



Lesson 3: A New Person! 6-8 In-Person Plan

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| <u>Key Teaching Point</u> | Those who belong to Jesus become a new person. |
| <u>Bible Verse</u> | “This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!” (2 Corinthians 5:17, NLT). |
| <u>Bible Passages</u> | “Saul becomes Paul.” (Acts 9, NLT) |
| <u>Materials</u> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Image 1 ● Image 2, printed in color ● A red and blue colored pencil ● A piece of 8 1/2-by-11 inch paper and a pencil ● Optional: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pencils, books, scarves, hats, jackets, cups, a pair of glasses, etc. |

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, “How have you changed since you were little? Since last year?”

Play a game.

Detective

Pick one student to be the “detective.” Line up the rest of the group, and give the detective ten to thirty seconds to observe the students. Then, ask the detective to leave

the room as the group changes ten things about their appearance that are somewhat obvious. You may want to provide items such as pencils, books, scarves, jackets, hats, cups or a pair of glasses to help with the transformation. Once the detective returns, give them a set amount of time to try to observe the ten changes and write them down. Give several students an opportunity to be the detective.



Receive (20 minutes)

Receive God's Word.

For the following skit, you and your co-captain will each play a role: Interviewer and Paul. You may also ask two students to play these roles. Before you begin, explain that a makeover is a transformation or a drastic change in the outward appearance of a person. Explain that people can also experience a change from the inside, to become a person with new likes, dislikes, attitudes and behaviors.

- Interviewer: **Welcome to “Extreme Makeover” I’m your host, {insert name}. Today, we are going to talk with Paul, formerly Saul about his recent “makeover.” Paul, thanks for coming in today!**
- Paul: **Thanks, {insert name}, it’s good to be here!**
- Interviewer: **Paul, I would love to know, what were you like before you met Jesus, before you became the new person sitting in front of me today?**
- Paul: **I truly was the worst sinner in the whole world! I killed many of Jesus’s most passionate followers. I was pretty smart too. I knew the Scriptures forwards and backwards, and I prided myself in being able to obey God’s commandments more than most people.**
- Interviewer: **Wow, you were a murderer? That is really bad! But...the worst sinner in the whole world? Do you really think so?**
- Paul: **I may have obeyed all the commandments on the outside (for other people to see of course), but my heart on the inside was evil. I didn’t care about pleasing God, I only cared about being an important and powerful person.**
- Interviewer: **So what happened? How did you become the person in front of me today?**
- Paul: **It’s simple. I met Jesus. Seeing and meeting him**

changed me. One day, I was traveling along the road when a great bright light stopped me in my tracks. It was Jesus. I fell to the ground, only to hear a voice say to me: “Saul, why are you harassing me?” He was talking about his followers that I was seeking to kill. He told me to get up and go into the city, but the bright light coming from Jesus blinded me and I could no longer see anything else! So my companions led me into the city and for three days I was blind and didn’t eat or drink anything.

Interviewer: Wow! What happened during those three days!

Paul: I prayed, I prayed all day and all night, asking God to heal me and asking him to forgive me. You feel helpless and weak when you can’t see, eat or drink. At this point, I knew that only God could help me.

Interviewer: Then what happened?

Paul: Jesus sent a man named Ananias to me to restore my sight. I was healed and filled with the Holy Spirit. On that day I was baptized. I left behind my old life and the old person I used to be and became a new person. If Jesus hadn’t come to me, this wouldn’t have been possible, but with God, all things are possible. God can change a person from the inside out!

Interviewer: Wow, what a story! Thank you for sharing! There’s just one more question I’d like to know. Now that you’ve described who Saul was, how would you describe yourself now?

Paul: Well, I’m going to answer this question a little differently if you don’t mind. When I was Saul, I loved talking about myself. Now that I’m a new person, I love to talk about Jesus more. Jesus is perfect. Everything Jesus does is pleasing to God. Jesus obeys God from the heart, and he’ll even obey God if he has to die to do it. Jesus loves people and extends forgiveness and abundant life even to those who betray him or hurt his heart. God made me a new person so that I could become more and more like Jesus each and every day!



Respond (20 minutes)

Apply God's Truth.

Show students the image of a caterpillar. Using a red colored pencil, color the caterpillar for all students to see.

Now I am going to make this caterpillar brand new!

Using a blue colored, color the caterpillar for all students to see.

Ask students: **Did I really make this caterpillar new by coloring on it with a different colored pencil?**

No matter how much I try to change what's on the outside of this caterpillar, it's still a caterpillar!

Show students the image of the butterfly.

This is a butterfly. A "new" caterpillar is a butterfly! When a caterpillar becomes a butterfly, it is no longer a caterpillar! It is something completely new!

God doesn't want to just change us on the outside. God isn't interested in turning sinful people into less sinful people, he wants to make us brand new! He wants to make us into a new person, a person who pleases God inside and out. This means that God wants to make us into a person who doesn't just do and say the right things on the outside, but a person who pleases God on the inside, from the heart.

How do we become a new person? We can't become a new person by trying harder to do and say all the right things. We're usually unsuccessful, and sometimes we don't even know what's "right" anyways! Only God has the power to make us a new person from the inside out!

God's power to make us a new person is found in what Jesus has done for us. We can become a new person by trusting in what Jesus has done for us, by trusting in God's power to make us new! This is called faith. Jesus:

- **died to experience the punishment for our sins on a cross.**
- **buried our sinful person in his grave.**
- **came back to life to give us access to a new life and to form us into a new person by God's power.**
- **went into heaven to give us the Holy Spirit, God's power working in us so that we can show on the outside who God has made us to be on the inside: a new person!**

God's Word says this:

“This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!” (2 Corinthians 5:17, NLT)

God’s power makes us a new person from the inside out. By God’s power, we become a son or daughter of God instead of an enemy of God. By God’s power, we become a saint instead of a sinner. By God’s power, we become worthy of God’s favor instead of God’s punishment.

Do you want to become a new person from the inside out? Does anyone want to ask God to change you from the inside out?

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.

Lead students in the following prayer:

Dear God,

I want to become a new person. I cannot make myself a new person by trying harder, but I know that if I put my trust in Jesus, you can make me new. I believe that Jesus has paid for my sins, that Jesus has buried my sinful person in a grave, that Jesus has made me a new person on the inside and that Jesus has given me what I need to live a life that pleases God on the outside! Thank you God for your incredible power to make me a new person!

Amen.

Image 1

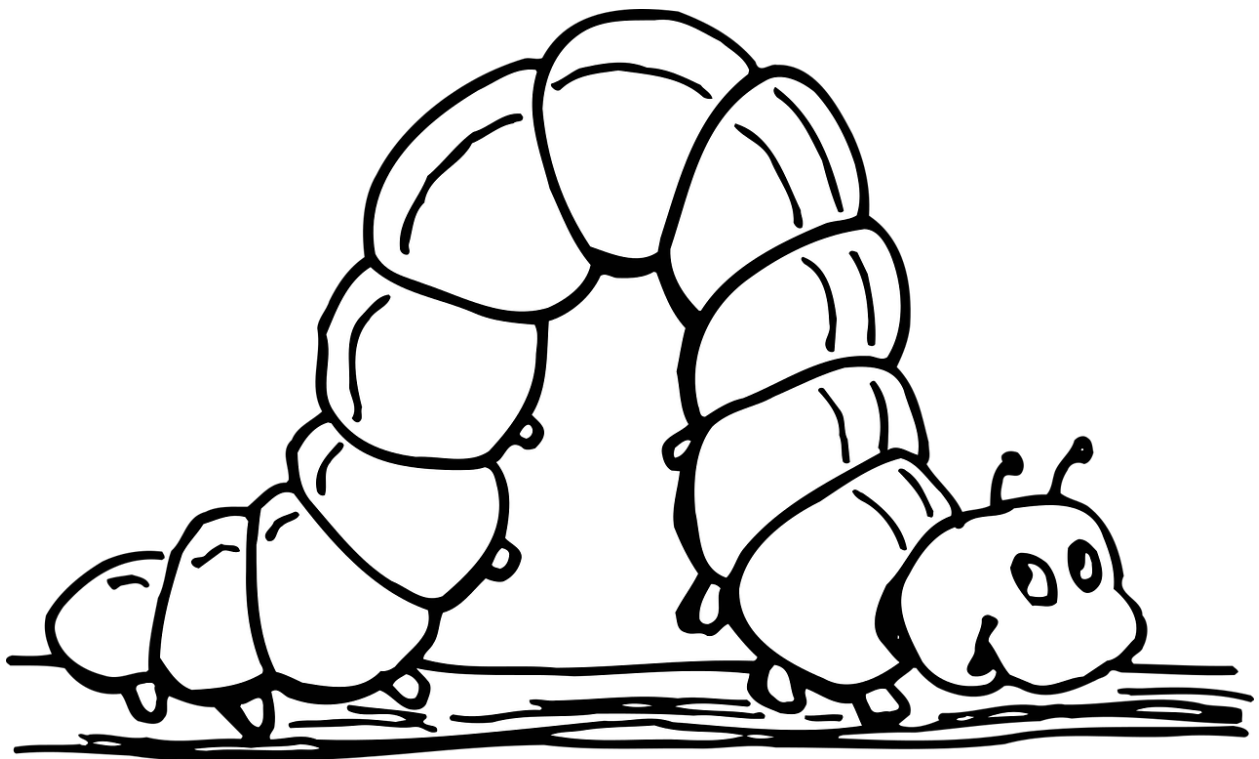


Image 2

