



Life Changer – Lesson 4

2s and 3s

Memory Verse: 2 Corinthians 5:17 "Anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!"

Key Point: Only God can change our hearts and lives.

Bible Verse: Acts 17:16–34

SCHEDULE:

Center Time

around 10 minutes

Help the individuals transition by actively engaging them from the beginning. Try setting up centers to color, play with blocks and Play-Doh, or do puzzles.

Memory Verse

Use the Memory Verse page and images to go over the memory verse by placing them in the correct order on the board (personal or pocket chart).

Coloring Sheet

Big Group Time

Lesson

- Read through the lesson below. For a shortened version, just read the bolded words.
- Within the lesson, there are numbers that correspond to the story point pictures. For example, (1) corresponds to the first story point and picture, and so on.
- Allow individuals to place pictures on the board (personal or pocket chart) in sequential order.

- Key Point
- Use the review questions to check for understanding.

Repeat Key Point & Memory Verse

Use the activities below for repetition of the story points, key points, and memory verse.

- Act out the Story.
- Bean Bag Toss: restate part of the story, memory verse, or key point when tossing.

Activity

Five Finger Gospel (optional)

LESSON:

This is a story from Acts 17:16-34 in the Bible (1). As **Paul travels**, he goes **to** a city called **Athens** (2). **He sees idols everywhere** (3). An idol is something people worship instead of God. The people in Athens have made rock and wood statues and worship them. As he looks around the city, **he notices that one of the idols has a sign that says, "TO AN UNKNOWN GOD."** (4)

Paul begins speaking to the people there **about the one true God** (5). He is preaching the Good News about Jesus, telling them that Jesus has risen from the dead. The people of Athens think that Paul has some strange ideas. **The people have never heard of this God before** (6). Paul speaks to them and tells them, "I ... found an altar to an 'unknown god' you worship. Now I am going to tell you about this 'unknown god,' the God you do not know."

He begins to tell the people, “He is the God who made the world and everything in it (7). He is the Lord of heaven and earth. He gives life and breath to all people. He also gives them everything else they have.” Paul tells the people that God commands people to turn away from their sin and explains how they can know this God who raised Jesus from the dead.

Some people laugh at Paul and make fun of what he is saying (8). But **others become followers and believe in Jesus (9).** Jesus is not an unknown god to them any longer. They know the real God. He is the only God and is worthy of being worshiped and the only one who can change people’s hearts and lives.

Again, God uses Paul’s changed life to speak to others about Jesus. More lives are changed as people hear the truth about who God is. God is a Life Changer. He can change our lives and hearts, too.

Key Point: Only God can change our hearts and lives.

Review Questions

- 1. What was the name of the city Paul was visiting in today’s lesson?** (Athens.)
- 2. What did Paul see everywhere in Athens?** (Idols made of wood and rock.)
- 3. What were the idols for?** (People worshiped them.)
- 4. What did Paul tell the people in Athens about?** (The one true God worth worshiping and the Good News of Jesus’ death and resurrection.)
- 5. What happened when Paul told the people about God?** (Some of them believed and their lives were changed.)
- 6. What happens when we allow God to work in our lives?** (He molds and shapes us. He changes our hearts and actions and makes us brand new on the inside.)

ACTIVITIES:

Mold Me and Make Me New

Supplies

- Play-Doh (in room)
- Gingerbread man cookie cutters (four per bin)

Have the children take turns trying to make a mold of themselves with Play-Doh, using just their hands. Say something like, **“Whenever we try to live life on our own, doing things our own way, we end up with a big mess.”** Have them flatten the clay with their hands onto the table. Talk with them about how God works in our lives. When we believe in Jesus, He makes us brand new on the inside. Then he takes our lives and shapes it into whatever he wants us to be. Give them the cookie cutters and let them cut their dough into the shape of a person. When we put ourselves in God’s hands and let him shape us into what he wants us to be, God is able to use our lives for great things. God has a plan for each of our lives that will bring glory and honor to God. He will use our lives to tell other people about his great love when we allow him to mold us and use us. That is what God did with Paul. God changed Paul’s life and then he used Paul’s life to tell other people about him. (Please be sure to put the Play-Doh back in the cans with the lids tightly sealed.)

***Have fun and let them do the crafts themselves, as much as possible. This is a hands-on way for them to learn who God is and remember what they learn. It doesn’t matter if they place the label or stickers in the wrong spot. What matters is teaching them who God is. ***

I Can Tell Others

Supplies

Set of pictures: preschool class, home, grocery store, church (campus specific) (one set per bin)

Play four corners. Tell the kids that each corner is a different place they go. One corner is home, one is preschool, one is the grocery store, and the last is church. Hang up the pictures of each of these, one in each corner. Choose one child

to sit and cover their eyes and help them count to ten. Have the other children move to whatever corner they would like and tell them to stay there. When the child is finished counting to ten, all the children should be in the corner of their choosing. Then, have the child who was counting pick one of the four corners while their eyes are still closed (church, home, store, or preschool). The children in that corner will then say the memory verse telling the rest of the children God's truth. "Anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!" When God changes our lives, we want to tell others how amazing his love is for us, just like Paul did. God wants us to share the Good News about him to the entire world. Continue playing, choosing a new child each time to count and pick the corner to share the memory verse.