



God Transforms Us

Ephesians 2:1-10

God Statement: Jesus Is Our Hope

KEY VERSE: “Jesus said, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life.”
(John 14:6a, 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 groups and read some "growing rhymes" together. As you read, think about ways that God helps you grow!*

Directions: Have children get into a few small groups with leaders in each group. Give each child a booklet. Have the leaders read 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.

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 “Worship” slide.******

WORSHIP & CHLOE’S RULES

Worship Leader & Host

WORSHIP

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!

Feel free to modify your worship time for what works best for your age group. You can find different ways to encourage the kids to participate by giving them instruments or showing them simple hand motions. You can also limit how many songs you choose to play, if it seems like the kids are not able to stay focused the entire time.

CHLOE’S RULES

Once everyone has found their seat, play Chloe’s Rules in the PowerPoint provided. If needed, reinforce the rules after the video plays.

****** After Worship & Chloe’s Rules, transition the PowerPoint to the Mail Time & Wardrobe of Wonder slides. ******

MAIL TIME & WARDROBE OF WONDER

Host

MAIL TIME!

Find the Mail Time envelope in your curriculum supplies.

Pick one child to hide the envelope and another child to find it. Give the first child about 30 seconds to hide the envelope while the other child closes his/her eyes. After the envelope is hidden, the second child can search for the envelope while the class says “hot” or “cold” to give them clues if they’re getting closer or further away.

Have the two kids stand in front of the class and hold the verse page (inside the envelope) so everyone can see it.

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

**“Jesus said, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life.”
(John 14:6a, NIRV)**

WARDROBE OF WONDER

The Wardrobe of Wonder is an opportunity to get the younger kids engaged in the lesson by playing a guessing game to determine what the “What’s It” is inside the wardrobe each week.

Choose one child to “spy” on the What’s It by peeking inside the wardrobe. Remind the other children to look away and to not peek. Have the peeker whisper the identity of the What’s It in the host’s ear to ensure he/she saw it correctly.

What’s It: BUTTERFLY

Now, invite the class to raise their hand and guess the identity of the What’s It by asking yes-or-no questions about it. Allow the child who peeked to help answer the questions. Once the children have guessed correctly, retrieve the What’s It from the wardrobe and allow the class to look at it/pass it around. Thank the volunteer and allow them to sit back down.

ASK:

Oh! This is such a special What’s It today! I am so excited to show you all! What is it? A butterfly, that’s right! Do you remember earlier what we said a butterfly starts out as? A caterpillar, that’s right. As it grows, it makes a cocoon and becomes a beautiful butterfly, like this one. I wonder how this relates to our story today... Let’s find out more. Do you know what time it is? It’s time for us to dive into God’s Word together!

**** After the Mail Time & Wardrobe of Wonder, Younger Kids classes transition to 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 this 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 Compassion & Offering slides.****

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.

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.

Watch Me Grow

{Tune: Frère Jacques}

What do I need?
What do I need?
To grow in God,
To grow in God.

I need to read my bible
And say my prayers each day,
Watch me grow!
Watch me grow!

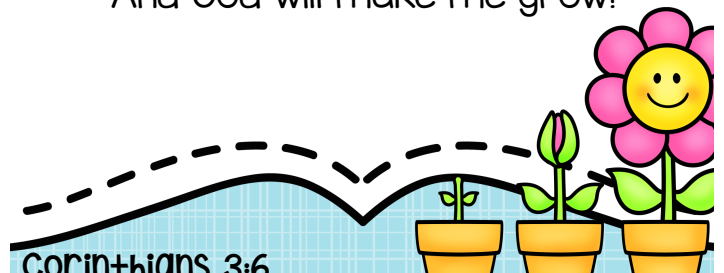


Plant the Seed

{Tune: The Wise Man}

I will plant a seed in my heart,
I will plant a seed in my heart,
I will plant a seed in my heart,
And God will make me grow!

I will read my Bible and pray everyday!
I will read my Bible and pray everyday!
I will read my Bible and pray everyday!
And God will make me grow!



Watch them Grow

{Tune: Frère Jacques}

What do plants need?
What do plants need?
To grow tall,
To grow tall,

Plants need soil,
water, air, and sun.
Watch them grow!
Watch them grow!

