

This Changes Everything

“Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold: the new has come.” – 2 Corinthians 5:17

The world looks a certain way. The status quo. It is what it is. Things will never change.

Until it does.

Something happens. Something big. A complete 180° turn from death to life.

That something is Jesus Christ.

The power of the Gospel is transformative. It takes hearts of stone and turns them into hearts of flesh. It flips the light switch on darkness. It resurrects the dead and breathes life into them. It delivers hope, it offers peace, and it changes everything.

Students will encounter how Jesus shifts our attitudes, revolutionizes our thoughts, and reconstructs our words. They will see that when He comes into our lives, He gives us a new song, and we are fully, utterly, absolutely, to our very core transformed.

Teach *This Changes Everything* and help your students see the amazing message of how nothing can ever be the same with Jesus.

Small Group Outlines

The small group times in *This Changes Everything* work in perfect concert with the Large Group outlines. Each Small Group session builds on the corresponding theme of the Large Group Outline.

Session 1: How It Was: The World And Our Hearts Before the Change

What We Want Students to Learn: That as human beings, we are desperately in need of a Savior.

Main Scripture: Genesis 1-3

Supplemental Scripture: Romans 3:23, Psalm 14:1-7

Session Snapshot: When we understand where we come from, we have the proper lens through which to see exactly how and why we need to be transformed. Today, we'll turn to our origin story: how humanity was created by a loving God, how He provided for us in every way, and the betrayal in the Garden that separated us. We'll also seek to understand sinfulness vs. God's holiness on a macro level, and talk about how it relates us personally, in a micro sense.

Session 2: How It Changed: The Revolutionary Power Of The Gospel

What We Want Students to Learn: That through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, God made it possible for us to be once-and-for-all set free from the consequences of sin.

Main Scripture: Ephesians 1:7-10

Supplemental Scripture: Galatians 4:4-7; Romans 10:9-13

Session Snapshot: When Adam and Eve sinned, it didn't catch God off-guard or by surprise. God has always had a plan in motion, and it looks like this: you are loved. God has fought for you. And when Jesus comes into your life, you move from being a slave to the world and its emptiness to an heir with Him. When you come to saving faith in Jesus, you are adopted into grace through Jesus' death and resurrection: the old is gone and the new has come.

Session 3: How It Is: Walking In Newness Of Life

What We Want Students to Learn: That we live our lives in accordance with how Jesus has changed us.

Main Scripture: Colossians 3:12-17

Supporting Scripture: James 1:2-4, Ezekiel 36:26

Session Snapshot: How then shall we live? A transformed life in Christ means we aren't bound by the old ways of the world. When Jesus takes our heart of stone and gives us back a heart of flesh, that new heart comes with new purpose: to know Christ and make Him known. Our priorities come into focus and our faith is expressed through our purpose and life. We'll look at what's important to believers and how to live like a Christ-follower who has been fundamentally changed.

Session 4: How It Will Be: A Future Hope

What We Want Students to Learn: That because of God's promise to redeem all things, we can enjoy the good times and make it through the bad times without losing hope.

Main Scripture: 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

Supporting Scripture: Revelation 22:1-5

Session Snapshot: When we look around at the world, there's so much to love. Everywhere you turn there is God's goodness on display. But, if we're honest, there are times when things get tough. In these times, it's easy to feel overwhelmed. It can sometimes be difficult to see God, especially when we know that He has promised to make all things new. But we can trust His word. We can actively live as children of the promise, all the while hoping in a future where everything will be made right and we are fully redeemed. It's worth the wait.

Large Group Outlines

The large group times in *This Changes Everything* work in perfect concert with the Small group sessions. Each Large Group session supports what is discussed in your small groups.

Session 1: The Younger Son & Sin

- **Session Purpose:** That sin separates us from God.
- **Main Scripture:** Luke 15:11-16
- **Supplemental Scripture:** James 4:17, Isaiah 59:2, Romans 6:23
- **Session Snapshot:** When we understand sin, it helps us to understand our need for God. Each large group session will highlight an aspect of the Parable of the Lost Son, found in Luke 15. In this session, we'll look at the Younger Son, and his sin that begins the story of God's rich and unending love for His children. Students will encounter that sin is a choice, that it causes separation between us and God, and that it is deadly.

Session 2: The Father & Forgiveness

- **Session Purpose:** That forgiveness is available through Jesus.
- **Main Scripture:** Luke 15:17-21
- **Supplemental Scripture:** Romans 1:21-25, Romans 5:8, Luke 15:3-7
- **Session Snapshot:** In this session, we'll focus on the character of the Father, and how His forgiveness and restoration of the Prodigal Son informs our relationship with God. This Large Group session will highlight that the Father allowed the Younger Son to leave, but when he returned, the Father did not hesitate in welcoming him home and celebrating his restoration.

Session 3: The Older Son & Christian Living

- **Session Purpose:** That our Christian life is not about being a slave, but about being a child of God.
- **Main Scripture:** Luke 15:25-32
- **Supporting Scripture:** Galatians 2:16, Romans 8:14-16, John 14:23
- **Session Snapshot:** We often think we have a good idea of what the Christian life looks like: be good, follow the rules, don't sin. But the Older Son character in this parable serves to show us that God wants an intimate relationship with his children. This Large Group session will help students understand that the Older Son was self-righteous in that he thought his works were the way to the Father's heart, that he was a slave and had a distorted view of the Christian life, and that he missed the point of living with the Father entirely.

Session 4: The Feast

- **Session Purpose:** That celebration for each sinner-turned-child is a part of the story God is telling in our lives.
- **Main Scripture:** Luke 15:22-24
- **Supporting Scripture:** Ephesians 2:4-7, 1 Peter 3:18, Romans 10:12-13
- **Session Snapshot:** Our parable concludes with the feast, thrown for the return of the Prodigal Son, which holds many parallels to the celebration that happens when we accept Christ as our Savior. This Large Group session will highlight how the Feast fills us up, who it is costly for, and that it is open to anyone who calls on the name of the Lord.