

Transformed For A Purpose

PRESCHOOL LESSON PLAN

Theme: Transformed by God

Scripture: Ephesians 2:1-10

Memory Verse: For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God. - Ephesians 2:8

The Children's Sermon

You'll Need:

- **Play Dough**

Hey kids, today we're going to talk about something really fun and interesting. Have you ever played with clay or Play Dough? I have some clay right here. Now, watch this. What if I roll it into a ball? What is it now? (Shape it) And if I squeeze it near the bottom to make more of a vase shape, what is it now? How about this? If I flatten and stretch it out more to create more of a bowl shape, hey, this is fun! What is it now?

But I have a question for you. Did this clay do anything to talk me into using it? Did it do anything to tell me how to shape it? You know, I could have just left the clay in the can, all sealed up. Do you think that's a good idea? You know, even in a sealed-up container, this clay would have eventually dried up. Then, it wouldn't have been any good to anybody. (Put the clay back in the container.)

You know, we could say that, "by grace," (Take the clay out again) "I saved this clay, not because of anything it did. It is my gift to it. But, I didn't take it out just to let it sit. I

took it out, or saved it from being wasted, to make it useful. (Roll it into a ball again as you say this.) "We could say that this clay was "TRANSFORMED," from being useless, to useful. Transformation is a fancy word for "CHANGED."

This is just Play Dough, I know, but real potters do this all the time with real clay to make useful things for others to enjoy. You know, real clay is just fancy mud, but potters can take that mud and shape it, like I did with this, and bake it and make beautiful pottery, all from fancy mud!

You and I and all people are a lot like this clay. The Bible says that "The Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living thing." In other words, we're fancy mud too! God takes us and saves us from wasting our lives and changes us, into something useful, not because of anything we did, so we deserve to be picked up, but because He loves us and cares about us. And, just as I kind of knew ahead of time what I wanted to do with this clay, or a potter knows what he wants to do with fancy mud, God has ideas too about how He wants us to look and what job He wants us to do for Him. When we say, "YES," to His plans for us, we make Him happy and we are happy too because we are doing what we were made to do.

Now, let's dive a bit deeper into this idea of Transformation. Imagine if the clay could think and talk. It might be scared at first to be changed. It might say, "I'm just a lump; I can't be anything special!" But the potter, who is like God, knows better. He sees not just what the clay is, but what it can become. This is the same with us. Sometimes we might feel small or not very important, but God sees us and thinks, "Wow, I have big plans for this one!"

Transformation doesn't happen all at once. Just like clay needs to be molded, pressed, and sometimes reshaped, we too go through changes that help us grow. Sometimes it might feel uncomfortable or scary, but remember, the potter never leaves the clay. God never leaves us. He is always there, helping us through every push and pull, making sure we are becoming the beautiful creation He knows we can be.

And guess what? Just like a potter puts the clay into the oven to make it strong, we sometimes go through tough times that make us stronger too. These tough times are not because we are being punished, but because we are being prepared. Prepared for what, you ask? Prepared to be useful, to do amazing things that only we can do, to show love to others, and to spread kindness like confetti!

Let's not forget, transformation is a gift. Just like I didn't have to take the clay out of the can, God doesn't have to give us this wonderful chance to change and grow. But He does because He loves us so much. He wants us to be happy, to feel loved, and to do great things.

So, what can we do to help with our transformation? We can listen to God, talk to Him through prayer, be kind to others, and always try our best to do what is right. We can also remember to be patient with ourselves. Just like clay doesn't become a beautiful vase in one day, we won't become our best selves overnight. It takes time, effort, and a lot of love.

In the end, when we look back, we'll see how far we've come. We'll see that we were not just transformed from a lump of clay into something useful, but we were transformed into a masterpiece, a beautiful creation that reflects God's love and shows the world what it means to be truly transformed.

So, let's be excited about our transformation. Let's be ready to change, grow, and become everything God has planned for us. Because when we do, we're not just making ourselves better; we're making the world a better place, too. And that's the most beautiful transformation of all.

Bible Memory Verse

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God. - Ephesians 2:8

You Will Need:

- Construction paper
- Scissors
- Glue
- Markers or crayons
- Stickers (optional)

Get Ready:

- Cut the construction paper into large heart shapes, one for each child.
- Write the memory verse on a separate piece of paper or a whiteboard where all the children can see it.

Do This:

1. Give each child a heart-shaped piece of construction paper and access to the markers, crayons, and stickers.
2. Encourage the children to decorate their heart while you talk about how God's love and grace is a gift to us, just like the hearts they are decorating.

3. Once they have finished decorating, help them write the memory verse on their heart or do it for them if they are too young. Explain that just like they are holding the heart in their hands, God holds us in His grace and love.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- Playdough (multiple colors)
- Heart-shaped cookie cutters
- Small crosses (can be made from cardboard or sticks)

Get Ready:

- Make sure there's enough playdough and a heart-shaped cookie cutter for each child.
- Create a small cross for each child, or have materials ready for them to make their own.

Do this:

1. Give each child a piece of playdough and ask them to make a shape or object that represents them before they knew about Jesus. Encourage simplicity, like a small ball or a simple shape.
2. Talk to them about how God loves us and can transform our lives, making us new creations in Jesus. Use the heart-shaped cookie cutter to transform their original playdough shape into a heart, symbolizing God's love transforming us.
3. Give each child a small cross. Have them press it gently into their playdough heart, symbolizing Jesus in our lives and how He makes us new creations. Remind them that we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Snack Activity: Butterfly Transformation Snacks

You'll Need:

- Sandwich bread
- Cream cheese or a nut butter
- Raisins or small fruit pieces (like blueberries or cut grapes)
- Pretzel sticks
- Plastic knives for spreading

Get Ready: Make sure the table is clean and each child has a small plate and a plastic knife. Wash all fruit before the activity.

Do this:

1. Help the children spread cream cheese or nut butter on a slice of bread using their plastic knife. This represents how God's love covers us and transforms us.
2. Assist the children in cutting their bread into four equal squares. They only need two squares to make the wings of their butterfly, symbolizing the new life and transformation we have in Christ.
3. Place the two squares on the plate with a small gap between them to form the butterfly wings. Use a pretzel stick to place in the gap, creating the body of the butterfly. This shows that just like the butterfly, we are made new and beautiful in God's eyes.
4. Let the children decorate their butterfly wings with raisins or fruit pieces, representing the unique gifts and changes God gives each of us when we are transformed by His love.

Game Activity: Butterfly Transformation Tag

You'll Need:

- Colorful butterfly wings or simple capes made from fabric or large paper
- Safe, open play area
- Music player (optional)

Get Ready: Before the game, prepare the butterfly wings or capes. Each should be colorful to represent the transformation of a caterpillar into a butterfly, symbolizing how we are transformed by God's love and grace. If using paper, cut out wings and decorate them with markers or crayons. If fabric, ensure it's lightweight and safe for children to run around with.

Do this:

1. Explain to the children that just like a caterpillar transforms into a beautiful butterfly, God transforms our lives. We start as one thing and become something beautiful and new because of His love.
2. Choose one child to be 'it' or the 'caterpillar'. The caterpillar tries to tag the butterflies as they flutter around the play area. When the music starts (if using), the butterflies begin to 'fly' away from the caterpillar.
3. When a butterfly is tagged, they sit down and turn into a 'cocoon' (they can hug their knees or curl up). After a few seconds, they 'transform' back into a butterfly, stand up, and rejoin the game.
4. Continue playing until everyone has had a chance to be the caterpillar. Remind the children that just like the game, God's love transforms us and makes us new creations.

Craft Activity: Butterfly Transformation

You'll Need:

- Coffee filters

- Washable markers
- A spray bottle with water
- Clothespins
- Pipe cleaners
- Stickers or googly eyes (optional)

Get Ready: Flatten out the coffee filters on a table covered with newspapers or a plastic sheet to protect the surface.

Do this:

1. Let the children color the coffee filters with washable markers. They can use as many colors as they like to make their butterfly vibrant.
2. Once they're done coloring, help them lightly spray their coffee filters with water. Watch as the colors blend together, symbolizing transformation and new life.
3. After the coffee filters have dried, gather them in the middle and clip them with a clothespin to form the butterfly's body. Twist a pipe cleaner around the top of the clothespin to make antennae. You can add stickers or googly eyes to the clothespin for extra fun.
4. Talk to the children about how the butterfly represents us being transformed by God's love and grace, just like in Ephesians 2:1-10.

Prayer Activity: Butterfly Prayers: Transformed by God

You'll Need:

- Construction paper (various colors)
- Markers or crayons

- Safety scissors

Get Ready: Pre-cut butterfly shapes out of the construction paper. Each child will need one butterfly.

Do this:

1. Tell the children that just like caterpillars transform into beautiful butterflies, God transforms our hearts and lives. Explain that Ephesians 2:1-10 talks about how we are made new by God's love and grace.
 2. Give each child a pre-cut butterfly and ask them to decorate their butterfly with markers or crayons. Encourage them to think about the beautiful changes God makes in us, like kindness, love, and obedience.
 3. Once they have finished decorating, gather the children in a circle. Ask them to hold their butterflies and think of one way they can show God's love to others this week. Go around the circle and let each child say their idea while holding up their butterfly.
- Conclude with a simple prayer, thanking God for His love and asking for help to show His love to others.