



Lesson 2: A New Beginning Online 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"> ● 04: “A New Beginning” Zoom Slides ● A calendar
<u>Optional Mystery Bag</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fifteen toothpicks ● Twenty mini marshmallows ● Sandwich bag

Relate (10 minutes)

Welcome crew members.

Greet crew members as they sign on.

Icebreaker Options (choose one):

- Ask students to share their highs and lows (the best and worst things that happened to them either today or from the past week.)
- Rosebud: Ask students to share a highlight or success from the week (a rose), a challenge or disappointment from the week (a thorn) and something they are looking forward to doing or experiencing in the week ahead (a bud).
- Open a discussion with a question, “Have you ever made a huge mistake? How did it make you feel?”

Play a game.

Optional Mystery Bag Game: Sticky Towers

Provide students with an equal number of toothpicks and mini marshmallows in a mystery bag and deliver it to their home before the Zoom meeting. Time students for

one minute to see who can build the tallest standing tower. If possible, send a prize to the student that wins the challenge.

Guess Who?

Ask for one student to be the “mystery person.” Choose a famous person or a character the kids likely know, such as Mickey Mouse, Captain America, Justin Bieber, etc. The leader should send the name of the person or character in the chat to each person EXCEPT the mystery person. Before you send the name in the chat, make sure to instruct the students NOT to read it out loud! Then, the student who is the mystery person will ask *yes-or-no* questions to the group to try and figure out who they are. If they guess correctly with ten questions or fewer, they win! Adjust the number of questions to change the level of difficulty.

You could also choose a game from the [Zoom Playbook](#).



Receive (10 minutes)

Read God’s Word.

Pull up the Zoom slides for lesson 4 and share your screen. Coordinate with your students and your co-captain to participate in reading the lines of the script while they follow along with the Zoom slides. You will need to assign these six roles: a narrator, Jesus, Peter, a servant girl and two others who question Peter

Instruct students to perform various actions as they participate in or watch the following skits. Remind students to follow along with the script on the Zoom slides.

- When Jesus is talking: turn on your camera
- When Peter is talking: turn off your camera
- Rooster: Rooster crow
- Sheep/Lamb: Sheep “baa”
- NO WAY: Hold arms in an x and shout “no way!”

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 WAY, 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 crows. 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 (10 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.

When we start a new year, people tend to make resolutions. This means that they want a new beginning in some area of their life.

Some people decide that in the new year they want to eat more vegetables, while some people want to spend an hour each day exercising. People may want to do better at controlling their tongue, spending more time with Jesus, reading their Bibles or serving others without being asked. Usually when people make these goals, they want to start something new, something that hasn't been a part of their lives before.

More often than not, these goals that people have for the new year are never accomplished. Why do you think that is?

Take student responses.

It's near impossible to bring about a fresh start and a new beginning without turning to Jesus and accepting his forgiveness and his offer of a second chance to love him and love others. Jesus is the one who strengthens us to leave our mistakes and sins behind and walk out the new beginning he has for us. We can't do it without him!

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).

We receive a new beginning and a fresh start when we turn away from our past mistakes and turn toward Jesus, accepting his forgiveness and his offer of a second chance to love him and to love others.

Close in a discussion:

- **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.)

Close in prayer together.

Jesus forgives us and washes our sins away so that we can have a new beginning and a fresh start. Let's pray together.

Dear God,

We make so 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.