

Just For Leaders

PREPARE

God Forgives Me—God Gives Me a New Start

Read: Matthew 9:9-13; Mark 2:13-17; Luke 5:27-32

*"As he walked along, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax collector's booth.
"Follow me," Jesus told him, and Levi got up and followed him.*

While Jesus was having dinner at Levi's house, many tax collectors and sinners were eating with him and his disciples, for there were many who followed him. When the teachers of the law who were Pharisees saw him eating with the sinners and tax collectors, they asked his disciples: "Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

*On hearing this, Jesus said to them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick.
I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."
Mark 2:14,17*

Reflect: How can you live differently this week after receiving a new start from God?

- A. By showing forgiveness and kindness to others
- B. By making better choices that reflect God's love and purpose for my life
- C. By sharing with others how God has given you a new start

Pray: God, thank You for giving me a new start. Please let Your love for me spill out in my life so I can show others how Your forgiveness can change their lives too. I love you, Amen.

Prepare: How can the fact that God gives us a new start encourage us to share the good news of Jesus with others?



Babies

October 4-5, 2025

BIBLE STORY

God Gives Me a New Start

Jesus Called a Tax Collector
Matthew 9:9-13; Mark 2:13-17;
Luke 5:27-32

BIBLE VERSE

*"If anyone is in Christ,
he is a new creation."
2 Corinthians 5:17a*

PRAYER

*Dear God,
Thank you, Jesus, for dying on
the cross so that everyone who
trusts in You will be forgiven
and given a new start.
Thank You for taking
away our old, sinful lives and
giving us life forever with You
when we trust in You. Help us
remember it is never too late to
trust in You and be given a new
start. Thank You for
forgiving all our sins,
no matter how bad they are,
when we trust in You.
We love you so much!
Amen.*

TEACH

- **Gather** the children for a Bible story.
- **Lead** them in singing the Bible Transition Song (sung to the tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb").

Now it's time to hear God's Word

Hear God's Word

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Now it's time to hear God's Word

So let's look in the Bible

- **Give** the baby a Bible board book to hold or show him or her a Bible.

SAY: The Bible is God's Word. God's Word is true. It teaches us that God is Holy!

- **Show** the Bible story picture to the baby and read the talking points to him or her.

Bible Story:

- Jesus invited a tax collector named Matthew to follow Him.
- Jesus gave Matthew a new start. He forgave Matthew for his sins.
- God forgives us when we ask.

EXPERIENCE

1. Road Rug Play

Invite babies to play with toy cars on the road rug. Gently guide their hands to help them follow the paths, turn corners, and explore new directions. Talk with them about how fun it is to drive on the road and how we can choose different ways to go.

Connect it- *Just like the roads on the rug show us which way to drive, God shows us the right way to go in life. He helps us know Him and follow Him every day.*

2. New Hearts

Place a variety of hearts made from different materials and textures within reach of the babies. Let them touch, hold, and explore each one, noticing how they feel.

Connect it- *When we see a heart, we can remember that God loves us and forgives us. God gives us a new heart to know Him, follow Him, and love Him more.*

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PREPARE

God Forgives Me—God Gives Me a New Heart

Read: Jeremiah 11:1-10; 17:1-10; 31-33

*"The heart is deceitful above all things
and beyond cure.
Who can understand it?
"I the Lord search the heart
and examine the mind,
to reward each person according to their conduct,
according to what their deeds deserve."
Jeremiah 17:9-10*

Reflect: How can we live this week knowing God has given us a new heart?

- A. Be more thankful for the things He has provided.
- B. Be more loving to my family.
- C. Be more diligent in prayer and studying the Bible.

Pray: God, thank You for giving me a new heart that allows me to love like You. Help me to be more patient and more kind this week in my interactions with my family. Let them see You through me! I love you Father, Amen!

Prepare: What is different in your life now that God has given you a new heart? Has it changed how you live and how you spend your time?



Babies

October 11-12, 2025

BIBLE STORY

God Gives Me a New Heart

Jeremiah Told
of a New Promise
Jeremiah 11:1-10; 17:1-10; 31-33

BIBLE VERSE

*"If anyone is in Christ,
he is a new creation."
2 Corinthians 5:17a*

PRAYER

*Dear God,
Thank You, for Your promise
to give us a new heart
when we trust in Jesus.
Thank You that the words given
to Jeremiah are just as true
now as they were when
Jeremiah said them.
Jesus, help us remember
that it is only by trusting in You
that we are forgiven and given
a new heart. We praise You
for making us totally new
when we trust in You.
We love you so much!
Amen.*

TEACH

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So let's look in the Bible

- **Give** the baby a Bible board book to hold or show him or her a Bible.

SAY: The Bible is God's Word. God's Word is true. It teaches us that God is Holy!

- **Show** the Bible story picture to the baby and read the talking points to him or her.

Bible Story:

- God had a special message for His people. God sent His message to a prophet named Jeremiah.
- God's message was that He is the only One who has the power to change people's hearts.
- When we talk about God changing our hearts, we mean that God helps us want to make right choices.

EXPERIENCE

1. Road Rug Play

Invite babies to play with toy cars on the road rug. Gently guide their hands to help them follow the paths, turn corners, and explore new directions. Talk with them about how fun it is to drive on the road and how we can choose different ways to go.

Connect it- *Just like the roads on the rug show us which way to drive, God shows us the right way to go in life. He helps us know Him and follow Him every day.*

2. New Hearts

Place a variety of hearts made from different materials and textures within reach of the babies. Let them touch, hold, and explore each one, noticing how they feel.

Connect it- *When we see a heart, we can remember that God loves us and forgives us. God gives us a new heart to know Him, follow Him, and love Him more.*

Just For Leaders

PREPARE

God Forgives Me—God Gives Me a New Way

Read: Luke 5:1–11

“and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon’s partners.

Then Jesus said to Simon, “Don’t be afraid; from now on you will fish for people.” So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.”

Luke 5:10–11b

Reflect: How does having a new identity affect how we see ourselves and others the most in your life?

- A. I am more aware that everyone I encounter is valued and loved, regardless of the circumstances.
- B. I offer more grace and compassion to others quicker than before.
- C. I have become more empowered to share God’s love, knowing my identity is secure in Him.

Pray: God, please help me to live each day remembering that my identity is in You. You have given me a new life in Jesus, and I thank You! I love you so much! Amen.

Prepare: How do people try to find identity? How is knowing our identity is found in Jesus different?



Babies

October 18-19, 2025

BIBLE STORY

God Gives Me a New Way

Jesus Called Peter
Luke 5:1-11

BIBLE VERSE

*"If anyone is in Christ,
he is a new creation."
2 Corinthians 5:17a*

PRAYER

*Dear God,
thank You for knowing we need
a new identity.
Thank You for giving us a new
identity in You when we
decide to trust and follow
Jesus. You make us totally new,
and You make us Yours forever.
Help us to tell other people
about You and
Your love for them, like Peter did
after You called him.
We love you and thank you for
calling us your children.
Amen.*

TEACH

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SAY: The Bible is God's Word. God's Word is true. It teaches us that God is Holy!

- **Show** the Bible story picture to the baby and read the talking points to him or her.

Bible Story:

- Peter saw the net full of fish, he knew Jesus had power that only comes from God.
- Jesus invited Peter to follow Him, and Peter said yes.
- We all sin, which means we make wrong choices, and we need God to forgive us and help us.

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2. New Hearts

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Just For Leaders

PREPARE

God Forgives Me—God Gives Me a New Hope

Read: Joel 1–3

*"And everyone who calls
on the name of the Lord will be saved;
for on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem
there will be deliverance,
as the Lord has said,
even among the survivors
whom the Lord calls"
Joel 2:32*

Reflect: How does knowing that God gives me hope change the way I live?

- A. I can face challenges with God's strength and not my own.
- B. I can share hope confidently with people who are struggling.
- C. I can trust in God when life feels uncertain or overwhelming

Pray: God, thank You for giving me the hope that can only be found in Jesus and His forgiveness. I can live confidently knowing that Your grace and forgiveness covers my mistakes. Please help me share that hope with everyone that I meet this week. I love you, Amen!

Prepare: How can we share the hope of Jesus this week? Who is the one person in our lives that needs to find freedom in the hope Jesus provides?



Babies

October 25-26, 2025

BIBLE STORY

God Gives Me a New Hope

Joel, the Messenger to Judah
Joel 1-3

BIBLE VERSE

*"If anyone is in Christ,
he is a new creation."
2 Corinthians 5:17a*

PRAYER

*Dear God,
thank You for giving us a new
hope by forgiving all our sins
when we trust and follow Jesus.
Thank You that this new hope
will never end. We have it now,
and we will have it forever
because You give us life with
You forever! Help us to
remember the hope You give us
is the best kind of hope
because it lasts forever.
We love you so much!
Amen.*

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Bible Story:

- God's people were hurting and suffering because of their wrong choices.
- When they turned away from their wrong choices and asked God to forgive them, He did.
- God gave them a new hope in Him.

EXPERIENCE

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