

Changing Gears

Week 2

BIG IDEA

Our past doesn't change God's love for us.

BIBLE

Jesus and the Samaritan Woman:
John 4:5–42; Romans 5:1–11

LARGE GROUP TIME

SAY...

Hello! Welcome back to Changing Gears! Today, we're joining our robot friends to blast to the past! No, not time travel – we're going to talk a lot about things we've done or experienced in our lives anytime before today. We'll discover how the things we did back then change how God feels about us. (Psst . . . they don't change a thing!)

WHAT?

MUSIC | Worship

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *You can lead kids in worship with any songs of your choice, but here are some suggestions that go along with this month's theme. Make sure you have purchased any licenses required to play or perform these songs. For more information, [read this!](#)*
 - "Not the Same" (North Point InsideOut)
 - "Won't Look Back" (SEU Worship)
 - "You Never Change" (Gateway Kids)
 - "2 Corinthians 5:17" (JumpStart3)

ACTIVITY | Change It Up

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *In this quick game, kids will try to recognize change and how easy it is for people to change. Have all of the kids sit in a circle (or one circle per leader in the room). Choose one kid to leave the room (or one kid from each group) or have them simply close their eyes. While one kid is*

not looking, the group should change as many things as they can: people swap seats, change hair bows, or untie shoes. Then, call the player back and ask them to point out the changes in the group.

- Today, we are going to play a fun game to see if some of you can notice the changes that have taken place while you weren't looking.
- People and all other parts of creation often change, like we saw in our game, but God never changes!

QUESTION | Have you ever changed your mind about something?

- Let's talk about ways that you have changed your mind about things.
 - Maybe you used to love pickles, but now you think they're gross.
 - Or maybe a song you used to love . . . you don't love anymore!
- **Share with someone next to you about one thing that you now have a different opinion about compared to how you used to think about it.**
- We change our minds all the time – it's a natural part of growing up and learning new things. We start liking different foods, wearing different clothes, and hanging out with different friends.
- But there's someone whose mind never changes about us, no matter what. Let's tune in to our Bible story today to find out more!

SO WHAT?

SCRIPTURE | John 4:5–42 (Jesus and the Samaritan Woman)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read and act out the script while sharing the Bible story from John 4:5–42
- **Inventor:** Hey everyone, it's me Rickie! Welcome back to the *Changing Gears* laboratory. We've been tinkering with more robot story simulators, and I think I've outdone myself! Meet . . . Sammy!
- **Robot:** *[In robotic voice]* Hi Rickie!
- **Inventor:** Isn't she life-like? Well, Sammy here is going to help me tell the story about the time Jesus met with a woman in a town in Samaria. Sammy is going to help us understand what happened by playing the part of the Samaritan woman. Okay, Sammy. Activate story mode!
- **Robot:** Initiating sequence. *[Makes random beeping noises]* Ready.
- **Inventor:** Perfect. So like I was saying, Jesus came to this small Samaritan town, and because it had been quite the journey, he stopped at a drinking well to rest.
- **Robot:** *[In regular speaking voice]* That's right. And that's about the same time that I went to the well, too. And then Jesus asked me for some water. He was all by himself because his friends had gone into town to buy food.
- **Inventor:** Was it out of the ordinary for someone like Jesus to ask you for a drink?
- **Robot:** It really was. First of all, he was a Jew and I was a Samaritan. Our people have a complicated history, and we generally don't get along really well.
- **Inventor:** But he wasn't just any Jew! This was Jesus, the son of God!
- **Robot:** Funny you should say that because that's what Jesus said. He said that if only I knew who he was, I'd be asking *him* for water. He said that he was the source of eternal water and whoever drinks that water would never be thirsty again.
- **Inventor:** What, I don't remember reading anywhere about Jesus having an endless water supply . . .
- **Robot:** I don't think Jesus meant literal water. But I was a little confused, too. When I kept talking with him, I knew that Jesus wasn't just your average human. He knew everything, including details about

me there's no way he could have known unless he really was the savior we had heard so much about.

- **Inventor:** That sounds like a really great chat you had with Jesus. What did you do?
- **Robot:** What else? I had to tell everyone about Jesus! He taught me so much more about God in that one conversation than I had known my whole life. And even though he knew everything I had ever done in the past, he continued to talk to me and tell me about God.
- **Inventor:** That's Jesus, alright. And from what I've heard, you telling everybody led to more people believing in Jesus! Amazing! Well, Sammy, thanks so much for helping us bring this life-changing story to, well, life. Deactivate story mode!
- **Robot:** My pleasure. Goodbye. ["Powers down" by lowering head.]

Or show this video instead: [Woman at the Well | Let's Go - YouTube](#)

BIG IDEA | Our past doesn't change God's love for us.

Our past doesn't change God's love for us.

VIDEO | Changing Gears, Episode 2

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this week's episode of [Grow TV](#).

VIDEO | "Keep Moving Forward"

- Lewis is an aspiring inventor, but when his science fair project fails, he loses his confidence and doesn't think he could be an inventor after all. But his new time-traveling friend and their entire family remind him that failing isn't bad.
- Our mistakes and experiences in the past help us make better decisions for the future. It's a part of us that we can't change, but God loves us in spite of that part of us. **Our past doesn't change God's love for us.**

MEMORY VERSE | 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV)

- **"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"**
- Uh oh! Someone forgot to keep the robots in their safety pods last night, and they were all over the lab! You all will have to work in teams to put the words in the correct order.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Help the kids memorize 2 Corinthians 5:17 by playing this word scramble game. Write each word of the verse on a separate index card, and spread the cards out on a table so all are visible. Kids will work in teams to place the words in the correct order and tape them to the wall (or use magnets to attach cards to a magnetic board). For added fun, have kids arrange the cards in order, but in the shape of a robot. **(Don't forget to also check out the memory verse signs — a**

combination of SEE and ASL — available in your Programming folder or at growcurriculum.org/2Corinthians5-17.)

PRAYER

- Dear God, thank you for your never-changing love for us! In a world where *everything* changes, we feel safe and secure knowing your love for us remains the same, no matter what we might have done in the past. Help us to continue to transform to be more like you. Amen.

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- **What did Jesus ask the Samaritan woman?**
- **What convinced the woman that Jesus was really the savior?**
- **What did the Samaritan woman do after her encounter with Jesus at the well?**
- **Read Romans 5:8. How does this verse show us that today's Big Idea is true?**
- **Why might we find it hard to talk to God about our mistakes?**
- **What can we do to remind ourselves that God's love doesn't change?**
- **What helps you to keep moving forward (to forget about your past and keep trying)?**

ACTIVITY | Draw a Bot

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Use [this](#) simple tutorial to guide kids in drawing their own robots. To reinforce today's Big Idea, don't allow kids to use pencils and erasers so that their drawings aren't erasable.
- **How did it feel to draw your robot without being able to erase anything?** It probably made you nervous, and you might have made some mistakes. But every mark you made, whether you like them or not, is a part of this amazing robot you drew. I love that your robots are all different and have character!
- God doesn't expect us to erase our past but to learn from it and change in good ways. And no matter what it was, **our past doesn't change God's love for us.** God loves us despite everything we are!