

A New Creation

2 Corinthians 5:17 + 18 (New Century Version)

If anyone belongs to Christ, there begins a new Creation. The old things have gone: everything is made new! All this is from God. Through Christ, God made peace between us and Himself, and God gave us the work of telling everyone about the peace we can have with Him.

Choose the most appropriate starter

Starter 1

Think back over the last year what have been the good bits and what have been the difficult bits. Why were the good bits so good? How did you cope with the bad bits? Did you just cope with them or did you face them?

Starter 2

Make a collage of the last year of your life. Include as much information as possible, any great milestones, good bits and bad bits. Ask someone else to explain their collage to you. Did you celebrate the good bits and deal or cope with the bad bits in the same way?

Think About

Do you carry rubbish around with you? One of the things I enjoy so much about working with children is that, in general, they have very little rubbish that they keep with them. You know the sort of thing I mean, the bits of your life where someone really let you down and stopped you trusting people so much. Or when you found out something was a total lie and it broke your heart. Little kids that have had a reasonable life carry very little rubbish and newborn babies have none. This means that they are totally trusting, every experience is new and exciting and they accept everything that is happening is totally normal, and they learn from everything.

This verse says that when you believe in God you become a new creation just like a baby, but that doesn't make logical sense does it?! You are not a baby and you can't forget all of the experiences you have met in your life. All the times you have been hurt, let down, bored in church etc. The thing is, God says, 'Give me that rubbish and I will make everything new for you.' The struggle we often find is giving Him that rubbish. It can be a security blanket, something we know and understand. A friend of mine who was an alcoholic was terrified of not having another drink. She knew it was because of alcohol that none of her family spoke to her, and that she was very ill but drinking was all she knew. She wasn't sure if she could cope without it. Things that are bad for us can feel safe because we know them. God wants to give us an amazing new life but we have to let him take the rubbish away.

If we have got this fantastic new life how could we keep it to ourselves? Just by how we looked and acted as we walked around everyone would know wouldn't they? What a treat that God asks us to tell people too!

About you

Do you understand that God loves you and wants you to be free from the rubbish we collect in our lives? A book called "You are Special" by Max Lucado helped me understand a little bit more about it myself.

Have you ever talked to God about the rubbish you carry around? Have you asked God to take the burden of your rubbish a while ago but have taken back again or just collected new stuff that you haven't thought to hand over to God?

Take time to think about your rubbish and what you are going to do with it. Are you going to keep it like a security blanket although it hurts you or are you going to give it to God and let Him make you a new creation?