

## Reality – Bible Lesson for October 4, 2020 – Kindergarten – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

### 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. **The Jesus Storybook Bible:** Page 329 (mid-page – “They had seen...” – bottom of 331)

##### 5. Materials useful in teaching the lesson – 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” **Craft:** **Elementary** - 2 colorful cupcake liners per child; one clothespin per child; glue; pipe cleaners or yarn; decorations **Memory Verse Game: Elementary** – 8 large plastic cups and 6 pieces of cardstock – cut in 4 inch squares

##### Craft: Clothespin Butterflies

<https://www.craftymorning.com/cupcake-liner-clothespin-butterfly-craft/>

##### Song: 2 Corinthians 5:17

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n5DBY3Bo\\_NA](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:** (You can use the lesson below and/or read it from "The Jesus Storybook Bible" – page 329 (mid-page – "They had seen...") – bottom of 331)

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." 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." 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.Bible Application:**

**Craft: Cupcake Liner, Clothespin Butterfly**

**Remind the children that when a caterpillar becomes a butterfly, it becomes a “new creation”. In a similar way, when we become Christians, the old is gone – the new is here!**

Start by opening up 2 cupcake liners and folding them in half. Then fold them again and glue them together so it looks like a bow tie.



Decorate a clip-clothespin with marker or crayon. Clip the clothespin over the cupcake liners and add a strip of glue on top. Sprinkle on some pretty decorations and add a pipe cleaner or yarn for the antennae.

**5.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.

**6.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.