**ALL THINGS NEW**

**PREP**

Locate two pennies. One should be brand new with no blemishes, and the other should be old, dirty and worn.

Place a small bowl, spoon, ¼ cup of vinegar, and 1 tsp. of salt at the front of your teaching area. Wait to mix the vinegar and salt until you are ready to drop the penny into the solution.

**DEMONSTRATION**

**Say**: Have any of you ever seen a brand new penny? If so, what does it look like? (Pause for responses) [Show new penny] A new penny is shiny, clean, and has a bronze color. But when a penny gets used over time, what happens to it? (Pause for responses) [Show old penny] A used penny gets dirty, loses its shine, and it becomes a brownish color.

What do you think would happen if I tried to wash this old penny in regular water? Would it come clean? (Pause for responses) Probably not. But I have some special ingredients here, and I’m going to see what effect they will have on this old penny.

*Mix the salt and vinegar together in the bowl. Use the spoon to stir the solution well. Drop the old penny into the solution. In 5 minutes, the penny should be cleaned and shiny like the new penny.*

**OBJECT LESSON**

**Say**: Easter is a time when we reflect on everything that Jesus Christ did for us. If you know the whole story, you remember that Jesus was arrested and sentenced to die, even though he hadn’t done anything wrong. Jesus suffered and died a very painful death on the cross. He was buried in someone else’s tomb, and everything seemed to be over.

But that’s not how the story ends! What happened next? (Pause for responses) Amazing! On the third day, Jesus rose from the grave. He is alive! Jesus was dead and buried, but He walked out of the tomb with a new life—eternal life!

2 Corinthians 5:17 says, “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!” What do you think it means to be a ‘new creation?’ (Pause for responses) This means that our old life—the life tarnished by sin—has been buried, and God gives us a new life—eternal life! When Jesus rose from the grave with eternal life, he made it possible for us to also have eternal life.

Remember our old penny from before; let’s see what happened to it. [Take penny out of solution] Our old penny that was dirty and brown is now shiny and new. Just like these special ingredients made that possible, Jesus made it possible for us to bury our old lives and live an eternal life with Him!

**WRAP UP**

**Say**: This Easter, when you see a penny, old or new, remember that if anyone is in Christ, the old has gone and the new has come!