

LESSON 7 SNAPSHOT

BOTTOM LINE:

God sees our potential even when we can't see it yet.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn "I am a new creation in Jesus!"

KEY PASSAGE:

Matthew 16:13-19, The Rock

MEMORY VERSE:

"My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." Colossians 2:2-3

SUMMARY:

Our life before having a relationship with Jesus is full of sin and mistakes. But in Jesus, we are a new creation. The old passes away and He sanctifies us, making us more like Jesus every day! Simon had a lot of shortcomings, but as his faith grew in Jesus, so did his strengths. Jesus defined Simon Peter according to his potential not his faults; giving him the new name of Peter meaning the rock.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for seeing our potential and never giving up on us. Help us to remember we are a new creation in you and the old has passed away!

In Jesus' name,
Amen

MEMORY VERSE

“My goal is that their hearts may be encouraged and strengthened. I want them to be joined together in love. Then their understanding will be rich and complete. They will know the mystery of God. That mystery is Christ. All the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden in him.” Colossians 2:2-3 (NIRV)

“My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.” Colossians 2:2-3 (NIV)

“I want them to be encouraged and knit together by strong ties of love. I want them to have complete confidence that they understand God’s mysterious plan, which is Christ himself. In him lie hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.” Colossians 2:2-3 (NLT)

“That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ; In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.” Colossians 2:2-3 (KJV)

LARGE GROUP:

Read the first part of the verse. “My goal is that their hearts may be encouraged and strengthened. I want them to be joined together in love.” Say, “Not only are we joined together with one another in the church, but our hearts are joined together with God! We become a new creation when we accept Jesus into our hearts. The old passes away and the new begins. We will still make mistakes and sin, but we will become more and more like Jesus the more time we spend in God’s word and living our faith!” Put the verse up on the big screen and ask the kids to read the entire verse together with you. Ask the kids to close their eyes. Then tell them to think about how they have changed since accepting Jesus in their hearts. If they haven’t accepted Him yet, encourage them to think about accepting Jesus so they can become one with Him! Tell them to open their eyes back up again. Say, “When we accept Jesus into our hearts we become a new creation. We can trust God to change our hearts to be more like His!”

SMALL GROUP:

Give each kid a copy of the memory verse. Instruct them to get into pairs or threes and work together to practice reciting sections of the verse without looking. Encourage them to see how much they can memorize together. Say, “Even if it’s just the first sentence, that is amazing!”

SKIT

Okay, That's Funny!

ITEMS NEEDED:

TA few different kinds of rocks
Guitar

CHARACTERS:

Scott
Bill

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN:

Wilderness expert – Scott
Wilderness expert – Bill

Begin with Scott and Bill standing center stage. Each guy is holding a couple of rocks.

SCOTT: Welcome back to another session of our wilderness class! I'm Scott.

BILL: And I'm Bill. We are about to have a ROCKIN time.

SCOTT: That's right. Check out our rocks.

BILL: Have you ever collected rocks before? Show of hands if you have a rock collection at home.

SCOTT: Rocks are fun to collect because there are so many different kinds. Some are smooth.

BILL: Some bumpy. Some are rough.

SCOTT: Some are colorful. Some have shiny crystals.

BILL: No matter where you are you can find all kinds of different rocks.

SCOTT: One great place to look for rocks is at the beach. You might also find shells there.

BILL: Another great place is while you are hiking.

SCOTT: If you happen to find a quarry, there will definitely be rocks there.

SKIT

BILL: And if you're hanging out with me and my band you will definitely be ROCKING OUT!

SCOTT: Ok, that's funny! Different kind of ROCK, Bill.

BILL: Naw! You can rock out and sing about rocks!

SCOTT: Well...

(Bill picks up a guitar and starts strumming it and singing...)

BILL: "ROCKING, ROCKING, ROCKING WITH ROCKS! ROCKING, ROCKING, I found some in my socks. Rocking, rocking, rolling those rocks down the hill!!!! I've been rocking all over the world and it's a thrill finding rocks!"

SCOTT: Wow! I didn't expect a rock song all about rocks. I suppose you can rock out to rocks. That's pretty funny, though.

BILL: Yeah, you can write a rock song about pretty much anything.

SCOTT: I suppose so. Now back to the rocks....

BILL: "Rocking, rocking, identifying rocks. Look them up and see what kind you got. It's fun to see all the different kinds of rocks. Rocking, rocking, and identifying rocks."

SCOTT: Okay! Actually, I was about to say that. You can look at your rock and notice what it looks like then look it up in a book to identify what kind it is. It can be a lot of fun. And not just rocks, you can do this with seashells, feathers, animal tracks, animals, bugs, and more.

BILL: "Oh yeah! It's so fun to be out in nature with rocks..."

SCOTT: Bill, sorry but I think we've had enough rocking out.

BILL: Oops! Sorry.

(Bill puts down the guitar and no longer sings.)

SCOTT: Show of hands if you enjoy being out in nature. What other things have you collected besides rocks? I'll call on a few to share.

SKIT

(Scott calls on a couple of kids to share.)

BILL: You kids rock!

SCOTT: You sure do. Now it's time to say goodbye but we will see you for another class next week. Bye for now!

BILL: See ya!

End Scene

OBJECT LESSON

ITEMS NEEDED:

Picture of a house made out of stone

Check out this house. It is made out of stone and rock. Nothing is going to move this house. It is firm. It isn't tossed two and fro by the wind. It remains steadfast and constant. A rock is that way. Strong and steadfast. God is our firm foundation. He is the rock that we stand on. He remains constant and never changes. He's always good, always perfect, and always powerful. Just like a rock, God is steadfast!

Jesus is mentioned in the Bible as our cornerstone. God as our firm foundation. We can depend on a God who never changes and always does what He promises He will do. But what if I was to describe you as a rock. Would you believe it?

Are you like God? Are you perfect? Do you always remain steadfast and true? Are you powerful and mighty? Most of us, if we are honest, would say that we are nothing like a rock. Nothing like God. And this would be true if it wasn't for Jesus.

Jesus has made us new. We are now a new creation. When we accept Jesus into our hearts, we become more and more like Him. This is called sanctification. It means that over time, as we grow closer in our relationship with God, we become like Him. This happens through reading God's word, praying, going to church, surrounding ourselves with other Christians who can help to encourage us, and by listening to the Holy Spirit and obeying God. Yes, we might not be a strong rock on our own, but we become like one over time.

God sees the potential in you now. Even while you are a sinner. Even while you are making mistakes. God sees who He created you to be! We are a new creation in Christ Jesus. The old is passing away and the new has come. And as we become more like Jesus, we can believe what God says about us is true! Just like Simon in the Bible got a new name of Peter which meant, the rock. We are a new creation in Jesus and can become more and more like Him!

LARGE GROUP GAME

Stone Toss

ITEMS NEEDED:

Small pebbles, 5-gallon buckets, masking tape

ADVANCED PREP:

Measure out and mark 3 yards, 2 yards, 1 yard, ½ yard, and 1 foot away from the mark where each team will line up as well as a line where the team should stand behind with masking tape.

INSTRUCTIONS:

Splitting kids into several teams, hand each group a pile of pebbles, and place all the 5-gallon buckets at the 3-yard mark. Have kids line up and try to toss one pebble in their bucket at a time. After their turn they can go to the back of the line for their next turn. Once everyone on their team has had a turn the first person in line runs and moves the bucket closer at the next mark. (Begin with the bucket about 3 yards away, next 2 yards, next 1-yard, next 1/2 a yard, and finally 1 foot away.) Once everyone has gone through the line again, the first kid in line will move the bucket to the next closest marker. Continue on until each teammate has had a turn at each marker. Once kids are done, they can all sit down. When all the teams are done, count up the pebbles in each bucket to see which team had the most. Announce the winners.

VARIATIONS:

For a very small group of kids, instead of doing teams, have each kid compete against one another. For a very large group create many teams.

WHAT'S THE POINT?

As the buckets got closer, it became easier and easier to toss the pebbles in. This is what it is like when we have a close relationship with Jesus. It gets easier and easier to obey God because our relationship grows stronger and our faith is strengthened. This means we trust God more, therefore we obey Him more because we know that He holds us in His hands!

LARGE GROUP LESSON

TAGLINE:

God sees our potential even when we can't see it yet.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn "I am a new creation in Jesus!"

KEY PASSAGE:

Matthew 16:13-19, The Rock

INTRO:

Has anyone ever called you a name that just didn't fit? Maybe it was BIG AL, but you are really short. Or maybe your term of endearment for your father is to call him OLD MAN. But he isn't that old at all. Maybe the nickname your parents gave you is cute or funny. Names typically make sense, but sometimes they really don't! Today we are going to hear about a name Jesus gave to his disciple Simon. The name did not fit him at all...at least not right away.

Speaking of names. Let's play the name game. I'm going to call out a name and if it's your name, stand up. If you know someone with that name, raise your hand, and if you have never heard of that name before, put your finger on your nose. Okay? Remember if it's your name, stand! If you know someone with that name, raise your hand. If you've never heard of the name, put your finger on your nose. Here we go!

Bob, Carly, Sarah, Peter, Kyra, Lauren, Caleb, Synthia, Rosemary, Josh, Sam, and Wyatt

Nice job everybody. It seemed like there was a mix of names you've heard, names you haven't, people you know who have those names, and sometimes even it being your own name. Let's read about why Jesus gave Simon the name Peter.

READ MATTHEW 16:13-19

MAIN POINT:

First of all, if you couldn't tell from the passage we read, Peter means the rock! The name Peter is associated with a rock. And when Jesus named him this name he was ABSOLUTELY NOTHING LIKE A ROCK! It's like naming a bird a cow. Okay, that's funny! But even though it seems funny to us, God saw the potential in Simon Peter. He knew that as He grew in his faith, He would become more and more like his new name. Because of his relationship with Jesus, Peter was becoming a new creation.

So, what was Simon Peter like before the change of heart? Let's just say far from perfect. Nah...let's go into the details! He let his emotions take over and was impulsive and rash about decision making. He had poor judgment. He was inconsistent and said one thing and did another. His faith was strong one moment and weak the next. He didn't have very much self-control. You know...like all humans. Imperfect. How do you describe

LARGE GROUP LESSON

a guy who talks when he should be quiet, fights when he shouldn't, make promises he doesn't keep and cusses when he's stressed out? Well I guess you could describe him as a failure. But not Jesus. Jesus called Him by his new name. Peter. The rock!

Peter lived up to his name after Jesus was resurrected and went to heaven. He became strong in his faith and steadfast like a rock. But before this the name Jesus gave Simon Peter seemed like a joke. It's like calling a tall person SHORTY! It's like calling a black cat, WHITEY! It would be like calling an elephant, MOUSE!

DRIVE IT HOME:

Jesus defined Simon Peter according to his potential not according to his faults. That's the difference between God and us. He can see the future when we can't. He knows who he has created us to be. Even though we have shortcomings, God knows who we can become when we have a strong relationship with Him. He has a good plan for our lives and if we obey and trust Him, He will lead us where we should go.

Peter was led by Jesus and He became more and more like Jesus. He wasn't perfect, but he was being changed from the inside out. Peter became THE ROCK. Like the steadfast firm foundation that Jesus is for us. And we are a new creation when we have Jesus in our hearts. We will become more like Him. GOD SEES OUR POTENTIAL EVEN WHEN WE CAN'T SEE IT YET! Yes, we can confidently say that, "I AM A NEW CREATION IN JESUS!" Because the old has passed away, He is making us new! Let's praise God for this.

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for seeing our potential and never giving up on us. Help us to remember we are a new creation in you and the old has passed away!

In Jesus' name,
Amen

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION K-2ND

ICEBREAKER:

Do you have a nickname you'd like to share? Do you know what your name means?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Colossians 2:2-3

Give each kid a copy of the memory verse. Instruct them to get into pairs or threes and work together to practice reciting sections of the verse without looking. Encourage them to see how much they can memorize together. Say, "Even if it's just the first sentence, that is amazing!"

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Give each kid a piece of paper and a pencil. Ask them to think of something about themselves that is negative. It's not very fun to think of it, but encourage them that it will become a positive thing! Once they write one or two things that they struggle with or that is a challenge for them, ask them to cross it out and write the opposite of that thing.

Examples: Anxious become courageous or Short Tempered becomes Peaceful

Tell kids that in our weakness, Jesus makes us strong. Encourage them that whatever they struggle with God has given us a new name because we are a new creation in Him. When we spend time in our relationship with Jesus, He will make us more like Him.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Matthew 16:13-19

Where did Jesus say He would build his church?

What does it mean to have faith in Jesus?

How do we become more and more like Jesus?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for making us a new creation. Help us to spend time in Your Word and grow strong in You!

In Jesus' name,
Amen

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION 3RD-5TH

ICEBREAKER:

Do you have a nickname you'd like to share? Do you know what your name means?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Colossians 2:2-3

Give each kid a copy of the memory verse. Instruct them to get into pairs or threes and work together to practice reciting sections of the verse without looking. Encourage them to see how much they can memorize together. Say, "Even if it's just the first sentence, that is amazing!"

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Give each kid a piece of paper and a pencil. Ask them to think of something about themselves that is negative. It's not very fun to think of it, but encourage them that it will become a positive thing! Once they write one or two things that they struggle with or that is a challenge for them, ask them to cross it out and write the opposite of that thing.

Examples: Anxious become courageous or Short Tempered becomes Peaceful

Tell kids that in our weakness, Jesus makes us strong. Encourage them that whatever they struggle with God has given us a new name because we are a new creation in Him. When we spend time in our relationship with Jesus, He will make us more like Him.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Matthew 16:13-19

Where did Jesus say He would build his church? Who is the rock in this verse?

How did the church begin...who spread the gospel?

Following Peter's example, how can we let go of our old ways?

How do we become more and more like Jesus?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for making us a new creation. Help us to spend time in Your Word and grow strong in You!

In Jesus' name,
Amen

POWERPOINT REVIEW GAME

Simon Peter is a good example of someone who became a new creation because of his relationship with Jesus.

TRUE

We are a new creation once we accept Jesus into our hearts and follow Him.

TRUE

Peter means, “the sock.”

FALSE

Peter’s name didn’t seem to match his personality at first.

TRUE

Overtime Peter became true to his name because he was steadfast in his faith and stood firm in Jesus.

TRUE

MAKE IT STICK

OKAY, THAT'S FUNNY LESSON 7

5 SIMPLE WAYS
YOU CAN MAKE
THIS LESSON STICK
WITH YOUR KIDS

THIS WEEK'S LESSON

5 Simple Ways to Make This Week's Lesson Stick



IN THE CAR:

Why was it funny at first that Simon's new name was Peter, which meant "the rock"? Peter did not live up to his new name at first. As he grew in his relationship with Jesus, Peter became steadfast in His faith and became more and more like Jesus. Matthew 16:13-19, The Rock



HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real:

Ask your kid if there is something about them that they want God's help with.

Ask your kid what ways they can strengthen their relationship with Jesus this week.



AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:

How can God see our potential before we can?

How does it make you feel knowing you are a new creation and you aren't known by God according to your sins?

What is the name for the opposite of the sin you struggle with? How can you invite God into helping you let go of your old ways?



AT BEDTIME:

Quiz your child on this week's memory verse:

"My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." Colossians 2:2-3



PARENT TIME:

When we have Jesus in our hearts the old has passed away and we are a new creation. Help your child see their potential by pointing them to God's character. This will help them to see what their future is. God is good, loving, patient, kind, and all of the fruits of the spirit. Give your child a word of affirmation when you notice Jesus working in their hearts to help them see that they are making progress towards the person God has made them to be! Show compassion and understand when they fail and remind them that their sin does not define them. It was a poor choice but they are still redeemed and renewed in Jesus. Each day is a fresh start!

TAKE HOME

Supplies: Grey, white, brown, and other stone-colored construction paper. Scissors, glue sticks, and markers.

Instruct kids to write one good quality about God on each rock they cut out. Ask them to start on the bottom of their page and stack the stones up so that they reach the top of their page. Encourage them to make as many rocks as they want.

Say, "This represents God and who he is making you to be. We are strong when we put our faith in Jesus. All the good qualities of God will eventually be ours. We won't be perfect on earth but God makes us righteous because of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross and we will be made perfect in his eyes one day in heaven. When we put our foundation in God, we will be steadfast and strong like this rock wall!"