

Junior Soldiers

UNIT 14 : LESSON 2



Beginnings

PURPOSE: For the children to explore the beginning of the world through the story of its creation and understand that God continues to give us new beginnings.

Anyone who belongs to Christ is a new person. The past is forgotten, and everything is new.

2 Corinthians 5:17

Consider & Prepare

Read:

Genesis 1-2

God existed before the world began. He gives us new beginnings – the beginning of the world, the beginning of our lives and a fresh start when we need it.

Consider how God has given you fresh opportunities throughout your life. What have been your most important 'beginnings'?

What you will need:

For 'Connecting In'

- For option 1, a surface that can be wiped clean between turns. For example, an Etch-a-Sketch, whiteboard (and markers), chalkboard (with chalk) or mirror (with glass crayons or whiteboard markers). A few easy Pictionary topics.
- For option 2, materials that groups can build towers with. E.g. Playing cards, dominoes or Jenga blocks. You will need enough building materials for each team of three or four children (for example, if you have 15 children in your group, you will need about five sets of building materials).

For 'The Main Thing'

- A bible for each child and a picture book about creation OR video clip about the story of creation
- For 'Guess who', prior to the lesson, ask families to provide some or all of the following information about each child
 - Where was the child born?
 - How many people are in the family?
 - What was their weight/height at birth?
 - What is their middle name?
 - Who was at the birth?

For 'Prayer Activity'

- Paper, pencils, erasers – enough for each child to have one of each
- Optional: audio recording of the song 'How great is our God' – Chris Tomlin

For 'Memory verse'

- A surface that can be wiped clean between turns. For example, an Etch-a-Sketch, whiteboard (and markers), chalkboard (with chalk) or mirror (with glass crayons).

For 'Home & Beyond'

- Print off the Home & Beyond cards for each child.

Connecting In

Option 1

For this activity, use a surface that can be wiped clean between turns. For example, an Etch-a-Sketch, whiteboard, chalkboard or mirror.

Play a couple of rounds of Pictionary. Ask the children to wipe the surface clean after each round.

Option 2

Divide the children into teams of 3-4 children.

Provide them with some materials they can build a tower with. For example, a set of playing cards, dominoes, or Jenga blocks. Provide the same materials to each group.

Ask them to build the tallest tower they can in 30 seconds. If the tower falls, then they must start again. After 30 seconds, announce the winner then ask them to start again for another round.

Link...

In the activity, we had to start over for each round. There were several new beginnings. Today, we will explore some of the ways that God gives us new beginnings in life.

The Main Thing

Ask the children:

- What is good or exciting about new beginnings?
- Why are new beginnings important?

Ask the children to share about their best or most exciting beginning.

For example:

- New day
- New year
- New school

- New house
- New team
- New sport

Let's talk about the biggest beginning ever.

Recap the story of creation as a group by

- Reading it in Genesis or
- Using a picture book or
- Watching a video clip

Ask the children, who was there in the beginning?

God was in the very beginning, and he continues to create new beginnings every single day in many different ways. When each of us was born, God created new life.

Guess who?

Use the information collected from families. Give the children clues and see if they can guess who the clues are about.

Link

God was there at the very beginning. He was also there at your beginning.

Psalm 139:16 says, 'You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book.

Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed'.

God knew you before you were born, and he created a new beginning for you. He keeps on giving us new beginnings and fresh starts throughout our lives.

Tying In

I wonder if you can think of a time when you wanted to start over? Why did you want a new beginning? Was it possible to start over?

Sometimes it's not possible to start fresh. We can't start school from the beginning when we are halfway through year four. Even though it isn't always possible to start again in life, with God there is always a fresh start.

When we make mistakes or wrong choices, we need a fresh start – we need to be forgiven and to begin again. No matter what happens, God forgives us and wipes away our mistakes. Often, there will still be consequences for our mistakes and bad choices, but God is with us and helps us to begin again.

Memory Verse

For this activity, use a surface that can be wiped clean. For example, an Etch-a-Sketch, whiteboard, chalkboard or mirror.

Write the words of the memory verse on the surface. Ask the children to read the verse. Wipe out several of the words. Ask the children to say the verse again. Repeat several times.

Prayer Time

Give each child a piece of paper, pencil and eraser.

Ask them to write or draw a mistake or bad choice that they would like God to erase from their life. Then, ask them to use the eraser to rub them out.

Optional: While the children are reflecting, play 'How great is our God' – Chris Tomlin.

Dear Jesus, please give me a fresh start and help me to begin again to live a life that is clean in thought, word and deed. Amen.

Home & Beyond

Print off the 'Home & Beyond' cards attached. The children might like to keep these in their journals or notebook where they could write or stick the challenges, reflect, answer questions or complete activities each week.

Home & Beyond

Each day this week:
Each day this week: 'Create in me a

- Pray these words from Psalm 51:10, 'Create in me a clean heart.'
- Thank God that he has given you a new day and a fresh beginning

Ask your Big Bud, a family member or friend to tell you about a new beginning they have had. Tell them about a new beginning that God has given to you.


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