

A New Creation

By RLD Editorial Team

for use as

STEP 1 **Lesson 1****Focus:**

Jesus can make you a new person.

Lesson 1**Bible Basis:**

Acts 7:58; 8:1-4; 9:1-22;
22:12-16

Lesson 1**Memory Verse:**

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! —2 Corinthians 5:17

The students will discuss the transformation of a “before and after” example as they explore how they can be made into a new person by Jesus.

Materials:

Internet access

➤ **What happens when something or someone gets a makeover or transformation?** (Answers may include: They look brand new; they look completely different; there have been transforming changes; etc.)

➤ **Who or what have you seen receive a makeover or transformation?** (Answers may include: Our house got a new coat of paint; my room was rearranged and looked totally new; my mom got a new haircut, etc.)

Before and after pictures can be pretty amazing. A house with a new coat of paint on it, or a friend who gets a new haircut can look completely different. Some makeovers or transformations are more dramatic than others.

Some of you may have heard of TV shows about hoarders who keep everything. Their homes become full of items they can't let go. Check out this video of a hoarder's house before and after being cleaned.

Play the following video [1:10]:

Title: Extreme Hoarder House Clean Up - BEFORE + AFTER Results!

Source: youtube.com

URL: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iw41-bPQ1yc>

➤ **What do you think of the house before and after cleaning? How has it changed?** (Answers: It's clean, you can see the floor, you can sit on the furniture, you can use the table and counter space, etc.)

➤ **What are some other things you'd like to see receive a makeover? How would you give them a new look?** (Answers will vary.)

Makeovers or transformations can make us feel like a brand-new person. The before and after can be dramatic. Many times, these changes only focus on the outside and what we can see. What about changes on the inside? Can that need a makeover too? The condition of our hearts needs more care and attention than anything we see on the outside!

Today we're going to meet someone who was in desperate need of a makeover. However, the makeover we're going to learn about today was a supernatural makeover done by Jesus Himself. Let's see what happened in this all-inclusive, life-changing makeover story.

(Continue on to Steps 2 and 3 in your teacher's guide; your Step 4 appears below.)

upper elementary



Lesson 1 / December 6, 2020

A New Creation

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STEP 4 

Lesson 1

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Bible Basis:

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22:12-16

Lesson 1

Memory Verse:

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! —2 Corinthians 5:17

Materials:

- Index cards (1 per student)
- Pens/pencils (1 per student)

If your class is meeting online, invite your students to bring an index card or piece of paper, along with a pen or pencil, with them to class.

Earlier we saw how Paul was made a new person by the power of Jesus. He didn't change by working harder or by becoming a better person. No, Paul became a new person because He met Jesus on the road to Damascus and was changed immediately by that meeting. When we have a run-in with Jesus, we're never going to come away the same! Encountering the God of the universe and experiencing His greatness and power has the ability to change our hearts, just as it did to Paul.

➤ **Have you had a run-in with Jesus which changed your heart? Share!** (Answers may vary. Give opportunity for [but do not force] students to share their baptism testimonies or experiences with God during this time.)

When we make a decision to follow Jesus and put Him on in baptism as our personal Lord and Savior, we experience a true makeover! We are no longer the person we used to be. We have been made into a new creation in Christ. How amazing is that?

Let's draw our own before and after pictures!

Hand out one index card to each student and a pen/pencil. If your class is meeting online, invite students to have their papers and pens or pencils ready.

Have your preteens draw before and after pictures of themselves—before and after Jesus. Have them draw a line down the middle of the index card. They should write “Before” on one side and “After” on the other. They should sketch a picture of themselves before salvation (let them know stick figures are fine!) and then write describing words about how they may have acted or felt on the inside, all around their picture. If students don't feel comfortable drawing a before or after of themselves or haven't made a decision to become a Christian yet and don't

understand what the after might look like, they can choose to draw Paul.

You might model this for them beforehand, by sharing your own baptism testimony and drawing your own before and after for the students to see as you share.

Share with students they can also become a new creation in Christ through acceptance of His gift of salvation. They too can encounter Jesus firsthand by choosing to believe in Him and putting Him on in baptism. Tell students if they'd like to hear more about becoming a follower of Jesus, they can stay after class, and you'd love to help them take that first step. Help with sharing the Gospel with this age group can be found in your teacher's guide.

If you have made the decision to be IN Christ, you are a new creation. That old person you once were is no longer. The new person God has made you has arrived. Fold up your before and after pictures and place them in your Bibles with this verse. Every time you open your Bibles, let 2 Corinthians flood your mind. Let your picture be your visual cue of who you are IN Christ. You have experienced the best makeover you could ever possibly have!

Pray to close.

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