

A Transformed Mind

BIBLE PASSAGE: Romans 12:1-18; 1 Corinthians 1:9; Philippians 1:3-7

MAIN POINT: God wants us to show friendship and love to one another.

KEY PASSAGE: 2 Corinthians 5:17

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Who changes us? The Holy Spirit changes us to be like Jesus for God's glory.

2

INTRODUCE THE STORY
(10–15 MINUTES)
PAGE 142



TEACH THE STORY
(25–30 MINUTES)
PAGE 144



APPLY THE STORY
(25–30 MINUTES)
PAGE 150



Leader BIBLE STUDY

Many of the letters Paul wrote follow the same basic outline. The first part of each letter focuses on the important truths of the gospel. The second part of each letter then explains how those truths can and should shape how we live every day: gospel transformation.

When it comes to Romans, the first eleven chapters are Paul's explanation of the gospel, while the final five chapters center on how that gospel changes us. Romans 12:1-2 is the hinge linking these two sections together.

Paul urges believers to keep in mind the mercies of God. God's grace, mercy, and kindness led Him to provide Jesus

to pay our penalty for sin so that we might be adopted into God's family. Then Paul helps us look forward by summarizing the impact the gospel should have on us. We are to be living sacrifices that please God. How can we do that? The answer is in Romans 12:2. We are to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. A renewed mind transformed by the Holy Spirit will help us see what pleases God, what His will is.

The gospel first changes the heart and mind. Then, as a result, the gospel changes how a person lives. This is how we please and glorify God.

As you share with your kids this week, remind them of how important gospel transformation is. Help them to see that they cannot please God by their own effort—and God doesn't want them to try.

Help kids understand what it means to rest in the gospel—in who they have been made in Christ Jesus—and how to allow the Holy Spirit to work in their minds, hearts, and their actions. Share that one of the ways God transforms our minds is by us reading His Word, and encourage them to spend time reading the Bible this week.



MINISTRY GRID
training made simple

Additional resources for each session are available at gospelproject.com. For free training and session-by-session help, visit www.ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject.

The BIBLE STORY

Bible Storytelling Tips

• Use props:

Demonstrate change by displaying a large, clear container of warm water. Add two or three drops of food color. The color will disperse as you tell the story.

• Make gestures:

Use your hands to emphasize certain words. For *love*, place a hand on your chest. For *think*, touch your head. Clasp your hands together for the word *family*.

A Transformed Mind

Romans 12:1-18; 1 Corinthians 1:9; Philippians 1:3-7

Paul was a missionary and teacher in the early church. He traveled all over, sharing the good news about Jesus and teaching believers. When Paul couldn't meet with believers face to face, he wrote letters.

Paul wrote a letter to the believers in Rome about how they should live differently than people who do not trust in Jesus. Paul said that God calls believers to be friends with one another and to show love to everyone.

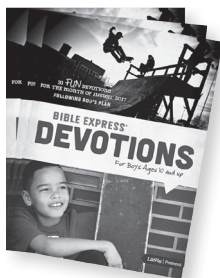
Paul reminded the believers that God is merciful. He shows us love even though we are sinners and do not deserve His love. Paul said, "So live in a way that pleases God. Do not let the unbelievers around you change how you think. Let God change how you think. The Holy Spirit lives inside you. He shows you the right way to live, and you will know God's good plan for you."

"Do not think you are better or worse than you really are. Not every believer is the same. God gives faith to all believers, and not everyone has the same amount of faith. God gives each believer different gifts. Some people have the gift of prophecy or the gift of teaching. Some have the gift of serving, or encouraging, or giving, or leading, or showing mercy. Believers must work together, like different parts of a body working together. We are all one body in Jesus."

Our job is to love one another like a family. We rejoice in hope, choose patience during hard times, and do not stop praying. Paul wrote, "If someone is happy, we are happy with him. If he is sad, we are sad with him. Get along with one another as much as possible."

Later, Paul was in prison in Rome. He wrote a letter to Christians in Philippi. Paul was happy because God was working in their lives. The Christians helped Paul by sending him money and praying for him. Paul thanked God for the believers. He knew that God was changing them to be more like Jesus.

Christ Connection: God wants us to show friendship and love to one another. As believers, we all belong to Jesus. His death and resurrection bring us together. The Holy Spirit changes the way we think and live so we can love one another as God has loved us.



**WANT TO
DISCOVER
GOD'S WORD?
GET
BIBLE EXPRESS!**

Invite kids to check out this week's devotionals to discover how God's Word can help them grow in the gospel. Order in bulk, subscribe quarterly, or purchase individually. For more information, check out www.lifeway.com/devotionals.

Introduce the STORY

SESSION TITLE: A Transformed Mind

BIBLE PASSAGE: Romans 12:1-18; 1 Corinthians 1:9; Philippians 1:3-7

MAIN POINT: God wants us to show friendship and love to one another.

KEY PASSAGE: 2 Corinthians 5:17

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Who changes us? The Holy Spirit changes us to be like Jesus for God's glory.

Welcome time

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, and help new kids connect to your group. Prompt kids to talk about how kids change between the ages of 1 and 10.

SAY • Between the ages of 1 and 10, you change so much!

Today we are going to learn about how a person changes when he or she becomes a Christian.

Activity page (5 minutes)

- “Word of the Day” activity page, 1 per kid
- pencils or markers

Invite kids to complete “Word of the Day” on the activity page. Kids should write the first letter of each picture in the box above it to reveal the word of the day. (*transformed*)

SAY • What does the word *transformed* mean? [*Allow kids to respond.*] It means “changed completely and usually in a good way.” Today we will learn how people are transformed when they trust in Jesus.



LOW PREP

- paper
- colored pencils or crayons

Session starter (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: Illustrate transformations

Give each kid a piece of paper. Instruct kids to fold their paper into quarters and number the squares 1 to 4. Point

out that things around us are changing and transforming all the time. Seasons change, plants grow and then wither, messy rooms are cleaned up, and so on.

Encourage kids to draw four pictures showing how something changes. Kids should start in the first square and illustrate progressive changes in a series.

If kids need prompts, suggest these: a seed becoming a tree, a caterpillar becoming a butterfly, a balloon being inflated, a man growing a beard.

SAY • Did you know that when a person trusts in Jesus, he or she is transformed? This isn't an immediate change so we might not notice it right away. We'll learn more when we hear today's Bible story.

OPTION 2: Groups and lines

Prompt kids to line up in some particular order or to gather in groups as they discover things they have in common. Call out the following prompts:

- Line up in alphabetical order by your first name.
- Line up in alphabetical order by your last name.
- Gather with people who have the same favorite color as you.
- Gather with people who have the same eye color.
- Line up in order of your birthday.
- Gather with people who have the same number of siblings as you.

SAY • Isn't it interesting how God created us to be different in so many ways and also the same in many ways? In today's Bible story, we will talk about some of the ways God makes believers different and the same.

Transition to teach the story

Teach the STORY

SESSION TITLE: A Transformed Mind

BIBLE PASSAGE: Romans 12:1-18; 1 Corinthians 1:9; Philippians 1:3-7

MAIN POINT: God wants us to show friendship and love to one another.

KEY PASSAGE: 2 Corinthians 5:17

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Who changes us? The Holy Spirit changes us to be like Jesus for God's glory.

Countdown

• countdown video

Show the countdown video as your kids arrive, and set it to end as the session begins.

Introduce the session (3 minutes)

• leader attire
• canvas work apron
• safety glasses
• light bulb

[Leader enters wearing a canvas work apron and safety glasses. Leader examines some of the materials on display, picks up a light bulb, and then turns to address the kids.]

LEADER • Hey, everyone! I'm glad to see you. Welcome to my workshop! My name is Dr. Gutenbird, aspiring inventor and developing theologian. That means I like to make new things, and I like to study my Bible and learn about God.

I want to show you something. *[Hold up the light bulb.]* This is a light bulb. Can anyone tell me who invented the light bulb? *[Allow kids to respond.]* This little invention was created by Thomas Edison more than 130 years ago! That seems like a long time ago, but for so long people had lived without light bulbs in their homes or businesses. The invention of the light bulb changed a lot about the way people lived. Light bulbs made it possible for people to work after

the sun went down. People could read late at night or in the early morning. Having electricity in the home for lighting led to other inventions like electric toasters and vacuums and waffle irons. With one invention, people's lives were transformed.

Today I am honored to bring to you a true story from God's holy Word. [*Hold up the Bible.*] Psalm 119:105 says, "Your word is a lamp for my feet and a light on my path." Every story in the Bible is true! I'm ready; are you?

Big picture question (1 minute)

LEADER • Last time we met, we heard our big picture question: *Who changes us?* Now first off, I want to say that I am very glad we are changed. Before trusting in Jesus, we are sinners separated from God. We still sin, but sin no longer has total control over us like it once did. We are being changed! *Who changes us? The Holy Spirit changes us to be like Jesus for God's glory.*

Giant timeline (1 minute)

Show the giant timeline or big story circle. Point to previous stories as you review.

• Giant Timeline or
Big Story Circle

LEADER • A lot of people think the Bible is just a big book of rules. The Bible does contain some instructions about how we should live, but it's not just a book of rules; it's a beautiful story about how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

In the New Testament, we can find letters written by Paul to believers in the early church. Paul often reminded people of the good news of what Jesus has

done for us. When we believe the gospel, everything changes. Today's Bible story is about some of the ways people change when they trust in Jesus. Let's check it out.

- Bibles
- "A Transformed Mind" video
- Big Picture Question Poster
- Bible Story Picture Poster

Tell the Bible story (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Romans 12:1-18; 1 Corinthians 1:9; Philippians 1:3-7. Use the Bible storytelling tips on the Bible story page to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video "A Transformed Mind."

LEADER • Something we see in this Bible story and in other Bible stories we have heard is that the gospel changes us. First, it changes our hearts and minds. We turn away from sin and self and turn to Jesus. Instead of believing that we are the most important, we believe that Jesus is most important. Instead of wanting to sin, we start to want to obey God.

Next, the gospel changes how we live. We don't change by working extra hard to obey God. Who changes us? ***The Holy Spirit changes us to be like Jesus for God's glory.*** This pleases God and gives Him glory.

Christ connection

Tip: Use Scripture and the guide provided to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.

LEADER • So the gospel first changes our hearts and minds. Then, as a result, it changes, or transforms, how we live. **God wants us to show friendship and love to one another.** As believers, we all belong to Jesus. His death and resurrection bring us together. The Holy Spirit changes the way we think and live so we can love one another as God has loved us.

Key passage (5 minutes)

Show the key passage poster. Lead the boys and girls to read together 2 Corinthians 5:17.

- Key Passage Poster
- “New Creation” song

LEADER • Like we heard in our Bible story today, the Holy Spirit changes us when we trust in Jesus. He changes our hearts and minds so we can love and serve Jesus. Challenge yourself this week to memorize our key passage. One thing that helps us memorize Scripture is to sing it. Will you join me?

Lead boys and girls in singing “New Creation.”

Discussion starter video (4 minutes)

LEADER • When we think about being a new creation, you might wonder how that happens. Can we make it happen ourselves? Watch this.

- “Unit 33, Session 2” discussion starter video

Show the “Unit 33, Session 2” discussion starter video.

Then lead kids to discuss the following questions:

- Can the kid do anything to make himself grow overnight?
- Does he have any control over how tall he grows?
- How do we grow as Christians? Can we change by our own effort?

Remind kids of how important gospel transformation is. Help them to see that they cannot please God on their own effort—and God doesn’t want them to try.

LEADER • The Bible tells us how believers should live.

God wants us to show friendship and love to one another. This isn’t always easy. In fact, living the way God wants us to live can be frustrating!

We still fight against sin. The good news is that we are not on our own. We can’t please God ourselves, but God sent the Holy Spirit to change us. We can

read the Bible, pray, and spend time with other believers. Through these things, the Holy Spirit changes how we feel, what we think, and what we do.

• “Our God Who
Changes Us” song

Sing (4 minutes)

Open your Bible and read aloud Psalm 51:10-13.

LEADER • King David wrote this psalm. He knew God has the power to change sinners. ***Who changes us? The Holy Spirit changes us to be like Jesus for God’s glory.*** Let’s sing.

Sing together “Our God Who Changes Us.”

Pray (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before dismissing to apply the story.

LEADER • Lord God, thank You for Jesus. Thank You for sending Him to save sinners. You make us alive when we trust in You and change our hearts and minds so we can live for You. Following Jesus changes everything. Help us to show friendship and love to one another. Help us to fight against the sin that makes us want to live for ourselves instead of for You. We love You and want to bring You glory. Amen.

Dismiss to apply the story

The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means “good news.” It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.



God rules. Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.



We sinned. Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)



God provided. Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.



Jesus gives. Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.



We respond. Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

Offer to talk with any child who is interested in responding to Jesus. Provide *I'm a Christian Now* for new Christians to take home and complete with their families.

Apply the STORY

SESSION TITLE: A Transformed Mind

BIBLE PASSAGE: Romans 12:1-18; 1 Corinthians 1:9; Philippians 1:3-7

MAIN POINT: God wants us to show friendship and love to one another.

KEY PASSAGE: 2 Corinthians 5:17

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Who changes us? The Holy Spirit changes us to be like Jesus for God's glory.

Key passage activity (5 minutes)

• Key Passage Poster

Display the key passage poster. Lead the kids to read the key passage together. Guide each kid to find a partner. Then instruct each kid to count how many syllables are in her full name. (For example, *Jaylen Webb* has three syllables.) That is how many times she should say the key passage to her partner. Allow each partner a turn to say the key passage. Challenge kids to read the passage throughout the week and try to memorize it.

SAY • Becoming familiar with the truths about God and memorizing His Word are two ways our minds are transformed. As believers, we are new creations! *Who changes us? The Holy Spirit changes us to be like Jesus for God's glory.*

Bible story review & Bible skills (10 minutes)

• Bibles, 1 per kid
• Main Point Poster
• Bible dictionary

Provide a Bible for each kid. Instruct kids to find the Book of Romans and turn to chapter 12.

SAY • Romans is a letter that Paul wrote to believers in Rome. Paul explained how believers should live differently than people who do not trust in Jesus. The words Paul wrote are true for believers today.

Guide boys and girls to read verses 1-18, each kid reading one verse at a time. Then ask kids if any words from the passage are confusing. Explain the words, using a Bible dictionary if necessary.

Option: Retell or review the Bible story using the bolded text of the Bible story script.

Guide kids to discuss the following questions:

1. What do you think it means to be a living sacrifice?
[See Rom. 12:1.]
2. ***Who changes us? The Holy Spirit changes us to be like Jesus for God's glory.***
3. Why do you think God gives believers different gifts?

SAY • When we trust in Jesus, God adopts us into His family, so other believers become our brothers and sisters in Christ. **God wants us to show friendship and love to one another.** We can work together according to the gifts God gives us as we obey the mission to tell the world about Jesus.

Activity choice (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: Reverse “Simon Says”

Invite kids to play a game of “Simon Says.” Explain that the rules are reversed. If you say, “Simon Says,” then kids should not follow your lead. If you do not precede a statement with “Simon Says,” then kids should do as you say.

Suggested commands: lift your feet as high as you can, rub your tummy and pat your head, play air guitar, act like a monkey, stand on one foot, yawn, wiggle your body.

SAY • Following Jesus really turns the ways of the world upside-down. Instead of looking out for yourself, **God wants us to show friendship and love to one another.** Instead of believing, “I am the most important person in my life,” we believe, “Jesus is the most important Person in my life.”



Becoming a Christian transforms how we interact with God and with others. We all belong to Jesus. His death and resurrection brings us together. The Holy Spirit changes the way we think and live so we can love one another as God has loved us.

- Allergy Alert download
- balloons, 8
- permanent marker
- masking tape or painter's tape

OPTION 2: Balloon roundup

Before the session, write the following sentences on separate balloons. Do not include the answers in parentheses:

- *God is merciful.* (true, Rom. 12:1)
- *The Holy Spirit lives inside you.* (true)
- *The Holy Spirit shows you the right way to live.* (true, Rom. 12:2)
- *Every believer is the same.* (false, Rom. 12:6)
- *God gives faith to all believers.* (true, Rom. 12:3)
- *Everyone has the same gifts.* (false, Rom. 12:6)
- *We are all one body in Jesus.* (true, Rom. 12:5)
- *God wants us to show friendship and love to one another.* (true, Rom. 12:10)

Use tape to mark two 5-foot squares on the floor, about 10 feet apart. Mark a *T* for true in one square and an *F* for false in the other. Scatter the prepared balloons around the room.

Form two teams. Then allow a player from the first team to choose a balloon and read it aloud. The team should decide if the statement is true or false and then put the balloon in the corresponding square. Reveal the answer and award a point for a correct answer.

Then allow a player from the second team to choose a balloon and read it aloud. Lead the team to place the balloon in a square before you reveal the answer. Award a point for a correct answer. Alternate between the teams until kids have sorted all of the balloons.

SAY • When we receive Jesus' gift of salvation, we don't stay the same. We are changed from the inside out. ***Who changes us? The Holy Spirit changes us to be like Jesus for God's glory.*** Following Jesus also changes how we interact with one another. God wants us to show friendship and love to one another.

As believers, we all belong to Jesus. His death and resurrection bring us together. The Holy Spirit changes the way we think and live so we can love one another as God has loved us.

Journal and prayer (5 minutes)

Distribute journal pages and pencils. Guide kids to think about and answer the questions listed on the page:

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
- Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission better?

As kids journal, invite them to share their ideas. Then pray, thanking God for His Word and for sending Jesus, who showed us perfect humble service and love by dying on the cross for sinners.

As time allows, lead kids to complete "Show It!" on the activity page. Kids should draw examples of how they can show friends and love to others.

Option: Review the gospel with boys and girls. Explain that kids are welcome to speak with you or another teacher if they have questions.

- pencils
- Journal Page
- "Show It!" activity page, 1 per kid

Tip: Give parents this week's *Big Picture Cards for Families* to allow families to interact with the biblical content at home.