

Jesus, the New Adam, Family Lesson

Learn how Jesus makes us a new creation by giving us his Spirit.

Bible 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!" (NLT).*

Supplies: Sugar cookie dough (store-bought cookie dough is fine!), gingerbread man cookie cutter and butterfly cookie cutter (or use a plastic knife to cut out shapes), spatula, cookie sheet, frosting and/or colored sprinkles

Activity: Making new creation cookies. (Talk about what each step means as you go through them.)

1. **Preheat oven according to recipe directions.**
2. **Roll out some of cookie dough on a lightly floured surface and cut out a gingerbread man shape, leaving it surrounded by dough.** When God created the first man, Adam, he was connected to God, surrounded by his presence like the sweet cookie dough that surrounds our cookie man.
3. **Carefully remove cookie from the dough with a spatula and set aside.** When Adam and his wife, Eve, disobeyed God by eating what God told them not to eat, they separated themselves from God. They suddenly became aware that they had lost the covering of God's presence and became self-conscious.
4. **Fold the arms and legs in until you have something resembling a log.** Sin makes us turn inward, focusing on ourselves. Adam and Eve hid from God and tried to cover themselves.
5. **Pinch off half of the dough log (leave the rest for later) and roll it into a ball with the dough scraps.** God came up with a solution to the problem of sin that separates us from God and others when we focus on ourselves. He came to earth in a body like we have so we could see what selfless love looks like through Jesus.
6. **Roll out the dough ball and cut out a new gingerbread man cookie.** Jesus is both God and man, just like our dough ball is made of half of the man mixed with the big dough ball that represents God's Spirit. Jesus overcame death and separation from God by dying for our sins and coming back to life so we can be covered with God's presence again and love each other the way Jesus loves us.
7. **Place the original man/dough log on the Jesus cookie vertically so it somewhat resembles a butterfly.** When we tell God we're sorry for our sin and selfishness, and invite Jesus to be our Savior, we are reconnected to God. God gives us his Holy Spirit so we can talk to him and be covered in his love and presence all the time.
8. **Fold the Jesus cookie around the dough worm and add a little more dough, forming a ball.** Our dough worm went into Jesus just like a caterpillar goes into a cocoon to become something new.
9. **Roll out dough and cut out a butterfly.** The Bible tells us that *"if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation" (2 Corinthians 5:17, ESV)*. Just like our little dough worm went into Jesus and became a butterfly, the Holy Spirit transforms us into a new creation by helping us to be like Jesus.
10. **Cut out enough butterflies for each person to have one and bake according to recipe instructions.** While cookies bake, talk about how a butterfly can do things the caterpillar could not. In the same way, the Spirit transforms us to do things we couldn't do before like love our enemies.
11. **Decorate your cookie to represent who you are as a new creation in Christ.** Describe how your cookie represents you and Jesus together. As you enjoy eating your cookies, talk about who you could share your cookies with as a way of sharing Jesus. Then bake the rest of the cookies to share.