapes. You can use a fun ice maker mold. Heat the crayon pieces until they are melted. Allow time for them to cool.
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** For preteens, get a blacklight invisible ink set ([like this](#)). Write the big idea on black paper with invisible ink, then shine a blacklight on it to reveal it. The special light helps us see things, just like Jesus' love helps us see things in a new way! Or have them cut out the letters for "Jesus" out of paper and place them on [solar paper](#) to create solar prints.
- The light from the sun is incredibly powerful, which is why we're encouraged to wear sunscreen and also to not stare into it! But it's also gentle, and it's the kind of light that no artificial light can imitate perfectly. (That's why photographers love natural lighting!)
- This reminds us of God, right? God is powerful enough to heal someone that was born blind and yet loving enough to stop and care for such a person. All the religious leaders thought they were doing what was right, but it turns out, they were more like artificial light. God is light and when we follow the light, we become more like Jesus.