

# Daily Devotions



Week 4

## *A New Creation*

Jamison loved nature. During the summer he spent every spare moment he had outdoors. One of his favorite spots was the pond in his backyard. This summer he had been closely watching the tadpoles. At first the tadpoles looked like tiny little fish swimming in the water. Soon Jamison noticed little hind legs forming. Then the front legs began to develop. He also noticed that the tadpoles had started to form more frog-like faces. Finally, just a bit of their tails were left. The tadpoles had reached the froglet stage. Jamison knew that when the tails disappeared, the tadpoles would be completely new creations, adult frogs. They would no longer have gills; instead they would have lungs. The tadpole's cartilage would be replaced with bone. They would no longer live in the water but instead on land around the pond. From tadpole to frog is a complete transformation. How awesome is that!

**Monday:** Did you know that when you receive Jesus as your Savior you become a new creation? It's true! *Read 2 Corinthians 5:17.* When you look in the mirror do you see anything different? What do you think becoming "a new creation" means? We don't see any change on the outside. The change is on the inside. What changes might you expect to see in someone who is now following Jesus? Part of the adventure of following Jesus is that God gives us new life by enabling us to change and become more like Jesus. Yay!

**Tuesday:** The Bible tells us that when we receive Jesus as our Savior we are a new creation. A new creation is something brand new. Just like the tadpoles in our story become completely new, we become new. We will begin to see ourselves, others, and our world differently. We will want to know God better and to show Him we love Him by how we choose to live. *Read Luke 19:1-10.* What was Zacchaeus like before he met Jesus? (*Very rich, cheated people when he collected taxes, dishonest, a sinner.*) What was he like after he met Jesus? (*Sorry, a giver, wanted to make the wrong he had done right, saved by grace!*) What were you like before you received Jesus as your Savior? How are you different now?

**Wednesday:** Did you know that you now have two natures? One is the “old self” and the other is the “new self.” *Read Ephesians 4:22-24.* What is the old self? The old self is corrupt. Corrupt means: *to change from good to bad in morals, manners, or actions.* So the old self is full of qualities like selfishness, fear, weakness, anger, hate, lies, and laziness. What is the new self? The new self is created after God in righteous and holiness. So the new self is full of qualities like doing what is right, courage, love, strength, purity, and being holy like God is. So the bad news is that even though we are a new creation we can still choose to do bad things. But the good news is, just as the transformation from tadpole to frog takes time, our transformation of becoming more like Jesus will take time, too. Jesus understands this so we don’t need to worry. We can celebrate and declare that we are a new creation in Jesus our Savior!

**Thursday:** *Read Romans 12:1-2.* We are to present our bodies as a living sacrifice (*that means doing what pleases God instead of what we selfishly want*) and to renew our minds so that we begin to think as God thinks. Make two lists in your notebook. One list of things that please God and the other list of choices you may want to make that would not please God. Each day we can focus on knowing God, reading His Word, memorizing Bible verses, and with the help of Jesus begin to change our choices. In time, what we care most about will change. And one day our transformation to become like Jesus will be complete. How awesome is that!

**Friday:** Think about the devotions this week. What did you learn that you didn’t already know? Are there any areas of your life that God has helped you change to become more like Jesus? Are there any changes you might want to make after devotions this week? Write out a prayer to God about the devotions this week and becoming a new creation.