

Reality – Bible Lesson for October 4, 2020 – 4th – 5th Grades

Discipleship New Identities in Christ

Lesson 1

1. Lesson: New Identities in Christ

2. Scripture: John 1:12, John 15:5, 2 Corinthians 5:17, Ephesians 2:10

3. Memory Verse: “When anyone lives in Christ, the new creation has come. The old is gone! The new is here!” – 2 Corinthians 5:17

4. Mission Story: George Muller – Part 1

5. Bible Skills: The Old Testament Books of History – Lesson 2

6. Materials needed for teaching the lesson - a Bible; pens and pencils
Beginning Activity - Object Lesson: 5 large cups – labeled: “student”; “brother/sister”; “friend”; “soccer”; “music”, a pitcher of water, a container with a lid – labeled “child of God” **Bible Skills:** 17-3”x5” cards (one per Bible book), two long pieces of string or yarn for the “clothesline,” and 12 clothespins (one pin for each card). Write the names of the 12 books of the History division, Joshua through Esther, on the cards and the names of the 5 books of the Pentateuch on the remaining cards; 2 beanbags and 2 baskets (or some other container) – one marked “Books of Law” and the other marked “Books of History; playground ball **Memory Verse Game: Elementary** – – 8 large plastic cups and 6 pieces of cardstock – cut in 4 inch squares

Missionary Image:

<https://www.georgemuller.org/photos.html>

Song: 2 Corinthians 5:17

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n5DBY3Bo_NA

Instructional Videos:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fjM6QxXknms>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SDIS4otedvY>

1.Prayer: Pray with your children – then introduce the following object lesson:

There are many words that describe who I am. (Give some examples, e.g., father/mother, son/daughter, nephew/niece, uncle/aunt, teacher, custodian, nurse, engineer, etc.) What are some words that describe who you are? (Allow response.) I have some cups here that might describe some of you. (Have cups on a table in front of you. They should be labeled with “identities” that would apply to children you teach, e.g., student, brother/sister, friend, soccer, music, etc. You should also have a pitcher of water.)

Let's pretend this water is what makes you who you are. Maybe school is really important to you. (Pour some water into the "student" cup.) Maybe you love hanging out with your brothers and sisters. (Pour some water into the "brother/sister" cup.) Maybe you really enjoy having fun with your friends. (Pour some water into the "friend" cup.) Or maybe you are a really good soccer player. (Pour some water into the "soccer" cup.) Maybe you like to play an instrument or sing and that's really important to you. (Pour some water into the "music" cup.)

None of these things are bad. It's a good thing to like school. God gave us families and friends as gifts. If you are really good at soccer or singing, it's because God made you that way. What is wrong is when those are the things that are the most important to you or they make you feel important. What happens if you don't do well on a test and you don't get the grade you want? (Shake the "student" cup so water splashes out.) Or what if you and your brothers and sisters have an argument? (Shake the "brother/sister" cup so water splashes out.) What if your best friend moves away or decides he/she doesn't want to be your friend anymore? (Shake the "friend" cup so water splashes out.) What if you get injured and can't play soccer? (Shake the "soccer" cup so water splashes out.) What if the instrument you play breaks, or you get a sore throat and can't sing for a while? (Shake the "music" cup so water splashes out.) All these are good things, but they are temporary—they don't last forever. If you think these things make you who you really are, then what happens when they go away?

If you have believed on Jesus as your Savior, who you really are is found in Jesus. (Pour the water from all the cups into a container labeled "Child of God" and secure a lid on top.) When you have believed on Jesus as your Savior, who you really are is a child of God. **(Read John 1:12)** When you are a child of God, He is with you always—nothing can separate you from Him. (Shake the "Child of God" container vigorously, showing that no water comes out.) Even when your life is turned upside down and you feel like everything is going wrong, you know that you are a new creation because God loves you and you are His child. You are important and loved because God is with you and will never leave you. This week will you remember who you really are? Even as you enjoy your other activities, will you remember that before anything else you are a child of God?

Let's pray and ask God to help us remember that we are a new creation in Christ. (Pray with children.)

2. Bible Story: (Please notice the bold print Bible verses. This is designed so that you can stop and let the children take turns reading these verses out loud)

Now let's see what the Bible has to say about the things we are learning today...

Today we are going to be talking about what happens to us after we become Christians. In fact, I think we should go to our memory verse first today because it talks about just

that - "When anyone lives in Christ, the new creation has come. The old is gone! The new is here!" – **2 Corinthians 5:17**

There is just something about being human that causes us to mess up in life (it's called sin). Lots of times we choose to do things that are just not good for us. And, as we get older, the decisions get tougher. If we don't have Jesus in our lives, we live our lives according to our own plans - which is never as good as God's plan.

The verse we just read tells us that when we become a Christian, we become completely new people! We become new creations! When we become a Christian, we get this amazing fresh start. That wonderful transformation happens through Jesus, and by us believing in what He did for us by dying on the Cross. Because of Christ's sacrifice, we now have the Spirit of the Living God living inside of us. That changes the way we think, what we want in life, and who we are. That is so amazing! - We need to always stay connected to Jesus.

Jesus tries to help us understand this idea of staying connected to Him when we become a Christian better through one of His "I Am" statements. He says, "I am the vine. You are the branches. If you remain joined to me, and I to you, you will bear a lot of fruit. You can't do anything without me." (**John 15:5**) Jesus says that He is the vine. People in Jesus' day would have been familiar with a certain type of vine that was a grapevine. They grew everywhere. But, for our lesson, we can also picture a tree. (As you talk, draw a diagram of a vine or a tree on the whiteboard – with branches and fruit. Jesus is the trunk of the tree or the solid part of the vine – label that part "Jesus". The roots go deep into the ground. All of the branches are connected to the tree or the grapevine. Label the branches "us")

The branches cannot produce leaves and fruit by themselves. If you break a branch off an apple tree and keep it in your room, are apples going to grow off that branch? Of course not! The branch cannot grow fruit unless it is attached to the tree trunk. Grapes don't grow unless the branch is attached to the grapevine. So, Jesus is the grapevine. And who are the branches in this illustration? (Allow a student to answer.) That's right, we are the branches. We can only grow and bear fruit when we are attached to Jesus. The branches need the vine to survive, but the vine does not need the branches to survive.

The Bible also says, "We are God's creation. He created us to belong to Christ Jesus. Now we can do good works. Long ago God prepared these works for us to do." (**Ephesians 2:10**) If we stay connected to Jesus, we will do good works for His glory. Let's think about a potter with a big lump of clay. Jesus is the potter and we are the big, gray lump of clay. As the potter begins to shape and mold the clay, it becomes a beautiful work of art. When we accept Jesus into our lives and stay connected to Him, our lives become His work of art and He makes something beautiful out of our lives.

As we understand God's love towards us, we will seek to help and serve others with kindness, love, and goodness. We will work to bring glory and honor to Him. We will become disciples of Jesus.

Jesus became sin for us so that we could have eternal life. He was perfect and sinless, but He took on all of our sins so that we could have a relationship with God. This gives us a new life, living as a new creation in Jesus. It may be hard at times to fully understand this, but it was done because of God's great love for us. Jesus died for us so that we might live for Him.

3. Bible Exploration – Checking for Understanding:

Ask the children these multiple-choice questions...

1. Who can make us into a new creation?

- A. Your best friend.
- B. Our teachers.
- C. Our parents.
- D. Jesus. *

2. What does it mean to be a "new creation?"

- A. We look different than we used to.
- B. We act differently than we used to because of Jesus in our lives. *
- C. We talk differently than we used to.
- D. We get to be whatever animal we want to be.

3. True or false? When we accept Jesus, our sins are forgiven, and we become brand new creations.

- A. True. *
- B. False.

4. According to our memory verse, 2 Corinthians 5:17, when we belong to Christ, the old life is _____ and a new life _____!

- A. "Crazy" and "is out of the question!"
- B. "spicy!" and "is delicious"
- C. "Gone" and "is here!" *
- D. "Sinful" and "is holy!"

4. Mission Story: George Muller – Part 1

George Muller was born in Kroppenstadt, Germany, on September 27, 1805. His father paid for his education, hoping he would become a Lutheran minister. But George was a

wild young man and he ended up in jail. When he got out, a friend convinced George to come to a prayer meeting and Bible study. It was there that George Muller gave his life to Jesus.

In 1829, George moved to England and settled in the country. He joined the Plymouth Brethren church and became a preacher. He was so good at being a preacher that the little congregation soon grew from 18 members to 227!

George came to believe the Lord wanted him to pray for the money he needed and not to ask people for it. In 1835, George Muller opened an orphanage in the city of Bristol, England, for poor children. Until then, only rich children were accepted in England's few orphanages. Poor children were left on the streets or sent to cruel workhouses.

George had two reasons for starting the orphanages: He wanted to care for the children, and he wanted to show that God would supply anyone's needs who prayed and trusted only in Him. When the house in Bristol became too crowded, George used money God supplied to purchase some out-of-town property, known as Ashley Downs. There, he built five huge houses that were home to two thousand children at a time.

And just as George Muller had believed, God miraculously provided everything from food to money for building. During his life, which ended on Marcy 10, 1898, George housed, educated, and trained over ten thousand boys and girls.

One story that is told about George Muller is when Abigail Townsend's family moved to Bristol, England...

A close relationship developed between Abbie's father and George Muller. Abbie often went out to Ashley Downs with her father to visit the orphanage. She grew very fond of the children and the kind gentleman who ran it.

One morning, George took Abbie by the hand and said, "Come, see what our Father in Heaven will do for us today." He led her into the long dining room, where bowls and cups were on the table, but there was no food. There was also no food in the kitchen and no money to buy food. But the orphan children were standing behind their seats, respectfully waiting for breakfast to begin.

"Children," said George, "it will soon be time for school, so let's pray. Dear Father, we thank you for what you are going to give us to eat." Just then, a knock sounded at the door, and there stood the local baker. "Mr. Muller," he said, "I couldn't sleep last night. Somehow, I felt you didn't have bread for breakfast, and the Lord wanted me to send you some. So, I got up at two o'clock and baked some fresh bread for you."

George thanked the baker and praised God for His care. "Children," he said, "we not only have bread, but God has given us the rare treat of fresh bread." Right away, there came a second knock at the door. This time, it was the milkman, who announced that

his cart had broken down outside the orphanage “I must empty my wagon before I can repair it. Could the children use my cans of fresh milk?”

There, before her very eyes, little Abbie saw God provide fresh bread and milk for the children.

“If you believe, you will receive what you ask for when you pray.” – Matthew 21:22

5. Bible Skills: The Old Testament Books of History – Lesson 2

Ask the kids to repeat the Books of Law. (**Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy**) Next ask them to say the Books of Old Testament History. (**Joshua Judges, Ruth, 1st and 2nd Samuel, 1st and 2nd Kings, 1st and 2nd Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther**) Now, remind them that throughout these history books of the Bible, we see God at work in people’s lives. The Old Testament History section of the Bible not only teaches us about the history of God’s people, but also how God rewards obedience, punishes disobedience, and uses the lives of those who follow Him in powerful ways.

You can also give them a little review of these 12 Books... In Joshua, we learn about the ways God helped the Israelites defeat the people living in Canaan. This is also where we read of the unique battle of Jericho. The Israelites learn that God gives victory when they obey and worship Him and that disobeying Him always leads to consequences.

From Judges, we see how the Israelites consistently chose not to worship God which led to some very dark days. However, the book of Judges also teaches God’s patience. The story of Ruth shows how God loves, saves, and cares for people, and it reminds us how He cares for us.

The History section of the Bible is where the nation of Israel begged for a king, and their first king was appointed. The books of 1 Samuel through 2 Chronicles tell us many stories of the famous kings: Saul, David, and Solomon. This is also where we read of several prophets and how God spoke through them.

The Old Testament History section of the Bible ends with the books of Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther. Each book shares stories of its namesake and how God used each of these people for His glory.

Listed below are three games that can be played to help the children learn the Old Testament Books of History:

Game 1 – Clothesline Review

For this game, you need 17-3"x5" cards (one per Bible book), two long pieces of string or yarn for the "clothesline," and 12 clothespins (one pin for each card). Write the names of the 12 books of the History division, Joshua through Esther, on the cards and the names of the books of the Pentateuch on the remaining cards.

Hang up the two clotheslines loosely on the wall or on the backs of chairs - at the children's height. Pin all of the cards in random order on the first clothesline. Have children go up one by one to rearrange the cards in the correct order. The first child should find Joshua, remove the card from the first clothesline, and place it on the far-left side of the second clothesline. The second child should find Judges and so forth until all the books are in order on the second line. Next have them find and arrange the Books of Law. (We will keep adding cards for the new divisions and books the kids in your class learn as the weeks go on.)

Game 2 – Over the Shoulder Toss

Place two baskets (or other containers) on the floor, side-by-side. Each basket is marked "Books of Law" or "Books of History". The children will take turns standing on a baseline with their backs to the baskets and tossing a beanbag over their shoulder toward the baskets. The child must name all the books of the division in which the beanbag lands. Allow three tries to hit a basket. (You might want to shuffle the baskets, so they don't always aim for the easier task.)

Game 3 – Bible Ball Bounce

Have the children form two lines, facing each other. Explain that they will be bouncing the ball back and forth between them, going down the line in consecutive order. As each child catches the ball, he/she says a Book of Old Testament History in the correct order. When all the books have been said, you can have them do it again but, this time, start with the Books of Law.

6. Memory Verse: Have the children say the memory verse - "When anyone lives in Christ, the new creation has come. The old is gone! The new is here!" – 2 Corinthians 5:17

Elementary: Stack 'Em Up

Form two teams. Each team will need 4 large plastic cups and 3 pieces of cardstock, cut in 4-inch squares. At the signal, the first player on each team will race to see who can make a tower by alternating setting a cup upside down on a table, placing a piece of cardstock on top of it, cup, cardstock, cup, cardstock, and cup. The first person to complete their tower will lead their team in saying the Scripture.

7.Closing Prayer: Lead the children in a closing prayer. Encourage your child/children to also say their own individual prayers about any additional concerns they have. Don't forget to pray for missionaries.