



God Transforms Us

Ephesians 2:1-10

God Statement: Jesus Is Our Hope

KEY VERSE: “Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”
(John 14:6, NIRV)

CHECK-IN

Classroom Teacher

(until 15 minutes after the start of each service)

As kids check-in, please have them wash their hands or use hand sanitizer before entering your classroom. Then they can participate in the various activities and games in your classroom. 10 minutes after the start of your service time, ask the kids to clean up their activities and toys so you can begin the Explore Activity at 15 minutes after the start of service.

EXPLORE ACTIVITY

Classroom Teacher

(15 minutes)

The Explore Activity is a chance to get the kids thinking about the upcoming Bible story for the day. Encourage your kids to engage with the activity as they prepare for the lesson.

DISCUSS: God Transforms Us

In today’s lesson, we are going to learn about how God transforms us.

SAY:

Does anyone know what the word transform means? Or maybe you can think of an example of something transforming? *Let kids share ideas.* Raise your hand if you’ve ever seen a butterfly. What does a butterfly start as? A caterpillar, that’s right! And then, one day, the caterpillar transforms into a beautiful butterfly. That’s a great example of transformation!

Well, today, we're going to learn how God transforms us. God helps us grow not just on the outside, but on the inside too. When we love God and follow Him, we start to become more like Jesus to those around us. We're going to hear later on in Bible time about how amazing God's transformation in us can be, but first, we're going to do an activity.

PLAY:

To get the kids thinking about the lesson, they can do this activity!

"God Helps Us Grow" Booklet!

Supplies: booklets

Say: *God transforms us by helping us grow. We're going to get into pairs and read some "growing rhymes" together. As you read, think about ways that God helps you grow!*

Directions: Have children get into pairs with a buddy. Give each child a booklet. Have kids take turns reading the "growing rhymes". Then encourage each child to share with their buddies ways that God has helped them to grow. What do we need to grow? What does God give to us to help us grow each day?

LARGE GROUP

(25 minutes)

Each week, Large Group will consist of an introduction, worship, the Bible lesson, worship response, and the blessing.

WELCOME & EXPECTATIONS

Host

Depending on your age group, either find a designated space in your classroom or join the other classes for Large Group in the specified location.

As children enter into Large Group time, welcome and greet the children, telling them you're excited to have them joining this evening/morning.

Expectations Slide

Once everyone has found their seat, the host will use the Large Group expectations slide to go over the rules. Encourage various children to take turns reading the rules.

**** After Expectations, transition the power point to the Bible Challenge slide.****

BIBLE CHALLENGE

Host

Use this time to get kids engaged in large group and introduce/review the current Bible Challenge.

Spiritual Discipline – Fasting

Share with the kids about our current Bible Challenge:

Throughout the Old and New Testament, the Bible teaches that there are times we should give up something important to focus our hearts on prayer and listening to God. Although for children, this may not look like fasting from food, the idea of giving up something important to us in order to devote that time to God is important to our spiritual walk. Encourage kids to talk to their families and think of things they can “give up” to focus on God more – i.e. video games, watching tv, etc.

As the kids take on the challenge, encourage them to share with their class in small group time how their family is learning about and engaging with the idea of fasting.

******After Bible Challenge, transition the power point to the “Key Verse” slide.******

KEY VERSE

Host

Before you start worship, introduce/review the key Bible verse for the quarter. This is a great opportunity for you to talk about the importance of God’s Word and encourage the kids to work on memorizing the verse each week.

Use the Key Verse Motions Video on Plex (or sent in weekly email) to learn the motions prior to Large Group.

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

(John 14:6, NIRV)

****** After the Introduction, transition the power point to the Worship songs and invite the Worship Leader up front to lead the kids in worship.******

OPENING WORSHIP

Worship Leader

While the video is playing the opening worship songs, encourage the kids to sing and dance along. Don’t forget to set the example by participating alongside them!

Kids may participate in the worship however they feel led. Encourage kids to find a way that helps them worship best but remind them that it’s not time to goof off or talk to friends. If you have someone leading the worship up front, you can even invite a few kids to help.

****** After Worship, transition the power point into the Bible Story video where the kids will hear about the lesson for the day.******

BIBLE STORY**Lesson Video**

Remind the group before starting the video to follow the expectations for Large Group.

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: God Transforms Us

Encourage kids to listen and engage with the lesson as they watch the teaching video.

****After the video finishes, turn on soft worship music (with or without lyrics) to transition into Worship Response. This should be background music to help set the tone for a quiet reflection time with God.****

WORSHIP RESPONSE**Host**

Worship Response is an opportunity for the kids to apply what they just learned and to respond to what God is doing in their life. *Have the kids sit in a place where they can be still and reflect independently.* Then read through the Worship Response prompts below as you lead the kids through the time.

Supplies: world map, stickers

God gives us new life! God helps us grow and transforms us. When we admit we do wrong things, believe in Jesus, and confess with our mouth that He is God's son, we receive new life in Him. You can do that anytime. If you do, share with your grownup or leader!

Because of what Jesus did, we have so much hope! When we receive Jesus in our hearts, God gives us new life with Him forever. How does that make you feel? **Let kids respond.**

There are people all over the world who know Jesus. But there are also people all over the world who do NOT know Jesus or have hope in Him. How can people know Jesus unless someone tells them?

Have kids close their eyes and sit quietly for a moment. Encourage them to think about what life would be like if they did not know Jesus. Go through the 5 senses of what it would be like. Then, have kids sit quietly for another moment before sharing.

Would someone tell us what that life without Jesus would look like? **Let kids talk about it.**

You can share God's love with the people around you. And, you can go to other parts of the world to share God's love.

Hold up world map. Let's look at this map. Here is the whole world. Who can show us where we live? **Ask a kid point to Colorado.** Does anyone know where our Compassion Kid lives? **Ask a kid or you point it out.**

Does anyone remember where the guy we learned about in our story today lives? **Help kids point to Cambodia.**

There are people all over the world who do not know Jesus. We are going to take time right now to pray for them.

Ask kids to sit quietly again and listen to God. Encourage kids to think about someone in a faraway state or country who doesn't know Jesus. Encourage them to listen to who God wants them to pray for.

Sit quietly for a few moments while the music plays. Ask God who and where He wants you to pray for.

After kids have sat quietly for a few moments, invite them to come place a sticker on the map of where they are praying for. Then, they can kneel at the cross or by the map and pray that God would bring Jesus' hope to those people, and thank Him for loving them.

Close time in prayer.

****After Worship Response, transition the power point to the closing Worship videos and invite the Worship Leader to come back up.****

CLOSING WORSHIP

Worship Leader

Play the closing worship song included in the power point and encourage the kids to sing and praise along.

This closing song is intended to be a transition for the kids to finish processing and reflecting on the lesson before transitioning to the small group time.

****After Worship or Bible Story, transition the power point to the "Compassion International" slide.****

COMPASSION & OFFERING

Host

Before closing large group, take a moment to highlight and discuss each campus' Compassion sponsor child. Explain a little about the Compassion child's life and the impact their offering has for this child (info should be provided on cards in classroom). Then remind kids that if anyone brought offering, now is the time to come forward to donate.

Ask a child to come up and pray for the offering and their Compassion child.

****After Compassion & Offering, transition the power point to the “Announcement” slide. The host will discuss any current announcements.****

ANNOUNCEMENTS & SPECIAL MISSIONS FOCUS – South Asia & Empart

Host

Take this opportunity to cover any announcements and special missions focus for the kids, such as upcoming events or reminders, like bringing food donations for Feeding Families. Use the slides provided in the Power Point to display important announcements.

Say: Right now, we’re learning about one of our partner ministries in South Asia called Empart. You remember how we just spent last month raising money to help kids around the world receive Bibles? Well, just like the kids receiving those may have never seen God’s Word before, many people in South Asia do not have access to the Bible either! Not only that, but many in South Asia have never even heard the name of Jesus before. Imagine what your life would be like if you didn’t know Jesus... *Let kids describe what it might be like – sad, lonely, dark, etc.* Empart Ministry works to train and support local workers in South Asia to reach their own community with God’s Word. Just like we always talk about how important it is for us to love our neighbors, the believers in South Asia are working to love their neighbors well, and we can support those workers in the most important way – through prayer!

Highlight a few specific prayer points provided on the Missions card. Encourage kids to take home Missions card and continue to pray for Empart and the people of South Asia throughout the week.

****After Announcements, transition the power point to the “Blessing” slide. The host will lead the class in receiving the blessing for the day.****

BLESSING

Host

Read the verse and blessing over the kids before closing Large Group. Encourage the kids to stand and open their hands to receive the blessing as a truth that they can take with them this week and hide in their hearts.

Teachers, would you station yourself around the room and give each kid a blessing as they leave? Put your hand on their shoulder and look right in their eyes as you say:

Friend (name of child), always remember that God transforms you. The Bible says: God is able to do far more than we could ever ask for or imagine. He does everything by his power that is working in you.

SMALL GROUP

Classroom Teachers

(10 minutes)

The Small Group discussion is a chance for the kids to discuss what they've just learned and to challenge them to think deeper.

Younger Kids:

This time is optional for younger kids, depending on if you feel like the kids are still listening and participating well.

1. **Briefly retell the Bible story (Ephesians 2:1-10).**
2. **What does it mean to follow the ways of the world?** (To follow what the world says instead of what God says).
3. **Do you think the world leads us closer to God or further away from Him?** (Further away).
4. **Who did God send to save us from our sin?** (Jesus)!
5. **God gave us new life. That means we no longer have to live in sin, but can walk with Jesus and be saved. What do we need to do to be made new?** (Follow Jesus and accept Him into our hearts).
6. **Have you accepted Jesus into your heart?**

Close small group in prayer.

Older Kids:

Encourage the kids to utilize their personal Bibles or the classroom Bibles to read the Scripture as a group.

1. **Read Ephesians 2: 1-2**
What does it mean to follow the ways of the world? (To follow what the world says instead of what God says).
2. **Do you think the world leads us closer to God or further away from Him?** (further away).
3. **Read Ephesians 2: 3-7**
Who did God send to save us from our sin? (Jesus)!
4. **Read Ephesians 2:8-10**
Do we get to go to heaven by doing good things? (no!) What do we need to do to get to Heaven? (Accept Jesus and follow Him).

5. Have you accepted Jesus into your heart? Tell us about what that was like for you. If you haven't, that's okay! Jesus loves each of us!

Close small group in prayer.

RESPOND ACTIVITY

Classroom Teacher

(10 minutes)

DISCUSS:

If you have extra time at the end of your lesson and small group time, the kids can participate in this activity.

MAKE – Plant a Seed!

Supplies: soil, small cups, seeds, markers or crayons, “Thank You for Loving Me” labels, heart sticks

Directions: Pass out one cup per child and one “thank you for loving me label”. Allow them to decorate their cups using crayons and markers and have them place the label on the cup. Put a small scoop of soil in their cup and give each child 2-3 seeds. Have them place the seeds in their soil and cover it up. Have the children place one heart stick in their plant.

Say: It is such a beautiful reminder that God gives us new life. God helps us to grow each and every day. We are going to plant a seed to help us remember that we are new and grow when we have Christ leading our lives. Today is a special day and a great chance for us to celebrate our grownups in our lives – moms, dads, grandparents, guardians. Let's plant these seeds and we can give our grown ups these plants to say “Thank you for loving me!”

****If time permitting, kids can make cards to go with their plants for their grownups****

CHECK-OUT

Classroom Teacher

(end of service)

As parents arrive for check-out, the kids can continue participating in the Respond Activities or the classroom games and toys.

