

# LESSON 5:

## Jesus' Plans and You

### LESSON OBJECTIVES:

- To guide new believers to learn about God's good plans and purposes for their lives:
  - God created them unique and special.
  - God gives unique gifts and abilities to everyone.
  - God's plans are carried out as his people use their gifts to serve him.
- To offer continued assurance of salvation and reinforcement of their understanding of this new life with Jesus.
- To invite each child to begin to consider God's unique plans and purposes for his or her life.

### KEY VERSES:

**JEREMIAH 29:11 NIV** – “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

**1 PETER 4:10 NIV** – “Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.”

### INTRODUCTION FOR LEADERS

What am I here for? What is my purpose in life? Though children may be new to their life with Christ, this question is likely not new to their hearts. Every person, even while very young, wonders about these big questions. Today, you have the privilege of leading kids to discover that in receiving Christ they have not only received salvation and forgiveness, but they have received a whole new life filled with purpose and meaning. Their adventure in following Jesus is just beginning.

### Lesson Overview

#### Welcome, Introduction & Review (10-20 minutes)

Welcome (Welcome, Review, Gift Discussion)  
Prayer

#### Scripture, Background & Discussion (20-30 minutes)

Who Made You? (Scripture & Discussion)  
God Created You with Gifts (Scripture & Discussion)  
What Are God's Gifts? (Scripture & Discussion)  
Why Does God Give Gifts? (Scripture & Discussion)

#### Bible Story & Discussion (10-20 minutes)

A Bible Story (Peter's Life Story, Discussion)

#### Response & Application Options (20-30 minutes)

What About You? (Thinking, Drawing Activity)  
Something to Do (Journals, Questions, Prayer)

**TOTAL TIME: 60-90 minutes**

### Materials Needed

#### BASIC SUPPLIES:

(best for settings with non-readers and limited supplies)

- Lesson Outline for Lesson 5
- A copy of *Your New Life with Jesus* Lesson 5 student booklet for leader reference
- Bible for leader
- An erasable board and writing supplies OR paper and pen/pencil
- A wrapped gift
- A mirror (optional)

#### ADDITIONAL SUPPLY OPTIONS:

(for settings with students who can read/write and where supplies are more readily available)

- A copy of *Your New Life with Jesus* Lesson 5 student booklet for each student
- A Bible or New Testament/Psalms for each student (easy-to-read for children)
- Blank paper or notebooks for journals for each student
- Pens or pencils for each student

# Welcome, Introduction & Review

(10-20 minutes)

## Welcome (Welcome, Review, Introduction to Lesson)

**Materials:** *Your New Life with Jesus* student booklet, Lesson 5 (optional)  
Pens or pencils for each (optional)  
A wrapped gift

### ☺ FRIENDSHIP & CONVERSATION

- Warmly welcome students. Tell them you are glad they have come. Help them to feel at ease. Introduce children to each other if they have not met.
- **So how was your week? Did you spend any time reading God's Word? What about memorizing a verse? What was God teaching you?**
- As a leader, also share your own experiences of God's work in your life (without being too complex, just giving simple examples). Also, don't be afraid of quiet. Sometimes, children need time to think.
- Did students write or draw in their journals? Talk about what they have been thinking. If possible, share an example from your own life.
- Do students have questions about God's family or another aspect of following Jesus? Talk about simple questions. Write others down and plan to discuss them later.

### ?? DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Show the wrapped gift. It is so much fun to receive a gift and also to give gifts. When we see a wrapped gift like this, we wonder about it. We wonder who it is for, what is in it, when is it going to be opened. In some places presents/gifts are unwrapped right away and in other places, presents are taken home to be unwrapped privately.
- **Have you ever received a gift you really enjoyed?** Enjoy listening to students tell about gifts they have received.
- Tell students that today's lesson is going to be about gifts that God gives to people. They are invisible gifts, found deep inside us. They are part of his plans and purposes for us. **Are you curious to learn more?**

### ♥ PRAYER

- Open with a simple prayer. Ask God to give your students understanding about how special God created them, and about God's good plans for their lives.

### 📖 BOOKLET OPTION

- If booklets are available, invite children to draw pictures of a favorite gift they have received. Discuss these together. Enjoy learning about their interests.
- All lessons are designed to be presented with or without student booklets.
- Leaders may find it helpful to have a copy of the booklet as a reference while leading children through the discussion, even if students do not have booklets.
- If using booklets, continue to refer to lesson plans for additional notes, comments, scriptures and questions for students to consider.



# Scripture, Background & Discussion

(20-30 minutes)

## Who Made You? (Scripture & Discussion)

**Materials:** Bible for leader (and for every reading student, if available)

A mirror

### ☺ FRIENDSHIP & CONVERSATION

- **Do you remember looking in the mirror in Lesson 2?** (Allow students to look again, if a mirror is available). When we look in a mirror, we see something else very special. We see a person who God has created. Some of this creation we can see: eyes, hair, skin, smiles, etc. But many things God created in us we cannot see. Even so, we have had them inside us from the moment God created us. They are just as real, and God put them inside us on purpose.

### 📖 BIBLE LOOK-UP

- **Read Psalm 139:13-16 aloud.** Discuss it together.  
**Who is the "you" talked about in these verses?** The Lord God.  
**What did he do?** He made us. He designed us. The way we are is exactly how God wanted us to be. There is no other person quite like each of one of us.  
 We also learn that God has planned and numbered our days. He knows what he created us to do.
- **Read Jeremiah 29:11.** God has good plans for us.
- **Do we have to do what God has planned?** No. He always gives us the choice to follow him or not. Many people run from God's plans. But it seems we would WANT to follow his plans, because God's plans are always THE BEST.

## God Created You with Gifts (Scripture & Discussion)

**Materials:** Bible for leader (and for every reading student, if available)

### 📖 BIBLE LOOK-UP

- Before you were born, God designed you with certain abilities and talents. He did this on purpose.
- **Read Ephesians 2:10.** **Do you wonder what God created you to do?** We might not know all the answers yet. But we might know part of the answer.

### ☺ FRIENDSHIP & CONVERSATION

- **What is it that you love to do? What are you really good at?**
- **Do any of these describe you?** Athlete, artist, quick learner, shy and tenderhearted, quiet thinker, friendly, very kind, strong, great memory, musical, mathematical, etc. **What else can you think of to describe your talents and abilities?**
- These are all abilities that God has created in us. Before we became believers, these abilities were there. But now we realize that these talents and abilities are not just for ourselves. God has given us some of these gifts or abilities to use for his purposes. **How will he use your special talents and abilities to serve him?** It will be an adventure to find out the answers.

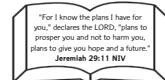
### 🔍 WHO MADE YOU?

Read Psalm 139:13-16 below. This poem was written to God (he is the "you" in this passage).

<sup>13</sup>For you created my inmost being;  
 you knit me together in my mother's womb.  
<sup>14</sup>I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;  
 your works are wonderful,  
 I know that full well.  
<sup>15</sup>My frame was not hidden from you  
 when I was made in the secret place.  
 When I was woven together in the depths of the earth,  
<sup>16</sup>your eyes saw my unformed body.  
 All the days ordained for me  
 were written in your book  
 before one of them came to be.

#### WHO MADE YOU?

God created and designed you! The way you are made is exactly the way God wanted you to be. You are special. There is no other person quite like you. And God has good plans for your life.



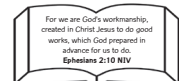
52 FIRST STEPS OF FOLLOW-UP

### 📖 BOOKLET OPTION

- If using booklets, students may read the scriptures on page 5-2.

### 🔍 GOD CREATED YOU WITH GIFTS

Before you were born, God designed you with certain abilities or talents for his purposes.



What is it that you love to do? What are you really good at? Draw a picture of yourself doing that here:

Are you ...  
 An athlete?  
 A quick learner?  
 Shy and tenderhearted?  
 A quiet thinker?  
 Friendly?  
 Very kind?  
 Strong?  
 Musical?  
 Mathematical?  
 What else?



These are all abilities that God has created in you. Before you became a believer, these abilities were there. But now you realize that God has given you some of these gifts or abilities to use for his purposes. **What will God do through you?**

53 FIRST STEPS OF FOLLOW-UP

### 📖 BOOKLET OPTION

- If using booklets, students may read the scriptures, and draw their answers on page 5-3.

**WHAT ARE GOD'S GIFTS?**

The Bible contains several lists of spiritual gifts. Circle some of the names of gifts that God gives in the two scripture passages below. We've done the first one for you.

**Ephesians 4:11 NIV:** It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers.

**Romans 12:5-8 NIV:** So in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

These gifts might seem very grown up. But God gives gifts to kids, too. What gifts has God given to you? It may take some time to discover. But we know God will show you as you seek him.

What will God do through you as you grow in him? It will be an adventure to see how he uses you!

### BOOKLET OPTION

- If using booklets, students may read and consider these scriptures on page 5-4.

**WHY DOES GOD GIVE GIFTS?**

**To Bring Honor To God**  
If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ.  
1 Peter 4:11 NIV

**To Build Each Other Up**  
To prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.  
Ephesians 4:12 NIV

**To Serve Others**  
Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.  
1 Peter 4:10 NIV

**To Fulfill God's Plan For The World**  
But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.  
Acts 1:8 NIV

### BOOKLET OPTION

- If using booklets, students may read and consider these scriptures on page 5-5.

## What Are God's Gifts? (Scripture & Discussion)

**Materials:** Bible for leader (and for every reading student, if available)  
Erasable board or large paper and writing utensils



### BIBLE LOOK-UP

- There are several places where we find lists of spiritual gifts that God gives to people. These are different from the other talents and abilities we might have. We will read about them in two places in the Bible:
  - Read Ephesians 4:11**
  - Read Romans 12:5-8**
- On board or paper, make a list of some spiritual gifts God gives to his people:
  - Apostles** – people with great leadership and vision for a lot of people
  - Prophets** – people who hear from God and then tell others his words
  - Evangelists** – people who love to tell others about Jesus and help them come to know him
  - Pastors** – leaders who love to care for people and help them grow in Christ
  - Teachers** – people who love to teach others about the Bible and Jesus
  - Service** – people who love to serve and care about others
  - Encouragement** – people who love to encourage others in their lives with Jesus
  - Giving** – people who love to be generous with people in need
  - Mercy** – people who love to care for others, especially the hurting

### DISCUSSION & QUESTIONS:

- These gifts might seem very grown up. But God gives gifts to children, too. **What spiritual gifts has God given to you?** It may take some time to discover, but we know God will show us as we seek him. Some will be great prayer warriors, some will be administrators and organizers, some will be generous, others will take great risks for God, others will be able to love difficult people, etc.
- What will God do through you?** It will be an adventure to learn the answer.

## Why Does God Give Gifts? (Scripture & Discussion)

**Materials:** Bible for leader (or for every reading student, if available)



### BIBLE LOOK-UP

- Some gifts may look more important than others, but in God's sight, each person's gift is necessary for his purposes. **So, why does God give these gifts?** Read these scriptures to find some answers:
  - To bring honor to God:** 1 Peter 4:11
  - To build each other up:** Ephesians 4:12
  - To serve others:** 1 Peter 4:10
  - To fulfill God's plan for the world:** Acts 1:8
- What is our job?** Though our gift might look different from someone else's, all the gifts work together to accomplish these things and more. The biggest job is to help people who do not know Jesus around the world to come to know him.
- Does this sound frightening?** It isn't. Jesus promises to be with us always. **Read Matthew 28:19-20.**

# Bible Story & Discussion

(10-20 minutes)

## Bible Story (Peter's Life Story; various New Testament selections)

**Materials:** Bible for leader (or for every reading student, if available)



### BIBLE READING

- Read the various scriptures from different places in the New Testament to tell the story of Peter. If possible, read from an easy-to-understand version. Then discuss the story and questions together.
- As you read and discuss the story, you will need to give children a brief explanation of what comes before and after the verses you are reading so they understand the many different stories that made up Peter's life story.

#### 1. Peter follows Jesus. (Mark 1:16-18)

- Peter worked as a fisherman with his family.
- One day, Jesus walked by and said, "Come. Follow me."
- Surprisingly, Peter left his nets and everything and followed after Jesus.
- Would you be willing to walk away from a job like this? What did it show about Peter's heart?** He was courageous. He knew Jesus was worth following.

#### 2. Peter walks on water to Jesus. (Matthew 14:28-31)

- Later, as the disciples worked with Jesus, they were out on a boat, crossing a lake. Jesus was not with them.
- Then they saw him walking toward them on the water! Peter got out of the boat to walk to Jesus. Then he began to sink. Jesus rescued him.
- Have you ever walked on water? What did this story show about Peter?** He was courageous. He had trust in Jesus. He also had small faith, because he doubted Jesus.

#### 3. Jesus sees something special in Peter. (Matthew 16:16-18)

- One day Jesus asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?"
- Peter boldly answered that Jesus was Christ, the Son of God.
- Jesus blessed Peter for saying this. He predicted words about Peter and the Church (God's people) that would come true in the future. **What does this teach us about Peter?** He knew the truth about Jesus. God had special plans for him.

#### 4. Peter denies he knows Jesus. (John 18:25)

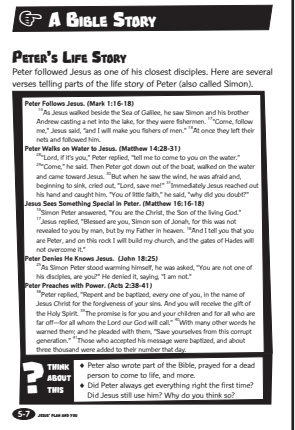
- Jesus had been arrested and taken away to be killed on a cross.
- Peter was following behind, looking to see where they took Jesus and to see what they did.
- In one place, people asked Peter if he was a follower of Jesus, a disciple. But Peter lied. Three times he denied knowing Christ.
- What does this show us about Peter?** He loved Jesus. He was sometimes weak and afraid when he should have been strong.

#### 5. Peter preaches with power. (Acts 2:38-41)

- After Jesus returned to heaven, God worked powerfully through Peter.
- In one day, Peter preached and 3,000 people became believers in Christ. He used Bible verses. He spoke with strength.

### ?? DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Peter also wrote part of the Bible, prayed for a dead person to come to life and more.
- Did Peter always get everything right the first time? Did God still use him? Why do you think so?**



### BOOKLET OPTION

- If using booklets, students may read the Bible story and consider discussion questions on page 5-6.



# Response & Application Activities


(20-30 minutes)

**WHAT ABOUT YOU?**

Now it's time for you to think and pray. Ask yourself these questions (write your thoughts and answers in your journal, if you have one):

**What things do you like doing?**  
**How could God use those talents and abilities?**  
**What would you like to do for God?**

Finish this drawing to look like you. Show yourself serving Jesus in some way.



During your quiet moments with Jesus, ask him to show you what he wants you to do. You might be surprised as he speaks to your heart. He has plans for you, even if there are times you do not know how he is working.

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.  
**Romans 8:28 NIV**

- BOOKLET OPTION**
- If using booklets, children may write/draw their ideas on page 5-7.

**SOMETHING TO DO...**

**WRITE IN YOUR JOURNAL**

What gifts has God given you? What task does he have for YOU to do with these gifts? Write ideas and questions you have about this in your journal.

**ASK YOUR QUESTIONS**

Do you have more questions about Jesus' plans for you? Write your questions here or in your journal. Pray. Ask another person in God's family to pray with you about God's answers.

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**TAKE TIME TO PRAY**

Talk to Jesus anywhere. Ask for his directions. Ask him to help you know what he wants you to do. Be ready to do whatever he asks today (even if it's small), as practice for following him anywhere.

**A Bible Verse to Remember**

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."  
**Jeremiah 29:11 NIV**

- BOOKLET OPTION**
- If using booklets, work through these final activities using page 5-8.

## What About You? (Thinking, Drawing Activity)

**Materials:** Bible for leader (or each reading student, if available)  
 Paper and pen or pencils for each student (optional)  
 The wrapped gift

### WRITING/RESPONSE

- Show the gift. At some point we will all know more about the gift or gifts God has given us to use to serve him.
- Think about these questions:  
**What things do I like doing?**  
**How could God use those talents and abilities?**  
**What would I like to do for God?**

- If paper is available, give each student a piece. Invite them to draw a picture of themselves doing some of the things they do well. Ask them to draw themselves using these talents and abilities to serve Jesus somehow.
- During quiet moments with Jesus, invite students to ask Jesus to show them what he wants them to do. They might be surprised as he speaks to them in their hearts.

### BIBLE LOOK-UP

- Together, read **Romans 8:28**.
- He has wonderful plans for us, even if there are times we do not know how he is working.

## Something to Do: (Journal, Questions, Prayer)

**Materials:** Blank booklet or tablet of paper (optional)  
 Pens or pencils

### WRITING/RESPONSE

- As children begin to discover God's plan for their lives, invite them to write thoughts in their journals.
- Invite children to write down other questions. Consider any questions they may be asking this week. Help them find answers.

### PRAYER

- Remind children they can talk to God anytime, anywhere, about anything.
- Is there something we can pray about together?** Pray Jeremiah 29:11 over each student, praying that God will show them his plans and his purposes for their lives. Pray that they grow strong in their love for Jesus, always.

### FRIENDSHIP & CLOSING

- As children prepare to leave, read **Jeremiah 29:11** one last time. Remind them about how special they are to God. Remind them that God has good and wonderful plans for them as they trust and follow him.