

Transformed For A Purpose

UPPER 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:

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

Get Ready:

- Cut the construction paper into large heart shapes, one for each child.
- Set up a crafting station with markers, crayons, scissors, glue sticks, and stickers.

Do This:

1. Have each child write the memory verse (Ephesians 2:8) in the center of their heart with markers or crayons.
2. Encourage the children to decorate around the verse with drawings or stickers that represent God's love and grace (e.g., crosses, doves, rainbows).

3. Once everyone has finished, gather the children in a circle and have them share their hearts, explaining their decorations and what the verse means to them. This helps reinforce the memory verse and the concept of grace.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- Construction paper (various colors)
- Scissors
- Markers or crayons
- Glue sticks
- String or yarn
- Hole punch
- Bible or printed copies of Ephesians 2:1-10

Get Ready:

- Cut construction paper into large heart shapes (one per child).
- Print or have Ephesians 2:1-10 available for reading.
- Set up a work area where children can comfortably craft.

Do this:

1. ****Introduction to Ephesians 2:1-10****: Start by reading Ephesians 2:1-10 together as a class. Discuss the theme of transformation from death to life through God's grace and the concept of being God's handiwork created to do good works.

2. ****Heart Transformation Craft****: Give each child a large heart cutout. On one side of the heart, have them draw or write things that represent life without God (using dark colors or words like "sin," "lost," etc.). On the other side, have them depict life with God

(using bright colors, words like "saved," "grace," "love," etc.). This represents the transformation described in Ephesians 2:1-10.

3. **"New Creation" Mobile**: After completing their hearts, help the children punch a hole at the top of each heart and tie a string to it. Then, have them create additional smaller shapes (e.g., stars, crosses) out of construction paper, where they can write or draw representations of the "good works" we are created to do (e.g., helping others, kindness, prayer). Attach these shapes to the main heart with string at varying lengths to create a mobile.

4. **Reflection and Sharing**: Once the crafts are completed, gather the children in a circle. Invite them to share their mobiles and explain the transformation depicted on their hearts and the good works they illustrated. This encourages them to articulate their understanding of the scripture and how it applies to their lives.

5. **Closing Prayer**: Conclude with a prayer, asking God to continue transforming each of us and to help us live out the good works He has prepared for us to do, just as described in Ephesians 2:1-10.

Snack Activity: Transformation Cookies

You'll Need:

- 1 package of Oreo cookies or any sandwich cookie
- White and dark chocolate melting wafers
- Sprinkles (optional)
- Wax paper
- Microwave-safe bowls
- Spoons or dipping tools

- A copy of Ephesians 2:1-10

Get Ready: Read Ephesians 2:1-10 together and discuss what it means to be transformed by God's grace, just like we will transform these cookies.

Do this:

1. Melt the white chocolate wafers in one bowl and the dark chocolate in another, following the package instructions. Be careful, as the bowls may be hot. Parents or guardians should supervise or handle the melting process.
2. Explain that the cookies, like us, are fine as they are but can be transformed into something new and wonderful with a little work. Dip half of each cookie into the white chocolate, representing our transformation by God's grace through faith. Let the excess chocolate drip off before placing on wax paper.
3. Before the white chocolate sets, you can dip the other half into dark chocolate or add sprinkles to symbolize the good works God has prepared for us to do, as mentioned in Ephesians 2:10. Allow the chocolate to harden.
4. As you enjoy your Transformation Cookies, reflect on how God transforms us and how we can do good works in our lives.

Game Activity: Journey from Death to Life

You'll Need:

- Large pieces of paper or cardboard
- Markers
- Tape
- Bible or printed copies of Ephesians 2:1-10

Get Ready: Before the class, write out key phrases from Ephesians 2:1-10 on the large pieces of paper or cardboard. Each piece should have one phrase like 'Made Alive with Christ', 'By Grace You Have Been Saved', 'Created in Christ Jesus for Good Works', etc. Use the markers to make them colorful and readable from a distance. Tape these papers on the floor across the room in a path that zigzags or loops around, creating a physical journey.

Do this:

1. Start by gathering the children and reading Ephesians 2:1-10 together. Discuss briefly what it means to be transformed by God, emphasizing the transition from 'dead in transgressions' to being 'alive with Christ'.
2. Explain the game: Each child will start at the 'Dead in Transgressions' starting point. They will hop, skip, or jump from one piece of paper to the next, following the path of phrases. At each stop, they must say the phrase out loud and perform a simple action or pose that represents the transformation described (e.g., for 'Made Alive with Christ', they might stretch their arms wide open to symbolize receiving new life).
3. The journey ends at the 'Created in Christ Jesus for Good Works' paper. Here, invite each child to share one good work they feel inspired to do this week, reflecting on how God has made them new for a purpose. Encourage them to think of practical, achievable acts of kindness or service.

Craft Activity: Transformed Butterflies

You'll Need:

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

- Pipe cleaners
- A printed copy of Ephesians 2:1-10 for each child

Get Ready: Before the class, print out enough copies of Ephesians 2:1-10 for each child.

Cut the construction paper into squares of various sizes for the butterfly wings.

Prepare a sample butterfly to show as an example.

Do this:

1. Start by reading Ephesians 2:1-10 together as a class. Discuss what it means to be 'made alive with Christ' and how we are God's handiwork, created to do good works.
2. Each child selects four squares of construction paper for their butterfly wings. They fold the squares in half and cut out a half-heart shape on the fold to create the wings. Encourage them to decorate their wings with markers or crayons, drawing symbols or writing words that remind them of the transformation described in Ephesians 2:1-10.
3. Using a glue stick, children attach their wings to a pipe cleaner, which serves as the butterfly's body. They can twist the top of the pipe cleaner to make antennae. Finally, each child shares their butterfly, explaining how their decorations represent being transformed by God's grace and love.

Prayer Activity: Transformed by Grace: A Prayer Journey

You'll Need:

- A large poster board or paper
- Markers or colored pencils
- Sticky notes

Get Ready: Before the activity, write 'Ephesians 2:1-10' at the top of the poster board and draw a simple path or road winding from the bottom to the top. Along this path, mark several stops with numbers 1 through 5.

Do this:

1. Begin by reading Ephesians 2:1-10 together as a class. Discuss what it means to be 'made alive with Christ' and how we are God's handiwork, created to do good works.
2. At the first stop on the path, have each student write their name on a sticky note and place it at the start. This represents our life before knowing Christ.
3. Move to the second stop and invite students to draw or write on the sticky note how they think God sees them after being 'made alive in Christ.' Encourage creativity!
4. At the third stop, ask the students to write or draw a good work they feel inspired to do or something kind they've done recently, reflecting on how we are created to do good works.
5. The fourth stop is for students to write a short prayer on the back of their sticky note, asking God to help them live out their faith and do good works.
6. Finally, at the last stop, each student places their sticky note at the 'end' of the path, symbolizing their ongoing journey with Christ. Close with a group prayer, thanking God for His grace and asking for His guidance to walk in the good works He's prepared for us.