



Lesson 2: A New Beginning!

3-5 In-person Plan

<u>Key Teaching Point</u>	Jesus offers us a new beginning.
<u>Bible Verse</u>	“No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead.” (Philippians 3:13, NLT)
<u>Scripture Passage</u>	“Peter messes up and receives a fresh start.” (Luke 22:31-34, 54-61, John 21, NLT)
<u>Materials</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bible ● A couple of dull, dirty pennies ● 1/4 cup white vinegar ● One teaspoon salt ● A clear, shallow bowl (not metal) ● A sheet or two of paper towel

Relate (20 minutes)

Welcome students with a snack.

Distribute name tags and snacks. Choose one of the following icebreaker activities to do together while students eat their snack:

Icebreaker Options (Choose one.):

- God sightings: Ask students to describe how they’ve seen God at work in their school or at their home in the past week.
- Let students take turns sharing how they’re feeling today using the Feelings Wheel (from the CKC Games Bag).
- Open a discussion with a question, “Have you ever made a huge mistake? How did it make you feel?”

Play a game.

Bunny Rabbit, Bunny Rabbit¹

Start with everyone in a circle. One person is the “bunny rabbit, bunny rabbit.” This person starts the game. Now, everyone in the circle chooses an animal, such as: “iguana, iguana,” “cat, cat,” or “shark, shark,” etc. Along with the animals, each person has to make a sign with their hands. For example, “rabbit, rabbit” would place both hands on the side of the head to form two ears. Another example would be “crocodile, crocodile”, it will put its arms in front like the mouth of a crocodile. Ask students to show each other their signals.

You can invent more animals with hand signals as needed. Now “bunny rabbit, bunny rabbit” begins the game by pointing its signal and saying: “rabbit, rabbit, cat, cat”. Now it’s the turn of “cat, cat.” Students will continue to pass the signal in no particular order as the names of their animals are announced.

Students will make mistakes in one of the following ways:

- They make the wrong signal for their animal
- They don’t perform their signal when their called
- They pause for too long (more than three to five seconds, depending on the age of your group)

If a student makes three mistakes, they get a fresh start. They must announce their original animal to the group (for example, “cat, cat, OUT”) loud enough for everyone to hear and reintroduce themselves as a new animal that is not a part of the circle yet (for example, “kangaroo, kangaroo, IN!”)

Continue to play for several minutes until one to three students change to a new animal. The game gets progressively harder as more students switch their animal.



Receive (20 minutes)

Read God’s Word.

Coordinate with your students and your co-captain to perform the three short scenes of the skit. You will need these six roles: Narrator, Jesus, Peter, Servant girl and two others who question Peter

Instruct the remaining students to perform various actions as they watch the skits:

- When Jesus is talking: stand facing front
- When Peter is talking: turn to face back
- Rooster: Rooster crow
- Sheep/Lamb: Sheep “baa”
- Deny/No: Hold arms in an x and shout “no way!”

¹ You may want to adapt this game to fit your students’ interests. They could choose movie or book characters, singers or actors, etc.

Scene 1: Jesus Predicts Peter's Denial

- Narrator: **It was close to the time that Jesus would be arrested and killed, but his followers didn't know it. Jesus knew that soon their faith would be tested. One day, Jesus was talking to Simon Peter, one of his closest friends.**
- Jesus: **I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith should not fail.**
- Peter: **Lord, I am ready to go to prison with you, and even to die with you.**
- Jesus: **Peter, before the ROOSTER crows tomorrow morning, you will DENY three times that you even know me.**
- Narrator: **Peter thought there was NO way that would come true.**

Scene 2: Peter Denies Jesus

- Narrator: **Not long after, Jesus was arrested. All his friends were scared. Peter was in the town near the place they were keeping Jesus, sitting around the fire with some people. One of them, a servant girl, recognized him and pointed at Peter, who was scared.**
- Servant Girl: **This man was one of Jesus' followers!**
- Peter: **NO, I don't even know him!**
- Another person: **You must be one of them!**
- Peter: **NO way, I'm not!**
- Narrator: **About an hour later . . .**
- Third person: **This guy must be one of them! I'm pretty sure I've seen him with Jesus.**

Peter: **I don't know what you are talking about.**

Narrator: **And immediately, while he was still speaking, the ROOSTER crowed. Peter remembered Jesus' words, and he left the courtyard, weeping bitterly at his unfaithfulness.**

Scene 3: Jesus Offers Peter a New Beginning

Narrator: **One day after Jesus had risen from the dead, he surprised his disciples by appearing on the beach while they were out fishing. Simon Peter was there, and when he saw Jesus, he jumped into the water and swam to shore to meet Jesus as fast as he could.**

Jesus: **Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?**

Peter: **Yes, Lord, you know I love you.**

Jesus: **Then feed my LAMBS. Simon son of John, do you love me?"**

Peter: **Yes, Lord, you know I love you.**

Jesus: **Then take care of my SHEEP. Simon son of John, do you love me?**

Narrator: **Peter was hurt that Jesus asked the question a third time.**

Peter: **Lord, you know everything. You know that I love you.**

Jesus: **Then feed my SHEEP. Follow me.**

Narrator: **Jesus invited Peter back into the relationship and Peter went on to continue loving others and serving Jesus even after he messed up big time. Jesus gave Peter a new beginning and a second chance to show that he truly did love Jesus with all his heart.**

Just like Jesus offered forgiveness and a new beginning to his friend Peter,

Jesus also gives us a fresh start and another chance if we turn to him, receive his forgiveness, obey his words and follow him!



Respond (20 minutes)

Apply God's truth.

Show students a calendar.

Here's a calendar. It includes all twelve months of the year. We use a new calendar every year. When it's a new year, we switch to a new calendar.

Turn to the month of January.

Every time we begin a new year, people make resolutions. They want a new beginning in the new year. Typically, people don't accomplish what they set out to do. Getting a fresh start and a new beginning is not easy.

Our new beginning comes through Jesus's forgiveness and our obedience to his words.

Review the Bible verse:

“No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead.” (Philippians 3:13, NLT).

Close in a discussion. Encourage students to participate by incorporating questions into a game when possible. See the CKC Games Bag for ideas:

- **Have you ever felt that you disappointed God? How?** (Answers will vary.)
- **What is your response when you realize that you have sinned? Do you run back toward God or away from him?** (Answers will vary. Explain that God waits for us with open arms. We repent when we turn back and draw near to God.)
- **How did Jesus respond to Peter in the last part of the story today?** (He gave Peter another chance to keep loving and following Jesus even after he messed up. He gave Peter a new start.)
- **How does God respond when we sin and mess up?** (God gives us forgiveness when we turn back to him. He helps us get back on track in our relationship with him.)
- **Is there an area in your life where you want a fresh start?** (Answers may vary.)

Sing and worship together.

Pick a song from the [Praise and Worship Guide](#), or choose one of your own. Incorporate movement into the songs whenever possible.

Close in prayer together.

Restored Pennies

Put one teaspoon salt and ¼ cup vinegar into a bowl and stir together until the salt dissolves. Dip a penny halfway into the liquid. Hold it there for about 10 seconds, then pull it out.

Ask students, **“What do you see?”**

Take student responses.

Place the rest of the pennies into the bowl and allow the students to watch them change for the first few seconds. Then, let them sit for five minutes. As you wait, share a personal story of an area in your life where Jesus offered you forgiveness and a new beginning. Allow students to share if they have a story.

After five minutes, take the pennies out of the liquid. Put them on a paper towel to dry.

The pennies that were old and dull have become shiny and new again. This penny now looks the same as it did when it was brand new. Jesus doesn't dip us into vinegar and salt, but he does forgive us and wash our sins away so that we can have a new beginning and a fresh start. Let's pray together.

“God, we make many mistakes, but we know you offer a new beginning every time we come to you and seek forgiveness. Thank you for loving us and helping us become more like you. Amen.”

Take prayer requests and close in prayer.