



Lesson 4: A New Life 6-8 In-Person Plan

<u>Key Teaching Point</u>	I can live a new life in Jesus.
<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 Passage</u>	“A new life for Zacchaeus.” (Luke 19:1-10, NLT).
<u>Materials</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A Bible

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, “What job would you not want to have when you grow up?”

Play a game.

Opposites Challenge

Choose one student to sit in a "challenge chair." Other members of the group should take turns naming a word with an opposite (hot-cold, dark-light, old-new, etc.) The student in the chair must quickly respond with the opposite of the word named. Let students take turns being in the “challenge chair.”

Do you ever act in a way that is opposite of what you should do? Why?

Take student responses.

When Jesus comes into our lives, his love changes our minds, hearts and lives! We begin to live differently! That's what we are going to learn about today.



Receive (20 minutes)

Receive God's Word.

Read the following story, asking students to try to remember the sequence of events as you will ask them to retell the story in their own words afterwards.

Jesus was passing through a town in Jericho. In that town lived a man named Zacchaeus, who was rich, because he was the ruler among the tax collectors. Now tax collectors were despised by people in the town because they were known for taking people's money for themselves and for supporting the Romans who the Jewish people despised.

Now, when Zacchaeus heard Jesus was coming, he knew he just had to see him. He heard about all the incredible things that Jesus had done. Being a short man, he couldn't see Jesus because the crowd was too large, so he started to climb up a sycamore tree so he could see Jesus as he passed by his way.

Now, to Zacchaeus's surprise, when Jesus walked by the Sycamore tree, he stopped, looked up and said, "Zacchaeus, come down at once! I must stay in your home today."

Zacchaeus was so thrilled. Jesus was coming to HIS house. He was filled with joy but the people in the town who despised him were not so happy. They grumbled to themselves "Jesus has gone to be the guest of a sinner."

Now Zacchaeus was stirred in his heart, so he turned to Jesus and said to him: "Look, Lord, I give half of my possessions to the poor. And if I have cheated anyone, I repay them four times as much."

Jesus turned to Zacchaeus and said to him, "Today, salvation has come to your house. For I have come to seek and save the lost."

Ask students, **Can someone retell the story for us?**

Ask a student to share what they can remember from the story. Then allow other students to come and add details that are missed the first time.

Open a discussion:

- **Who was Zacchaeus? How would you describe his life before he met Jesus?**
- **How would you describe Zacchaeus after he met Jesus? What specifically changed in his life?**
- **What do you think brought about the change in Zacchaeus?**
- **How do we receive a new life?** (By meeting and encountering Jesus's love and letting him change our hearts, our minds and how we live our lives as we put our faith and trust in him.)

The word “repentance” came up in our story today. To repent means to change your mind and your heart.

How did Zacchaeus change his mind and his heart in this story? How can you tell?

Take student responses.

He went from a life of cheating and stealing to a life of generosity. He gave half of all his possessions to the poor and he didn't just pay back what he owed, he generously gave people four times as much money as he took from them! When we change our minds and hearts, it is revealed in how we live our lives. Our lives should look different!

Why do you think Zacchaeus made such a drastic change?

Take student responses.

Jesus was kind to Zacchaeus even in his sin! Jesus came to be a guest at his house even though all the others in his town disliked and despised him.

When Zacchaeus met Jesus, he confessed his sin. He turned his heart away from the world and toward Jesus. He found God's love and joy filled his heart. It's Jesus's love for us that makes us new. It's Jesus's love that changes the course of our lives.



Respond (20 minutes)

Apply God's truth.

Can people change?

Take student responses.

Think about someone who made a big change. It can be someone you know in real life, or it could be a character from a book or a movie.

- **How did they change?**

- Was it a good or bad change?
- What caused them to change?

Here's an example of a dramatic change from nature that we talked about last week. When a caterpillar changes into a butterfly, it's not a small change, but a total transformation. The butterfly is a completely new creature that will never go back to its old self. It has a new life!

The life of a butterfly is drastically different from the life of a caterpillar. For one thing, a butterfly spends a lot of time in flight, while a caterpillar spends a lot of the time on the ground or on plants instead of in the air. A butterfly eats differently and travels differently than a caterpillar. The change is evident.

This describes the change that happens to people as they come to know Christ. Before knowing Jesus, we don't have his love and joy, and we carry the burden of sin in our hearts. But when people meet Jesus, God begins to do new things inside them which results in outward changes in their lives. Their life becomes more like Jesus, and their old life becomes a thing of the past.

Have you changed since coming to know Jesus? How?

Take student responses.

When Jesus comes into our lives, he changes us from selfish to unselfish, from unloving to loving, from being afraid to trusting him. God's love revealed to us through Jesus is so powerful that it can transform our lives into something new!

Read the Bible verse.

“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 promises to give us new life when we put our faith in Jesus and follow him.

Share a personal testimony of how your relationship with Jesus has resulted in a big change in your life.

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.

Some people have trouble obeying their parents. Others might struggle to be kind to others. Others might keep messing up by saying things they shouldn't.

If you are willing, share with students an area in your own life where you need God to bring new life.

We all need Jesus to help us live more like him. We can pray and ask for his help. You can share out loud if you would like, or you can pray quietly.

Take prayer requests and close the group in prayer.