

MAKING A NEW THING

Youth Lesson for Sunday, April 7, 2019

Note to Leaders:

“New Life!” is one of the promises that comes with saying “Yes” to Jesus Christ. New life is not just something that occurs after we die, it is also something that comes to us while we are alive on this earth. God is constantly making new things out of old, taking us from who we are to who God desires us to be. Our students face tremendous pressures, stresses, and doubt in their everyday lives. God promises a new life that will overcome all of that!

Opening Activity (20 Minutes)

Get this lesson going by using the exciting and interesting activity “Stranded” from the Youth Worker Collective. It is available online at <https://youthworkercollective.com/stranded/>

Scripture Lessons (15 minutes)

- What is something that God has taught you? How did God teach you this?
- Is there a time in your life when you were given a second chance?
- Do you think that there circumstances when someone doesn't deserve a second chance?
- God is sometimes called “The God of Second Chances.” More than just saying, “God gives second chances,” what is this saying about who God is?

Read Isaiah 43:16-21. You can have one person read, or you can break it up and have two or three people read.

- In verse 16 and 17, Isaiah is using the experience of the Israelites crossing the Red Sea during the Exodus to say that when things look like terrible, God is going to make a way. When is a time that you saw God “make a way” for you when things looked desperate?
- In verse 18, Isaiah is telling the Israelite people to look to the future and not to the past. Why can it be hard to have hope for the future? Is it easier to have hope for the future when we ignore the struggles of the past?
- In verse 19, again Isaiah is talked about this new thing that God is going to do. But Isaiah makes an interesting statement when he asks, “Do you not perceive it?” What is Isaiah asking?
- Sometimes we expect the worst in life. Again, in verse 19, Isaiah asks how the Israelite people perceive things, and he is asks them to expect the best and to be prepared for God to be there with them in the future. How would you live your life differently if you knew that God was going to be there for you each and every day of your future?
- What are the promises made in this passage from Isaiah?

Putting This All Into Action (15 minutes)

A Letter to Your Future Self

Give each person in the group a piece of paper, a pen, and an envelope.

Ask them to write a letter to themselves 10 years from now. Have them include words of advice and encouragement, as well as hopes and dreams. Have them includes words of faith and how that can play a part of who they are.

Ask people to share their letters, if they are willing.

Have them seal the letters in the envelopes, as well as write their names on the envelopes. The should also mark to open the envelopes 10 years from this date. Tell them to save the letters in a safe place, so they can open them one day.

Closing (10 Minutes)

To close, go around the circle and have each person share something about God that is important to them. This could be a characteristic of God, or maybe a time that God answered a prayer.

Close in prayer.