

# SMALL GROUP

TODAY'S WONDER TRUTH: JESUS MAKES US NEW



## WORD OF WONDER:

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

## GOD'S BIG STORY:

New Creation  
(Romans 5)

## GOD'S BIG STORY QUESTIONS:

- What is sin? What does our sin do to our relationship with God? *(the wrong things we think, say, and do; sin breaks our relationship with God.)*
- What did Jesus do so that our relationship with God can be fixed? *(He died on the cross to make the way for us to be close with God again. He defeated sin and death once and for all.)*
- When you trust in Jesus and follow Him, how does God see you? How can this affect the way you see yourself? *(God sees you as a new creation and as His child!)*
- Does God promise that life will be easy once we're living for Jesus? *(Let kids answer this one together!)*
- How can we become more like Jesus through the difficult times in our lives?
- What hard things are you going through in life right now? As a follower of Jesus and a friend and child of God, how can you respond?

## 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

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

## Curiosity Activity: Guess Let's Make It!

- Have you ever heard of upcycled art? Allow kids to respond. It's when a person takes something that is considered trash or junk and uses it to create something magnificent and beautiful. Many times, the art that's made can also be very useful! We're going to play a game called "What's It Made Of?" In this game, you're going to see pictures of upcycled art, and your job is to figure
- out what things make up the art. You'll take turns coming up to the table and selecting what item you think the artist used to make the art piece in the picture. Then everyone else will clap if they agree with what is chosen or stay silent if they disagree. Any questions?
- Allow kids to ask any questions they have. Advance to the image of a fish.
- **What do you think this is made of?** Choose a volunteer to come up to the table and choose the item they think the artist used in making their art piece. Allow kids time to then agree by clapping or disagree by staying silent. **Did you choose correctly? Let's find out! It's made up of old wrenches and pieces of metal.** Thank the volunteer and encourage them if they didn't choose correctly. **Let's check out the next one.**
- Display the next What's It Made Of! Slide, which shows a snowman. **What do you think this is made of? Choose a volunteer to come up to the table and choose the item they think the artist used in making their art piece. Allow kids time to then agree by clapping or disagree by staying silent. This one is made with the bases of plastic bottles! How cool is that?**
- **Thank the volunteer and encourage them if they didn't choose correctly.**
- Advance to the next slide, which shows the bottle sculpture. **What is this one made of?** Choose a volunteer to come up to the table and choose the item they think the artist used in making their art piece. Allow kids time to then agree by clapping or disagree by staying silent. **Let's see if you guessed correctly! This one is made from old glass bottles and packing material.** Thank the volunteer and encourage them if they didn't choose correctly.
- Advance to the slide that shows colorful baskets. **What do you think these baskets are made of?** Choose a volunteer to come up to the table and choose the item they think the artist used in making their art piece. Allow kids time to then agree by clapping or disagree by staying silent. **This one is trickier.**
- **Let's find out if you are correct. These are made of plastic bags! The bags are cut into strips, braided, and then woven together! Pretty cool!** Thank the volunteer and encourage them if they didn't choose correctly.
- Show the next What's It Made Of? Slides, the image of a flame. **What could this be made of?** Choose a volunteer to come up to the table and choose the item they think the artist used in making their art piece. Allow kids time to then agree by clapping or disagree by staying silent. **Let's see if you're on the right track! This is made from different types of bottle caps. That is a very creative way of using bottle caps.** Thank the volunteer and encourage them if they didn't choose correctly. **We're on to the final piece of art.**
- Show the final slide of the mosaic. **This one is the biggest piece of art in our game. What do you think was used to create this mosaic?** Choose a volunteer to come up to the table and choose the item they think the artist used in making their art piece. Allow kids time to then agree by clapping or disagree by staying silent. **Were you right? They used discarded materials from houses, like flooring tiles and stone countertops. They broke them into smaller pieces and then used cement to connect them together in these amazing patterns!** Thank the volunteer and encourage them if they didn't choose correctly.
- **It's amazing how something that was seen as old, discarded, and unusable can be turned into a brand-new, beautiful work of art. 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!****

## Word of Wonder Activity

- **Our Word of Wonder for the Created New series talks about being made new! Let's say the verse together.**
- Open your Bible to 2 Corinthians 5:17.
- Display the Word of Wonder Slide. If possible, watch the [Elementary Word of Wonder Video](#).
- Pass out both a Butterfly Word of Wonder Sheet and a plain sheet of paper to each kid.
- Encourage them to color the butterfly parts and then use kid-safe scissors to cut them out. They can use glue sticks or tape to put the butterfly parts together on the plain sheet so that the Word of Wonder is in order.
- Once they finish, encourage them to read the verse several times.

## Responding in Worship: Upcycled Art

- **Jesus makes us new! We are no longer stuck in our sin but are new creations!**
- **From the very beginning, God knew us and made us. And when we sinned and became separated from God, He had a great rescue plan for us to be reunited with Him. He didn't give up on us! God sent us Jesus, His one and only Son, to show us how much He loves us. And Jesus showed us His never-ending love by dying for us. But He didn't stay dead! He rose again, and He lives!**
- **Because He lives, we can be with Him again. When we choose to follow Jesus and accept Him as our Savior, He makes us new creations!**
- **Today you're going to be upcycle artists and make new creations out of something old and discarded.**
- Show the variety of materials the kids can use for their artwork.
- **You can use any of these materials to make your own upcycled art. You're going to bring new life to these items and create something beautiful from something that was once considered discarded.**
- Play music from the [Created New Elementary Spotify playlist](#) as kids create their works of art. Help any kids who may be struggling to start or need help creating their artwork.
- Gather the kids when they're finished and invite them to show the progress of their works of art.
- **Every time you look at your artwork, remember that Jesus makes you a new creation when you choose to follow Him. He brings new life!**

## SMALL GROUP PRAYER

**Jesus made the way for us to be new creations when He died on the cross for our sins. God wants to make us new—to help us transform into people who think and act like Jesus! The Holy Spirit helps us to make choices that honor God and give us peace, no matter what hard things we face. Let's thank Him now for making us new!**

Invite kids to join you in a circle to spend time talking to Jesus. Ask whether anyone has a question, something they would like to share with Jesus, or a prayer request. Give each kid a chance to participate, then close in prayer, remembering to thank Jesus for loving us!