

Transformed For A Purpose

LOWER ELEMENTARY 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:

- Colored construction paper
- Scissors
- Glue sticks
- Markers or crayons
- Stickers (optional)

Get Ready:

- Cut the construction paper into large heart shapes, one for each child.
- Write 'Ephesians 2:8' on the top of each heart.

Do This:

1. Give each child a heart and ask them to decorate it with markers, crayons, and stickers. Encourage them to think about what the verse means while they decorate.
2. Once everyone is done decorating, gather the children in a circle. Ask them to share their heart and say the memory verse out loud.

3. Explain that just like the decorations made the hearts beautiful, God's grace makes us beautiful and new inside. We can't earn His love; it's a free gift, just like the verse says.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- Construction paper (various colors)
- Scissors
- Markers or crayons
- Glue sticks
- Butterfly templates (optional)
- A simple, child-friendly version of Ephesians 2:1-10

Get Ready:

1. Cut out butterfly shapes from the construction paper beforehand, or if using templates, have them ready for the kids to trace and cut out.
2. Make sure there are enough scissors, markers/crayons, and glue sticks for each child.
3. Print or write out a simplified version of Ephesians 2:1-10 that's easy for second graders to understand.

Do this:

1. Begin by briefly telling the story of Ephesians 2:1-10, focusing on how we are transformed by God's love and grace, like going from not knowing Him to becoming His friends and doing good things He has prepared for us.
2. Give each child a butterfly shape. Explain that the butterfly is going to represent us being transformed by God. Have them write or draw on one side of the butterfly things

that they might need help with (e.g., being kind, listening to parents, sharing with siblings).

3. On the other side of the butterfly, have them write or draw things they think God helps them to do (like being kind, helping others, loving their family). While they work, discuss how just like caterpillars change into beautiful butterflies, God helps us change and grow into who He wants us to be.

4. Once everyone is done, gather the children and let them share their butterflies if they wish. Conclude with a short prayer, asking God to help everyone remember how He transforms us and helps us do good things.

Snack Activity: Butterfly Transformation Snacks

You'll Need:

- Celery sticks (cleaned and trimmed)
- Cream cheese or peanut butter
- Raisins or small fruit pieces (like grapes or blueberries)
- Pretzel sticks
- Plastic knives for spreading

Get Ready: Make sure the celery sticks are washed and cut into pieces about 3 inches long. Set out small bowls of cream cheese or peanut butter and bowls of raisins or small fruit pieces.

Do this:

1. Spread cream cheese or peanut butter inside the celery stick 'boat' using a plastic knife. This represents our lives before God transforms us—plain and simple.

2. Decorate the top of the cream cheese or peanut butter with raisins or small fruit pieces. These represent the blessings and changes God adds to our lives when we let Him in.

3. Add two pretzel sticks on each side of the celery stick to create butterfly 'wings.' This shows how God transforms us and gives us new life, just like a caterpillar becomes a butterfly. We are made new and beautiful in His eyes, just like Ephesians 2:1-10 teaches us about being made alive in Christ.

Game Activity: Transformation Journey

You'll Need:

- A large open space
- Sidewalk chalk
- Small stones or beanbags

Get Ready: Use the sidewalk chalk to draw a large path on the ground. The path should have 10 large squares, each representing a verse from Ephesians 2:1-10. Write a key word from each verse inside its corresponding square (e.g., 'Alive' for verse 1, 'Grace' for verse 5, 'Workmanship' for verse 10).

Do this:

1. Explain to the children that they are on a journey of transformation, just like how God transforms us through His love and grace. Each square on the path represents a step in understanding how God changes us from the inside out.
2. Have the children stand at the start of the path. They will toss a stone or beanbag to land on any square. Whichever square it lands on, they hop to that square on one foot, showing that they are moving forward in their journey with God.

3. Once they land on a square, read the verse associated with that square and discuss its meaning briefly. For example, if they land on the square with 'Grace', explain how God's grace is a gift that helps us change and grow. Encourage them to think of ways they have seen God's grace in their own lives.
4. After discussing, the child hops back to the start, and the next child takes their turn. The game continues until each child has had several turns, allowing them to learn and reflect on different aspects of how we are 'Transformed by God'.

Craft Activity: Butterfly Transformation Craft

You'll Need:

- Coffee filters
- Washable markers
- A spray bottle with water
- Clothespins
- Pipe cleaners
- A printout of Ephesians 2:1-10

Get Ready: Before the activity, read Ephesians 2:1-10 and think about how it talks about being transformed by God, just like a caterpillar transforms into a butterfly. Print out the verses to have them ready for the kids to see.

Do this:

1. Flatten a coffee filter on a plate. Let the kids color the coffee filter with washable markers. They can use lots of colors to make it bright and beautiful!
2. Once the coffee filter is colored, lightly spray it with water from the spray bottle. Watch as the colors blend together! This is like how God can transform our lives, blending everything together for good.

3. While the coffee filter is drying, read Ephesians 2:1-10 together. Talk about how we were once like caterpillars, but God makes us new, like butterflies.
4. Once the coffee filter is dry, gather it in the middle and clip it with a clothespin to create the butterfly's body. Twist a pipe cleaner around the top of the clothespin to make antennae.
5. Finally, let the kids fly their butterflies around, reminding them that God transforms us into something beautiful and new, just like the caterpillar becomes a butterfly.

Prayer Activity: Butterfly Prayers: Transforming with God

You'll Need:

- Construction paper (various colors)
- Markers or crayons
- Scissors

Get Ready: Before the activity, cut out butterfly shapes from the construction paper. Each child will need one butterfly.

Do this:

1. Start by telling the children about Ephesians 2:1-10, focusing on how God transforms us. Explain that just like a caterpillar changes into a butterfly, God changes our hearts to do good works.
2. Give each child a butterfly cutout and ask them to think about one way they would like God to help them change or grow. Have them draw or write this change on one side of the butterfly.

3. On the other side of the butterfly, ask them to write or draw a prayer to God, asking for His help to make this transformation. Encourage them to be creative and honest in their prayer.
4. Once everyone is done, gather the butterflies and hang them on a wall or string them up as a reminder of their prayers for transformation. Close with a group prayer, asking God to help everyone with their transformations.