

KIDMUNITY | This I Believe

Lesson 09: New Life

Large Group Script

Bottom Line:

God is changing me now, and He will finish His work forever.

Memory Verse:

Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

Philippians 1:6

Supplies Needed

- 100 ping pong balls per team
 - Two large bins to hold at least 100 ping pong balls
 - A new pair of shoes for the storyteller to put on
-

PING PONG PANDEMONIUM PALOOZA

ON STAGE

- Two teams (split the room left vs. right)
- 120 ping pong balls per team (in large bins at the **back** of the room)
- 1 clear jar/container per team (on stage, visible to everyone)
- 1 student per team on stage as the “**Jar Loader.**”
- Optional: 1-2 leaders per side to help monitor rules
- All students must remain **seated**
- Clear pathway visually from back TO front (for passing)

HOW TO PLAY

- The goal: **Be the first team to fill your jar with all your ping pong balls**
- Balls must be passed **one at a time**, person to person
- Students must stay seated—**no running, no throwing**
- Balls move from the back of the room all the way to the stage
- The “Jar Loader” is the only one allowed to place balls into the jar

- If a ball is thrown or dropped intentionally, it goes back to the start
- The first team to completely fill their jar wins

Alright, Kids, it's time for a brand-new game, and this one is called... **PING PONG PANDEMONIUM PALOOZA!!!**

Here's how this is going to work. We're splitting the room into two teams—this side versus this side. In the back of the room, each team has a giant bin filled with ping pong balls. Your mission is simple: get every single one of your team's ping pong balls all the way to the front of the room and into your team's jar on stage.

But there are a few rules. You cannot throw the balls. You can't run them up. Every single ball has to be passed from person to person, all the way from the back to the front. That means you've got to work together, stay ready, and keep things moving. Once the ball gets to the stage, your Jar Loader will place it in the jar—one at a time.

And listen carefully—this is important—if I see any balls being thrown, launched, or treated like a dodgeball... that ball is going all the way back to the start. We're doing this the right way.

This game is not about one big moment. It's about moving one ball at a time, as fast and as steady as you can. Every pass matters. Every person matters.

First team to completely fill their jar wins.

Alright teams, get ready... hands up, eyes forward...
Here we go in 3... 2... 1... GO!!!

(As the game runs)

Let's go, let's go! Keep it moving! One at a time—don't rush it, just keep passing! That's it—stay focused! Ohhh, that was close—nice save! Keep it going, you're doing great!

(As it fills up)

Look at those jars starting to fill up! It didn't look like much at first, but now it's adding up! Keep going, you're almost there!

And... STOP! Let's see who got it!

NOT FINISHED YET

"Alright... that game was awesome. That was absolute ping pong chaos. I loved it.

But think about this for a second. At the very beginning of that game, it didn't feel like much was happening. One ball at a time, slowly moving forward... it almost felt like nothing was changing. But then all of a sudden, you look up, and the jars are filling up. Little by little, pass by pass, it starts to add up.

And that's exactly what we're talking about tonight, how real change doesn't usually happen all at once... it happens over time."

WHERE WE'VE BEEN

"Let's do a really quick recap. God the Father is a just judge—He set the rules, and when people chose their own way instead of His way, sin entered the world and broke everything, including our relationship with Him.

But Jesus, the Son of God, came to rescue us. He paid our debt, took our place, and made a way for us to be made right with God.

And we've learned that we don't earn that—it's a free gift of grace that we receive by faith."

BUT WAIT A SECOND

"So that raises a pretty honest question. If we've received that gift, if we're forgiven, if we're made new... why do we still struggle?

Like, is it just me, or do you ever have those moments when you're having a bad day and suddenly want to do something you *definitely* know you shouldn't? Someone's annoying you, and you're like, 'I'm about to lose it.' Or your sibling keeps messing with you, and you're thinking, 'One more time... just one more time...' Or your parents tell you to do something, and everything in you just wants to go, 'Nope.' Or you feel ignored or left out, and you want to snap back, say something rude, or slam something down. And maybe you don't even do it on the outside, but on the inside you're like, 'I am NOT happy right now.'"

(Pause) "And it makes you stop and think..."

- I thought I was made new
- I thought I was forgiven
- I thought I was following Jesus

So why do I still feel this way sometimes? Why do I still mess up? Why am I not just... perfect now?"

(Pause) “And that’s exactly what we’re talking about today.”

JUST GETTING STARTED

“What you’re feeling... that tension... that struggle... it doesn’t mean something is wrong with your faith. It actually means something is *right*. Because when you trusted Jesus, yes—you were forgiven, you were made new, you were made right with God in a moment. But at the same time, God started something in you that is still going. He didn’t just save you and leave you where you are... He began a process of changing you.”

He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

Philippians 1:6

That means God started something in you... and He’s not finished yet.”

WHAT’S HAPPENING IN YOU?

“There’s a word for this, and it might sound like a big church word, but it’s actually really simple once you understand it. The word is **sanctification**. Sanctification is the process of becoming more like Jesus over time. Not instantly. Not perfectly. But gradually, step by step. You were saved in a moment... but you grow over time.”

(Pause) “And that’s why there’s a tension inside of you. Because you’ve been given a new life, but you still have old habits. You’ve been given a new identity, but you still hold on to old ways of thinking.

It’s like there are two directions pulling on you—the old way you used to live, and the new life God is leading you into. And every day, in small moments, you’re choosing which direction you’re going to step into.”

ILLUSTRATION: NEW SHOES

(Bring out shoes) “Let me show you what this looks like.”

“Let’s say I just got a brand new pair of shoes. These are clean, they’re fresh, I’m excited to wear them. But there’s a problem... I’m still wearing my old shoes. Now, how do I put these new shoes on? I can’t just stack them on top. I can’t wear both at the same time. The very first thing I have to do is take off the old shoes.”

(Pause, look down)

“And here’s the thing... the old shoes might be comfortable. I’m used to them. They feel normal. But if I want to step into something new, I’ve got to be willing to let go of what’s old. I have to take something off before I can put something new on.”

PUT OFF / PUT ON

You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

Ephesians 4:22-24

This isn’t about just trying harder or hoping we change. It’s about making real, everyday choices. It’s choosing to say, ‘That’s not who I am anymore... I’m going to live differently.’ Not perfectly, not all at once, but intentionally, one decision at a time.”

YOU’RE NOT DOING THIS ALONE

“And here’s the really good news. You’re not doing this by yourself. This is where the Holy Spirit shows up in your life in a powerful way. If you belong to Jesus, the Holy Spirit lives in you, and He helps you in this process. He helps you recognize what’s right and wrong. He gives you that nudge inside that says, ‘Don’t do that,’ or ‘You should apologize,’ or ‘Choose kindness here.’ That’s not just your thoughts, that’s God working in you.”

So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

Galatians 5:16

“And He doesn’t just point things out... He gives you the power to actually change. So when you feel that moment—when you want to snap back but choose kindness instead, when you want to lie but tell the truth instead—that’s the Holy Spirit helping you take a step in the right direction.”

THIS IS NOT EARNING—THIS IS BECOMING

“But let’s be really clear about something. You are not doing this to earn God’s love. You already have it. You are not working for your salvation—that’s already been given to you as a gift. This isn’t about earning... It’s about becoming. It’s about growing into the person God has already made you to be.”

BACK TO THE GAME

“And this is where we go back to the game we played earlier. That jar didn’t fill up all at once. It was one ping pong ball at a time, passed from person to person. At first, it didn’t feel like much... but over time, it added up. And before you knew it, the jar was full.”

(Pause) “That’s what your life looks like. One choice at a time. One moment at a time. One step at a time. Every time you listen to the Holy Spirit, every time you choose what’s right, you’re growing. You’re changing. You’re becoming more like Jesus.”

FINAL ENCOURAGEMENT

“So when you mess up, and you will, that doesn’t mean God is done with you. It doesn’t mean you’ve failed. It means you’re still in the process. God is still working on you. Every step matters. Every choice matters. Every moment matters.”

LANDING

“God started something in you. And He promises He will finish it. You’re not finished yet. God is making you more like Jesus—one step, one choice, one day at a time.”

PRAY AND DISMISS

Pray together and dismiss to small groups.