

Discovering God on Route 66 LESSON #41

BE TRANSFORMED

PREP: Read the verses **Romans 6:6, 7, 11-13** and **Romans 12:1, 2**.

Make a cross for the children to “nail” their sins to. You can make one out of wood or cut one out of cork board.

Gather paper, pencils, hammers, and nails or tacks for the children to use for “nailing their sins to the cross”.

Gather supplies for a demonstration: water, various shaped & colored glasses/bowls, and flavored drink mix such as Kool Aid.

Recruit at least 2 workers to help with the tracing and the work on the collage.

Gather supplies for an art project: 2 overhead projectors or lamps; large, black or white construction paper (11” x 17”); chalk, scissors, glue, words (*such as provided*), pictures, and magazine pages.

Print your choice of the Bible verse sections to glue at the top or bottom of the collages.

Make an example of the Profile Collage for all the children to see.

Plan background music to play as the children work.

Copy FUNSHEETS to pass out to the children at the end of class.

NOTE: This lesson will take longer since children will be doing an art project. Allow extra time or omit part of the lesson.

PRAY: Begin with a brief prayer. Ask God to guide you as you teach the lesson today.

OPEN: Ask the children if any of them have seen a show called “Extreme Makeover – Home Edition”? Let the children briefly share what they have seen.

“Which house does the family like better: The Old House which is the house before they redo it? OR The New Remodeled House?” (*Obviously they like the new house better!*)

As Christians, we are like the houses that get an extreme makeover! Our “New Self” is very different from our “Old Self”. Our “Old Self” is the way we were before we prayed to ask Jesus to live in our lives and be our Lord and Savior.

BIBLE: Explain to the children that today they are going to be studying some verses that they have probably never read before! These verses teach some very important truths that God wants us to know!

Here are some questions to *ask before reading*:

"What does the word 'crucified' mean?" *(To die on the cross.)*

"Who do you know that was crucified?" *(Jesus.)*

"What does 'sin' mean?" *(To do what we want rather than what God wants. Examples include to lie, be selfish, hit someone, etc.)*

"What is a slave?" *(Someone who is "owned" by another person and must do what they are told to do. He/she serves the owner rather than living a life doing what they want.)*

Now, let the children turn in their Bibles to Romans chapter 6. Have five volunteers read **Romans 6:6, 7, 11-13** out loud as the other children follow along in their Bibles. *(If you are short on time, omit verses 12 and 13.)*

Discuss each verse as it is read. Here are some suggested questions that you could *ask*:

Verse 6:

"When verse 6 says that 'our old self was crucified with Him', who does the 'Him' refer to?" *(Jesus.)*

"If you are a Christian, what is your 'old self'?" *(The habitually sinful or selfish way you acted before you became a Christian)*

"So, what does verse 6 mean by 'our old self was crucified with Him'?" *(When we became a Christian, we chose to give up our old lifestyle or way of living. Now, we try to be like Jesus and live like the Bible says. It's like our old way of life died with Jesus on the cross.)*

Verse 7:

"What does it mean to change from being a 'slave to sin' to being 'free from sin'?" *(Slaves must obey their masters. No longer must we obey our desires to sin. Christians have God's strength and power to help them resist "obeying sin".)*

Verse 11:

"If we are dead to sin, what does the Bible say we should be alive to?" *(Alive to God in Christ Jesus.)*

"What does it mean to be 'alive to God in Christ Jesus'?" *(That we will obey what Jesus wants us to do rather than obeying what sin wants us to do or what we ourselves want to do.)*

Verse 12, 13:

"How does the Bible say we should present ourselves to God?" *(As instruments of righteousness)*

"What are 'instruments of righteousness'?" *(Instruments are like tools and remember righteousness means to do right or to be right with God. So, God wants us to be available to Him to obey God and do what is right.)*

CRUCIFY: Ask the children to name some sins. List them on the board as they are called out. Examples may include:

lying stealing calling people names making fun of someone	cussing losing your temper cheating hitting others	not loving others disobeying not sharing with others not praying
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Give each child a small piece of paper. Tell them to write down at least one sin that they have committed recently or that they seem to be tempted with regularly. Then, let them fold the papers in half.

At the front of the room, show the cross. Give each child a chance to "crucify" their sin by hammering their paper with a small hammer and nail/tack to the cross. Children do not need to drive the nail all the way into the wood. A few taps will suffice. *(If you do not have a cork board, you can tape the papers or nail them into a wooden cross.)*

After every child has had an opportunity *(if they want to)* to crucify their sins, lead them in a prayer that God will forgive these sins and help the children not to commit them again. *(Adults are encouraged to participate as well.)*

READ: Refer to the opening discussion about the show "Extreme Makeover – Home Edition". Ask the children the following:

"What would the families think if they came back and the outside of the house looked beautiful, but the inside was the same?" *(They would be disappointed and would not like it!)*

"If that happened, would the house really be a 'New House'?" *(No.)*

"If you are truly a Christian, will your outside or your inside be 'new' or 'transformed'?" *(Both!!)*

Let 2 volunteers read **Romans 12:1, 2**. Talk about what these verses mean.

Talk about how God wants us to treat our bodies well and to use our abilities to serve God. For example, we need to:

- Eat foods that are good for us
- Brush teeth daily
- Exercise
- Avoid things that will harm our bodies like alcohol, cigarettes, and illegal drugs

We can use our bodies to do work for God like:

- Going to church - Carrying someone's groceries - Raking the yard - Taking out the trash	- Telling others about Jesus - Reading the Bible - Drawing Pictures for church or to encourage people - Singing praises to God
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Now talk about the difference between being *conformed* and *transformed*. Conform means to take the same shape or outline OR bring into agreement or harmony. Transform means to change completely or essentially in composition OR to change in character or condition.

Give the following demonstration as you try to help the children understand the difference between conform and transform. Talk about changing water. Show the children a glass of water. Change the shape of the water several times by pouring it into different and unique containers. Tell the children that the water is conforming to different shapes. Now it may look different, but actually the water is still water. It may even appear to be a different color in a colored glass, but it still the same water. Now pour some form of drink mix into the water like fruit punch. Explain how the water not only looks different -- it is different. The water has been transformed into a delicious drink.

Explain how God does not want us to try to keep changing the way we act or what we wear or what we do to try to be like the things or people in this world. When you try to change to be like that then you are conforming to the world. God does want us to be transformed. Just like drink mix powder was poured into the water to transform it, God wants to pour Jesus into us so that we can be transformed to become like Jesus.

COLLAGES: PREP: Before the children arrive, set up the work area. Prepare at least 2 places with overhead projectors or lamps in proper position. The light will shine on a wall where you have taped large, black or white pieces of Construction paper (*up to 11" x 17"*). The children will need a chair (*or stool*) to sit on, so that they can remain as still as possible while you trace the outline of their heads. Chalk works well to trace with on black or a black felt tip pen on white.

At the tables where the children will be working, have the materials they need already laid out for them. I recommend having pages torn out of magazines. This will save a lot of time, potential embarrassment, and keep the children more focused on proper pictures. Have a variety of pictures for them to choose from. Also, have lots of words that the children can use in their collages. You may even print some from your computer. They will also need scissors, glue, and chalk/markers for writing their names.



Say something like: "**Romans 12:2** says to 'be transformed by the renewing of your mind'. So, now that we have 'crucified' our sins, we need to replace those sinful habits with godly things. We need to put good things into our mind."

"We are going to make a collage of godly things that God wants us to have in our mind to remind us to be transformed."

Show the children an example of a collage you have made. Briefly talk about the things you put into your "mind". You may have included things such as: Bible, church, prayer, happy family, love, good foods, praise songs, exercise, positive words, etc. Show the children how the larger pictures should be placed on the bottom so that the smaller ones are glued on top. In a collage, pictures are to overlap. Also, all the pictures should not be rectangular. Encourage them to cut various shapes.

As the children begin finding and cutting out pictures, have two come up at a time for leaders to trace their profile. They really seem to enjoy this part! *You may need to hold their heads still as you trace.*

As children have enough items to go into their profile, let the children glue them onto the construction paper. *(Some pieces will need to be trimmed to exactly fit the outline.)* Children do not need to fill every single space in their profiles. Do remind them to write their name and the date somewhere on the picture!!

Last, let the children glue the strip with the Bible verse at the very bottom or top of their construction paper.

Since you will not have time to sing, quietly play Christian songs as the children work.

CLOSE: If you have time, let the children tell about the things they put in their "minds". Close with prayer that each one will be transformed to the image of God by the renewing of their minds.

Pass out this week's FUNSHEET. Close with prayer.

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. *Romans 12:2a (NIV)*

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