

Jesus Doesn't Change!

Hebrews 5:1-10, 13:6-8 NIV

Bible Lesson & Activities for Children



THE **SUNDAY SCHOOL** STORE

The Unchanging God



Change is a part of life that cannot be denied or avoided. While many transitions are positive, they can still be difficult for all ages. In this lesson, children will discuss change, but be reassured that our Lord never changes. Jesus promises to always be with us and never change or fade. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever, our great High Priest who goes before us and is always with us. Remind students that we can trust in and rely on God, no matter what else happens in life.

Life can be challenging and tumultuous at any age. For kids especially, changes are a constant that are never easy. Knowing that Jesus never changes is a comforting idea to rely on. He is our great high priest who gave Himself for us. He knows our needs and was sent by God to act on our behalf. He is our rock and redeemer. We can trust that He will always be with us and never ever change.

Passage: Hebrews 5:1-10 and 13:6-8

Target Audience: Kindergarten-6th grade

Materials Needed: Pictures or examples of things that change; baggy sweaters or jerseys; construction paper or cardstock; markers or crayons; decorative supplies; paper plates; pipe cleaners; scissors; glue or tape; Bibles.

More Resources Online

- Watch the [video demonstration of the object lesson](#).
- Watch the [video example for the craft projects](#).
- Watch the [video Bible story "God is With Us"](#) from Saddleback Kids Club
- Watch the [video Bible story "Jesus Loves Everyone"](#) from Crossroads Kids
- For more free illustrations, visit [Christian Clip Arts](#) and [Ministry-To-Children](#)

Object Lesson (5 minutes)

Greet children and discuss things that change...

Hello, Children of God!

What do you do when you're getting ready for something? Let's say you wake up and you're going to school or to church. What are things that you do to prepare? *Take answers and respond.* That's right...you might brush your hair or teeth, take a shower, and you'd certainly get dressed. You have to change clothes before you go somewhere, right? You're not going to go to church in your pajamas, after all. In fact, all of those getting ready items change you in some way to prepare you for the day. Those are good and necessary changes.

What are some other things you can think of that change? When we look around, there's a lot in life that changes. It can be hard to find things that don't change. *Hold up pictures or examples as necessary.* Seasons and weather change all the time. Plants change, going from lush and healthy to wilting and droopy. People change! You're definitely different now than you were as babies or younger kids, right? That's normal, expected, and a good thing. You wouldn't want to always stay exactly the same.

Change is good, but sometimes it can still be tough. It's uncomfortable getting used to new things. Have you ever moved and changed houses? That's hard, because you have to learn a new place that doesn't feel familiar. Or maybe a friend moved away from you, and you had to say goodbye. In school, we have teachers that we know for a little while and then change. Maybe you have a pastor you like a lot that goes to another congregation. These are always tough changes. But I know something—well, some ONE who will never change. Someone who is always with us and loves us no matter what, and will never leave us or grow different in any way. I'll bet you can figure out who I'm talking about, right?

Yes, it's Jesus! Jesus is the One we can always trust and rely on, and He never ever changes. The book of Hebrews says that Jesus is the same yesterday and today and forever. That means that His past, present, and future are the same. In another passage of Hebrews, Scripture describes how Jesus is our great High Priest. He was sent by God to bring salvation. Unlike human priests and pastors, Jesus is flawless and gives Himself to us completely. And unlike human priests and pastors, He is always with us and stays the same.

What does this mean for us? It means that in a world of constant turmoil and tumult, when there's frustrating change and transition everywhere we look, we have something we can cling to. We know Jesus is faithful and with us. We can share with Him our struggles and rejoice in the blessing that through good and bad, He is there. So take heart! When life has challenges and changes, lean on God and remember the love He always shows us.

Prayer: (Invite the children to repeat each line)

Dear God,

Thank you for sending Jesus.

Thank you that He never changes.

Help us to trust in You and love you

Even when other things fade away.

Thank you for your love.

We love you, God!

In Jesus name, Amen!

Game & Activities Suggestions

(10 minutes)



These passages review how we can rely on Jesus to be our powerful great High Priest who will never leave us or change, even when other things in life do. Start with an activity that uses these themes and gets kids thinking:

- Spot the difference: Have a student volunteer leave the room and alter one slight thing about his/her appearance. Invite students to try figuring out what the change was once the volunteer returns to the room.
- Spot the difference (picture version): Look at cartoon brain challenges of pictures with slight variations. For extra fun and challenge, invite students to create their own, drawing two pictures that have small changes, and having other students find the alterations.
- Quick change relay: Have students line up in two teams for a relay race. Have the first runner put a jersey or sweater over their clothing. That person should then run to the opposite end of the play area and quickly swap their sweater for another one, piled in a group. The runner will then come back and tag the next teammate, who will do the same, running down to change for another shirt/sweater and returning. Continue until all players have run and changed.
- Jobs of Jesus matching game: This game is best for older students. Provide students with cards or lists of descriptions of Christ's roles. For example, prophet, priest, king, healer, etc. In addition, have verses that line up with each description. Students should read the verses and determine which role or description coincides.
- Baby match-up: Look at pictures of animals and/or people (celebrities or people in the church) as babies. Have students match or guess what those animals/humans grow up to be. If possible, plan ahead to have students bring in baby pictures, and use those for others to guess. Remind children that all things change, but Jesus always stays the same.

Explain that today's lesson reminds us of some important and comforting truths about who Jesus is and how He never changes.

Main Bible Teaching (15 minutes)



This lesson consists of two passages from the epistle of Hebrews. Both remind us of important and saving truths about the nature of Christ and His ability to save us. These verses don't quite lend themselves to acting, but can be read together and explained. Older students can read out loud, and teachers can read and discuss with younger ones.

Hebrews 5:1-4 NIV *Every high priest is selected from among the people and is appointed to represent the people in matters related to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. (2) He is able to deal gently with those who are ignorant and are going astray, since he himself is subject to weakness. (3) This is why he has to offer sacrifices for his own sins, as well as for the sins of the people. (4) And no one takes this honor on himself, but he receives it when called by God, just as Aaron was.*

These opening verses describe the nature of a high priest. Explain to students that before Jesus, people had to have a priest (like a pastor) make sacrifices to God on their behalf. The priesthood was a special honor, but those people were still human. They still sinned and had to offer their own sacrifices, too. These details are setting the stage for an explanation of how great the work of Jesus was, and how He was a different sort of priest.

Ask: What is something special about your pastor? How do you know that he is still imperfect?

Hebrews 5:5-6 NIV *In the same way, Christ did not take on himself the glory of becoming a high priest. But God said to him, "You are my Son; today I have*

become your Father.” (6) And he says in another place, “You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.”

Here there is a note of how Jesus, too, was appointed. This can be a little confusing, since it deals with the perplexing nature of the Trinity (Jesus is God, but was appointed by Him). However, it establishes His legitimacy as high priest, not just a human priest but the great high priest forever.

Ask: Why is this important to us? (Jesus made the ultimate sacrifice for us!)

Hebrews 5:7-10 NIV *During the days of Jesus’ life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. (8) Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered (9) and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him (10) and was designated by God to be high priest in the order of Melchizedek.*

This reminds us that Jesus was God’s son, but also lived as a human and suffered unto the point of death. He is God, but also understands and sympathizes with our weaknesses as people. Jesus has done it all, and yet He Himself does not change or alter. He knows all things, and has lived through all things for our sake. Unlike earthly priests, He is not changing or sinful, but perfect and constant, always faithful.

Ask: What are some things in your life that change? Would it be comforting to know something that doesn’t change?

Hebrews 13:6-8 NIV *So we say with confidence, “The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?” (7) Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. (8) Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.*

Jumping over to another passage from Hebrews, these verses are wonderful and comforting. Jesus is with us always. The Lord is our helper, and we can always count on Him. The answer to the question “what can man do to me?” is “Nothing!” With God on our side, we don’t need to fear. We have confidence knowing He fights for us. The final verse of this passage is especially helpful to ease our troubled and anxious minds. No matter what else is happening, and no matter how much changes, Jesus is always the same. He is the same yesterday and today and forever. He has already made the sacrifice, won the victory, and defeated death. He is always the same and is always with us!

There are a lot of things that change or can be frustrating. But Jesus is always the same!

Craft Activities (15 minutes)

For children (or anyone), there are a lot of things in life that change constantly. We can't help that. The thing we can be reassured of, though, is that Jesus never changes and is always with us. These crafts use elements of change to recall and celebrate how God does not change. A "Kaleidoscope Plate" contrasts changing patterns and colors with the cross, which represents the constancy of Jesus. A "Collage of Change" shows that, when all else is subject to transition, the Lord is solid and stable. Let's get crafty!

Craft one: "Change Kaleidoscope"

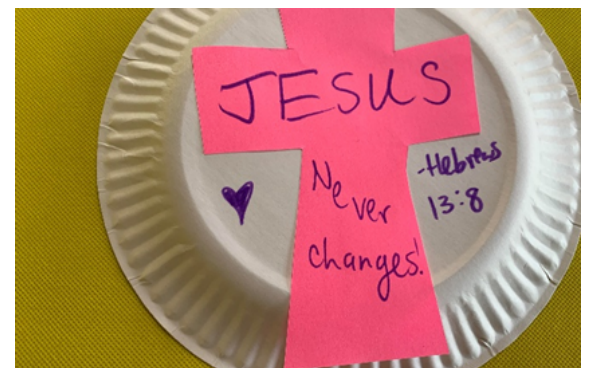
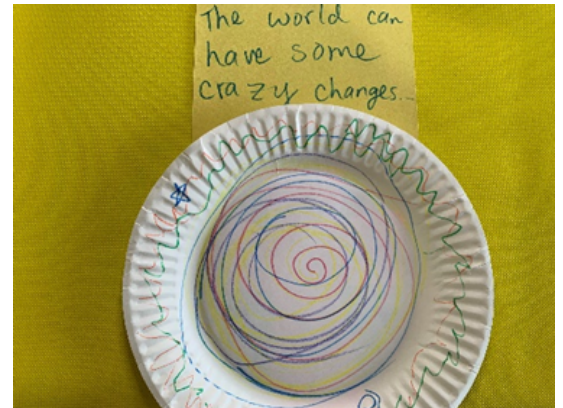
You will need:

- Paper plate
- Cross shape or cross
- Construction paper or cardstock
- Markers or crayons
- Glue or tape
- Scissors
- Optional: String or ribbon



Procedure:

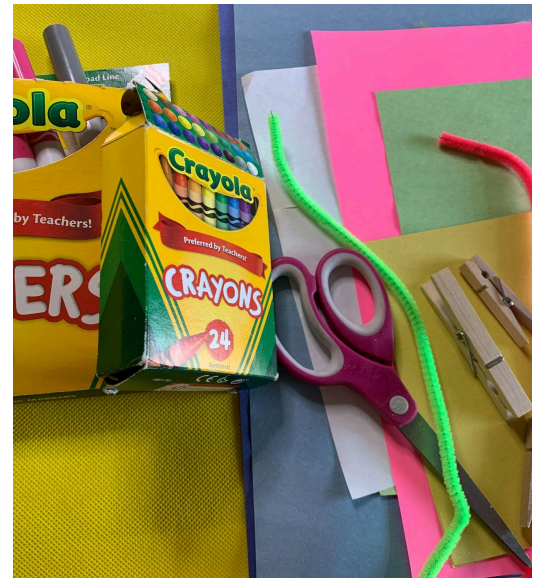
1. On one side of the plate, add colors and patterns in a variety of themes to indicate change or differentiation.
2. Add verses and captions about changes.
3. On the other side of the plate, draw or trace a cross, or place some sort of cross with cardboard or popsicle sticks.
4. Add decorations and verses as desired indicating how there is much in our lives that will change, but Jesus is constant.
5. If you wish to hang the decoration, add a string, pipe cleaner, or magnet.



Craft Two: “Change Collage”

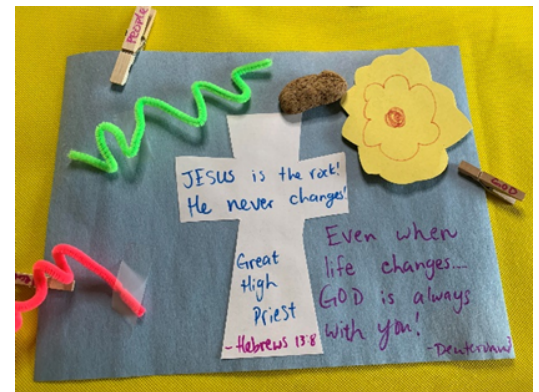
You will need:

- Construction paper/cardstock
- Pipe cleaners, clothespins, pompoms, etc.
(decorations that represent changing elements).
- Stone/rock (optional)
- Crayons or markers
- Glue or tape
- Scissors



Procedure:

1. On paper or cardstock, place several elements that represent change. These could be moveable objects like pipe cleaners, or things in differing sizes and shapes (clothespins or pompoms).
2. On the other side of the paper (flip or fold like a card), or in the center if preferred, add a cross and/or a rock.
3. Add verses and captions indicating the unchanging nature of Christ, as contrasted with things that do differ and change.
4. If desired, add more decorations, and something to hang or display the collage.



Hebrews 13:8 NIV

*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and
today and forever.*





Word Search Puzzle

Priest - Appointed - God - Gifts - Sacrifices - Weakness

Aaron - Christ - Jesus - Reverence - Salvation - Melchizedek

S	D	W	E	A	K	N	E	S	S	E	F
A	Q	T	Y	D	E	M	R	A	F	G	Y
A	A	R	O	N	I	E	G	L	K	M	A
D	M	S	E	W	C	T	R	V	P	F	P
X	Z	K	K	V	G	H	M	A	R	C	D
N	R	J	C	F	E	O	R	T	I	S	G
Y	U	E	C	U	L	R	D	I	E	P	I
J	X	S	F	A	R	W	E	O	S	T	F
C	O	U	Q	M	J	H	Z	N	T	T	T
N	I	S	A	C	R	I	F	I	C	E	S
G	F	B	A	P	P	O	I	N	T	E	D
M	E	L	C	H	I	Z	E	D	E	K	G

Word Search Answers

