

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](#)

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!

Curiosity

Play Stations

Greet the kids warmly and briefly explain the play stations to them. Invite them to play at any of the stations.

Welcome to church! While we're getting ready to start, you can play at any of these stations to help you get ready for our lesson today. Do you have any ideas about what we'll be learning today?

Play Station: Clean the Mess

Set up: Set out different objects that are dirty and need to be cleaned. Then set out cleaning rags— some wet and some dry. Examples could be a plate with crumbs or shaving cream, sandal with dirt on it, non-breakable knick-knack that's dusty, whiteboard with dry-erase marker on it.

Play: Let the kids take turns cleaning and wiping the dirty things with the rags. Encourage them to keep the same rag with the same item if possible.

Play Station: Butterfly and Flower Play

Set up: Ahead of time, print the [Butterfly Sheet](#) and cut out the shapes. Set out shallow containers filled with Easter grass or packing grass (for Easter baskets) and small butterflies and flower pictures from the sheet.

Play: Let the kids play with the small butterflies and flowers in the grass, burying them and making the butterflies fly from flower-to-flower in the grass.



Play Station: New Creation Coloring Sheet

Set up: Ahead of time, print one copy per kid of the [coloring sheet](#) and set out coloring utensils.

Play: Let the kids color. The kids can also draw a picture of something in nature they think is beautiful (such as flowers, sunsets, etc.).

Faith

Craft: Oyster Shell Treasure

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

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.

Identity

Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish their activity, pray with them, thanking God for making us new creations.

When I say, “new creation,” you can spin around in a circle and throw your hands in the air to praise God for seeing us and treating us as new creations.

God, thank You for making us new creations (kids do the motion) through Jesus. When we put our faith in You, You make us new and forgiven, even though we have done wrong things and sinned. Thank You for loving us so much that You sent Jesus to die for us to rescue us. Help us trust You and follow You as we live as new creations (kids do the motion again). In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands are open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

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!