



LESSON 5
NEW CREATION

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Makes Us New

SCRIPTURE: Romans 5

GOD'S BIG STORY: God loves us so much that He sent His Son to die, so we can be forgiven. Because of Jesus, our relationship with God is healed, and we are made new!

WORD OF WONDER: Jesus makes us new. —from 2 Corinthians 5:17

CURIOSITY 15 minutes • Large Group or Small Group

Hands-on activities to spark curiosity and get kids thinking about the wonder of God

- Welcome Question: How have you changed over the last year?
- Curiosity Questions
- Curiosity Activity: Let's Make It!
- Declaring God's Wonder



BELIEF 25–35 minutes • Large Group

An interactive dive into Scripture that guides kids into knowing God, exploring His big story, and marveling at His wonder

- Prayer of Invitation and Worship
- God's Big Story
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- Word of Wonder: From 2 Corinthians 5:17

FAITH 15 minutes • Small Group

An intentional conversation that helps kids see the wonder of God's story and how it connects to their own

- Discussion Questions
- Craft: Oyster Shell Treasure
- Game: Oyster Relay Race

IDENTITY 10 minutes • Large Group or Small Group

An interactive worship response activity that creates space for God to remind kids that they are known, loved, led, and their lives can tell of God's wonder

- Responding in Worship: A New Heart
- Blessing You Kids
- Closing Game: What Time Is it, Hungry Caterpillar?

Wonder@Home™

Designed for families to engage in the wonder of God together at home. This resource includes a video, worship playlists, activities, and more!

INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Makes Us New

SCRIPTURE: Romans 5

WORD OF WONDER: From 2 Corinthians 5:17

A good friend of mine during college was an amazing gift giver and loved to give big (and sometimes expensive!) gifts, including the latest electronics. This friend was in vocational ministry at the time and earning a very modest income. As much as I appreciated the gifts, I was concerned about how much money my friend was spending, so I asked about it. The secret was that the gifts were certified refurbished items. The items my friend purchased had been sent back to the creators, fixed, and resold at a discounted price—but they functioned as brand new!

Read Romans 5:1–8 and 11. Paul explains that God loves us so much that even while we were still His enemies, He fixed our relationship with Him by sending Jesus to die for us. We cannot make ourselves new, no matter how hard we try. We cannot fix our sin problem on our own. God—our Creator—alone makes us new. And He invites us to lay down the old and receive His new. What are some problems you've been trying to fix for yourself instead of taking to the original Creator? What are some remnants of the old self that you're holding onto?

Because of God's vast, endless love for you, it's not up to you to fix yourself (or the world around you!). So, take a deep breath. Lift your eyes to the Father—your Creator—and remember that you are made new!

—Catherine Hwang-Jin

Children's Pastor

Contributor to Wonder Ink

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

Romans was written by Paul, a man who persecuted Christians before he knew Jesus. After his conversion, Paul devoted his life to sharing the good news about Jesus with gentiles—non-Jewish people. He wrote this letter to the Roman church, the majority of whom are Gentiles.

WHAT?

Romans is Paul's most theologically systematic book. It's filled with explanations of the work of the gospel—God's salvation, His plan, and His invitation to us. Paul often references the Old Testament as he explains God's big story of salvation.

WHERE?

The church in Rome was at the heart of the Roman Empire, where Caesar was declared as the "savior of the world." Gentiles and Jews in the Roman church were called to live out the way of the kingdom of Jesus—the true Savior.

WHEN?

Paul likely wrote Romans in AD 57 while on his third missionary journey. Although it's the first of Paul's letters that we read in the New Testament, it was likely written after he wrote to the Galatians, Thessalonians, and Corinthians.

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY:

Paul writes to the Romans about the basics of the gospel—God showed His love for us by sending His Son Jesus, who died for us while we were still sinners. Because of Jesus, we are made right with God and filled with joy!

Large Group or Small Group

Spark curiosity and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

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Series Bumper and Countdown Videos

Choose between the [Created New Series Bumper Video](#) and [Countdown Videos](#) to introduce the kids to the series.

Welcome Question

SUPPLIES: paper, coloring utensils, whiteboard (optional), dry-erase marker (optional)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: New Creation Welcome Question Slide

Before kids arrive, display the New Creation Welcome Question Slide or write the following question on a whiteboard: “How have you changed over the last year?” Set out paper and coloring utensils.



As kids arrive ...

Greet kids by name as they arrive. Show kids the Welcome Question and encourage them to share their answers with one other person. Assist younger kids by reading the question to them or have an older kid help them read the question.

At your start time ...

When it's time to start, gather everyone together and invite kids to share their answers to the Welcome Question: **How have you changed over the last year?** After several kids have shared their answers, share your answer to the Welcome Question with the kids.

In God's big story, we're going to explore how Jesus transforms us from something old into something new! But first, it's time to be curious.

Curiosity Questions

Ask the following “I'm curious” questions. Say “I'm curious ...” before each question and give kids a chance to think about and answer each one.

I'm curious ...

- **When have you wanted to start over at something?**
- **Do you think change is good or bad? Is it easy or hard? Why?**

Interactive Game: Let's Make It!

SUPPLIES: interlocking blocks (at least 10 per kid), timer

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Let's Make It! Slide, New Creation Wonder Truth Slide

Ahead of time, gather enough interlocking blocks that each kid will have at least 10.

Display the Let's Make It! Slide and gather the kids. **Today, you're going to work with partners to make a new creation. The first partner will have one minute to make something out of their blocks. When their time is up, the second partner will have one minute to make something new out of their partner's creation. But there is a catch: The second partner cannot tear apart the original creation. You can add blocks and alter ones to be different directions. You're creating something new out of what is already built.**

Does that make sense? Any questions? Allow kids to ask any questions they may have. Pass out the interlocking blocks to each kid.

When you say, "Go," the first partner can begin building with their blocks, and the one-minute timer can start. Once one minute is complete, partners switch, and the next round of building (or re-building) can begin. Set the timer for one minute again.

After the end of the two rounds, invite kids to gather together and share what they created. **It's amazing how creative you all were in your building. You were able to see how you could add and adjust the blocks to transform the original into something brand new. Today we're going to hear how God can transform us into new creations, taking what is already a part of us and making it even more incredible.** Display the New Creation Wonder Truth Slide. **Today's Wonder Truth is JESUS MAKES US NEW!**



Declaring God's Wonder

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Early Childhood Declaration [Video](#) or Slide (optional)

Show the Early Childhood Declaration [Video](#) or Slide and encourage the kids to say the statements and do the motions with you.

Thank You, God, that You made me! (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Make prayer hands, then point up and then to yourself.

And I am Your kid! (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Put your hands on your hips.

Jesus loves me so much. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Spread your arms out wide to your side one at a time, then pull them in for a hug around your chest.

His love for me is big. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

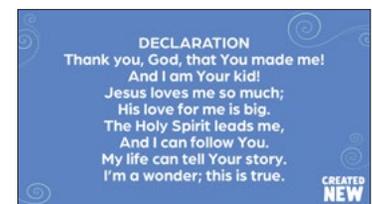
Hold your arms up high and wide above your head.

The Holy Spirit leads me, (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Bring your arms down from above, making a path in front of you.

And I can follow You. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

March in place like you're following the leader.



My life can tell Your story. *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Hold your hands in front of you like an open book.

I'm a wonder; this is true. *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Put your hands up, shake your fingers, and celebrate ("praise hands").

Large Group

Guide kids into knowing God, exploring His big story, and marveling at His wonder.

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Prayer of Invitation

Lead kids in a prayer of invitation before entering into worship and God's big story: **God, thank You for being present with us today. May Your Holy Spirit help us keep our minds focused on You. Thank You for loving us, leading us, forgiving us, and making us into new creations. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Worship

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: songs from the [Created New Elementary Spotify playlist](#)

We are made new, and that is something to celebrate. Let's praise God together! Play songs from the [Created New Elementary Spotify playlist](#) and encourage the kids to sing and dance as they praise God.

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Bible Story Picture (optional)

Bible Time Rhyme

Say the Bible time rhyme (with motions) each week before the Bible story to remind kids that what they're about to hear is part of God's big story.

I open my Bible, and what do I see? (Hold your hands together, then open your palms, as if opening a book.)

God's big story, waiting for me! (Point to yourself.)

Let's hear part of God's big story, which comes from the book of Romans in the Bible, which is in the New Testament.

Hold up a Bible and show the kids. Tell them today's story comes from the Bible. Open a Bible and show them where the story is found.

Read the God's Big Story Script provided or read Romans 5:1–8 from the Bible. You can also print the Bible Story Picture to give the kids a visual depiction as you tell the story.

GOD'S BIG STORY SCRIPT

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: God's Big Story Video ([Early Childhood](#) or [Elementary](#))

While I tell the story, you can repeat some phrases I say and mimic motions when I tell you to.

We've learned that **sin** is anything wrong that we think, say, and do, and sin messed up our relationship with God.

God had a plan to fix His relationship with His people. God sent Jesus to save His people. Jesus died to beat sin forever. But Jesus came back to life! Then He went back to heaven to be with God the Father. More and more people followed Jesus. Paul became a follower of Jesus. He loved telling other people about Jesus. Paul wrote lots of books that are in the Bible. The Bible is God's story, and it tells God's good news! Repeat after me: **The Bible is God's story.** Encourage the kids to repeat the phrase and hold their hands in front of them, as if opening a book.

Paul traveled around telling people the good news about Jesus. Paul sent letters to people when he couldn't be with them he wrote a letter to people in a place called Rome. He said that all people sin. We all make wrong choices and disobey God. Sin keeps us apart from God and messes everything up.

Sin hurts God and us. We need God to fix our relationship with Him. We cannot do it ourselves. Our bad choices lead us to make more bad choices. Repeat after me: **We need God to make us brand new.** Encourage the kids to repeat the phrase, and you can add motions such as putting your hands on your heart. Invite kids to mimic the movement.

Paul told people that Jesus fixed our relationship with God. Because of bad choices we make, we're apart from God. Even though we hurt Him and disobey Him, God still loves us. He sent Jesus. Jesus died so that we can be saved and forgiven. Repeat after me: **Jesus saves and forgives me!** Encourage the kids to repeat the phrase, and you can add motions such as putting your hands in "prayer hands." Invite the kids to mimic the movement.

When we trust in Jesus, God forgives us for all of the bad choices we made. He gives us His Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is God's powerful, wise, and loving presence who changes us from the inside so that we can love God and be His true friends. Repeat after me: **God wants me to be His friend.** Encourage kids to repeat the phrase, and you can add motions, such as giving yourself a hug, for them to mimic.

God promised that someday we can live with Him forever.

Paul said that we will still have hard times. But we can trust in Jesus even when life is hard. The Holy Spirit will help us be more like God and help us obey God. Our relationship with God can be fixed. We can live forever with Him because Jesus makes us new.

Repeat after me: **Jesus can make me a new creation.** Encourage kids to repeat the phrase, and while you say it, put both arms up in the air over your head with open hands. Encourage kids to mimic your motions.

GOD'S BIG STORY VIDEO (EARLY CHILDHOOD OR ELEMENTARY)



Connecting the Wonder Truth

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: New Creation Truth Slide

Display New Creation Wonder Truth Slide. **Our Wonder Truth today is JESUS MAKES US NEW!** Where did you see our Wonder Truth in the story? Allow kids to answer freely.

In Paul's letter to the Romans, he explained the basics of the gospel: God showed His love for us by sending His Son Jesus, who died for us while we were still sinners. All of us have done wrong things that separate us from God. Through Jesus, our relationship with God is made right, and we're filled with joy!



Leader Tip: Some kids may have questions about choosing to follow Jesus! Invite their families to join you as you talk and pray together. The Salvation Path resource also includes helpful Bible references and information!

Word of Wonder

SUPPLIES: Bible, paper cups (4 per small group), marker, painter's tape, pillowcases or sleeping bags (1 per small group)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Created New Word of Wonder Slide or [Video](#) (optional)

WORD OF WONDER

Jesus makes us new.

—from 2 Corinthians 5:17

Ahead of time, write one word from the word of Word of Wonder (Jesus makes us new) on a cup using a marker. You'll need one set for each team or small group. Then tape two lines on the floor of your room on opposite sides of the room. Set out the pillowcases or sleeping bags behind one line and the cups with the Word of Wonder on them at the other end. You'll need one set for each small group. Make sure the words of the verses are scrambled and out of order. Have an adult ready to help kids by reading the words to them.

Display the Word of Wonder Slide or [Video](#), if using. **Our Word of Wonder for the Created New series is from 2 Corinthians 5:17. Let's practice saying the Word of Wonder together.**

Divide the group into teams and set a pillowcase (or sleeping bag) in front of each team. Have them line up at the starting line.



We're going to take turns pretending to be wiggly caterpillars racing down to the other end of the room to get a piece of the Word of Wonder and bringing it back to the rest of the team. The team will work together with a leader to put the pieces of the Word of Wonder in order. The first kid in line will get inside the sleeping bag or pillowcase and wiggle on the ground to the other end. Then he will pick up a piece of the verse, put it in the bag with him, and wiggle back with it. That person will give the piece of verse to the team and then the next person who will do the same thing. The first team to get all of the pieces and get the verse in the right order wins!

Leader Tip: If a kid is unable to wiggle with the pillowcase or sleeping bag on them, the child can just lay on the ground and wiggle or even roll or "army crawl" to the other end.

We're kind of like caterpillars who turn into butterflies! When we trust in Jesus, He makes our hearts new like caterpillars turn into butterflies. Just like our Word of Wonder says, we become new creations with God!

Encourage the kids to do the motions and say the verse with you.

- **JESUS**—Point fingers from left hand into right palm, then right hand into left palm (sign language for "Jesus").
- **MAKES US**—Both hands over your heart.
- **NEW.**—Bring both arms out in front of you and down to your sides.
- **FROM 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17**—Hold your hands together as if opening a book.

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

- **How do we become new creations with Jesus?** (If kids need help, offer ideas such as: We trust in Jesus, and He forgives our sins; Jesus makes our hearts new.)
- **Do you think God changes? How do you think God changes us?**

Small Group

Help kids see the wonder of God's story and how it connects to their own story.

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Makes Us New

SCRIPTURE: Romans 5

WORD OF WONDER: From 2 Corinthians 5:17

Discussion Questions

SUPPLIES: interlocking connecting blocks or magnetic tiles, bucket

Put some interlocking connecting blocks or magnetic tiles in a bucket and gather the kids to sit in a circle around it. **In our story today, we learned how God makes us new through Jesus. When we trust in Jesus, we can be close to God, and God forgives our sins. We're going to use these blocks (or tiles) to make something new together. We're going to pass around the bucket, and each person will pull out a block. You'll put the block into the middle, and we'll build a shape together until I say, "Stop." After I say, "Stop," whoever is the last person to add a block will answer a question. Then we'll take that shape apart and start over and make something new and do it again.** Encourage the kids to pass the bucket around and take out a block to add to a shape in the middle of the circle. Say, "Stop" periodically and ask questions from the list.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **What do you think it means for God to make someone new?** (*He changes us; He forgives our sins.*)
- **How have you changed from when you were a baby?**
- **How has God changed you or someone you know?**
- **How does the Holy Spirit help us?** (*The Holy Spirit lives in us when we trust in Jesus and makes us more like God and helps us obey God.*)
- **What is sin?** (*anything we say, think, or do that isn't what God wants; the wrong things we do*)
- **What is the good news about Jesus?** (*Jesus died so that we can be saved and forgiven; Jesus helps us be close with God.*)
- **What is our role in being made new?** (*putting our faith in Jesus; choosing to follow Jesus*)

God's big story tells us that we will still go through hard times in life, even though we walk with Jesus. His Word also tells us that God will give us new strength and help us with His Holy Spirit. When we believe in God and choose to live for Him, He makes us new creations, His friends, and He takes away our sin. Let's talk to God and thank Him for seeing us as new creations.

Invite kids to share prayer requests and praises and to pray for each other. Some kids may not be comfortable praying out loud. That's OK! Encourage them to pray silently and thank God for making us new through Jesus. God hears all our prayers!

Craft: Oyster Shell Treasure

SUPPLIES: thin/flimsy paper plates (1 per kid), coloring utensils, colorful pom-poms (4–5 per kid, in varying sizes), glue, fake pearls (found in the jewelry section at dollar stores, optional)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Oyster and Pearl Sheet

Ahead of time, print the Oyster and Pearl Sheet.

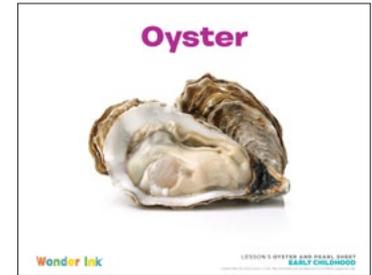
We learned about how God sees us as new and beautiful creations when we believe in Him. Do you know how these beautiful pearls are made? Hold up fake pearls or a picture of pearls from the Oyster and Pearl Sheet and allow the kids to respond.

Pearls actually started as a grain of sand! Can you believe something so small, dirty, and ugly, can come out looking like this?! A pearl is formed when a piece of sand gets inside an oyster. It takes between six months to several years for the oyster to make the pearl. In that time, the oyster will cover the piece of sand with a special saliva, or spit, over and over again, making the layers of the pearl. It's a long process to make a pearl.

When we trust in Jesus, God makes us new! When we follow Jesus, God takes away our sin, and He sees us as forgiven, beautiful, and new.

We go from being like a piece of sand to a beautiful pearl in His eyes. To help us remember that we're new creations—like pearls—we're going to make oyster shells with special pearls inside.

Give every kid a paper plate and coloring utensils. **You can color both sides of your paper plate. Once it's colored, fold it in half. Then take a few pom-poms and glue them on the inside. These will be the pearls. When you take this home, every time you look at it, you can remember how God sees you as a new creation like these pearls.** Help the kids glue the pom-poms inside their plates and fold the plates.



Leader Tip: Young kids might need help folding their plates and gluing the pom-poms on. You could “pre-fold” the plates to make it easier for young kids.

Game: Oyster Relay Race

SUPPLIES: tongs (2), cotton balls, bowls or buckets (4)

Remember how oysters turn sand into pearls? You're all going to pretend to be oysters in this game. These tongs will be your shell. Oysters keep the pearls inside their shell, so you're going to use your shell to carry these pearls from one bucket to the other. You'll each take a turn to get as many pearls in your shell as you can. Run to the other bucket and put the pearls (cotton balls) in the bucket. Then run back and give the tongs to the next person in line. The first team to get all their pearls in the bucket wins!

Divide the group into two teams. Give each team a pair of tongs and a bowl of cotton balls. Set another empty bucket or bowl across the room from each team. The goal is for the teams to move all the cotton

balls (pearls) from one bucket to the empty one on the other side of the room using only the tongs. Kids will go one at a time each, take a “tong-full” from the bucket to the other one, and then run back and pass the tongs to the next teammate. The first team to get all their “pearls” in the bucket wins.

Make It Inclusive: For kids who are unable to use the clamp, have a large spoon, scoop, or small shovel that they can use to scoop the cotton balls up and carry them. You may need to help them scoop up the cotton balls.

Remember, you’re like the pearl in the oyster’s shell. God is like the oyster. He changes us and makes us new. Through Jesus, God makes you into His friend and gives you the Holy Spirit to live in you and help you obey Him. God makes us new like the piece of sand becomes a new pearl.

LESSON 5 EARLY ELEMENTARY

Large Group or Small Group

Create space for God to remind kids they are known, loved, led, and their lives can tell of God's wonder.

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Makes Us New

SCRIPTURE: Romans 5

WORD OF WONDER: From 2 Corinthians 5:17

Responding in Worship: A New Heart

SUPPLIES: scissors (prep only), red construction paper (1 sheet per kid plus 1), resealable sandwich bag (1 per kid plus 1), washable markers, wet wipes

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: songs from the [Created New Elementary Spotify playlist](#)

Ahead of time, cut out hearts from red construction paper—one per kid and one for the leader.

Show the kids as you put the heart in the resealable sandwich bag. **What are some ideas of things that we do that are wrong or sinful and make God sad?** Allow time for the kids to respond.

As they share, write the sins on the outside of the bag with a washable marker, over the heart. **We all make wrong choices. The Bible says we have all sinned. Without Jesus, we can't be close with God because of these things.**

When the heart is covered or the bag is full of writing, take a wet wipe and wipe the bag clean. **But that's not the end. God has a plan for us that allows us to become new and beautiful! God forgives our sins and removes them when we trust in Jesus. Jesus makes us new creations in God's eyes and allows us to be close with Him!**

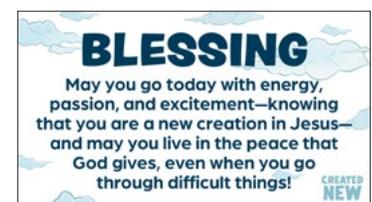
Pass out hearts, resealable sandwich bags, markers, and wet wipes to kids. Invite them to put a heart in their bag and then to scribble over the bag with a marker to symbolize sin. Then they can take the wet wipe and wipe the marker off and pray as they thank God for forgiving their sins and sending Jesus to make us new. As they work, play a song from the [Created New Elementary Spotify playlist](#).

Blessing Your Kids

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: New Creation Blessing Slide

Close your time together by blessing the kids in your group. If you bless kids individually, insert each kid's name into the blessing. Display the New Creation Blessing Slide.

Blessing: May you go today with energy, passion, and excitement—knowing that you are a new creation in Jesus—and may you live in the peace that God gives, even when you go through difficult things!



Closing Game: What Time is It, Hungry Caterpillar?

Have the kids line up at one end of the room. One person—ideally a leader—will stand at the other end of the room with his or her back to the line of kids.

We learned about how caterpillars change into butterflies. When we trust in Jesus, God changes us into new creations. Let's play a game about caterpillars!

Have the kids ask in unison, “What Time Is It, Hungry Caterpillar?” When the kid (or leader) standing at the other end of the room answers with a time, such as “Three o'clock,” the kids will take three steps forward toward that person and ask again. Continue until someone touches the person who is “It” or the person answers, “It's lunch time!” and all kids run to the starting line. If anyone is tagged, they can either become the next It or those tagged can be out and sit down.

Remember, caterpillars don't stay caterpillars! They turn into new creations: butterflies! This game reminds us Jesus makes us new creations when we trust in Him.