

Dying to Live

Transformation in Jesus

Romans 6:1-14 NIV

Bible Lesson & Activities for Children



THE **SUNDAY SCHOOL** STORE

Transformed: New Life in Christ



We are all dead! Dead to sin, that is...this lesson focuses on the joy we have in knowing that the death and resurrection of Jesus changes our lives and gives us the hope that we are a new creation. Children understand the concept of change, and see it all around them. Use familiar “transforming” items such as animals and food products to demonstrate how things can be made utterly different. In a similar way, our lives become changed when we allow Jesus to live and work through them.

As Christians, we know that we share in the death of Jesus through baptism. We share in His resurrection, too! Thanks to the sacrifice and life of Jesus, we are free from former sins. We are not slaves to sin anymore. We still make mistakes, of course, but Jesus washes those away and makes us clean. We are united with Him in death and resurrection, so we can live like a new creation! The law does not rule over us, but grace.

Passage: Romans 6:1-14

Target Audience: Kindergarten-6th grade

Materials Needed: Construction paper; decorative supplies; glue; markers or crayons; tape; scissors; paper bags; tissue paper; coffee filters; sponges; food items that change; pictures of “transforming” animals; Bibles.

More Resources Online

- Watch the [video demonstration of the object lesson](#).
- Watch the [video example for the craft projects](#).
- Watch the [video Bible story “Jesus Song”](#) from Saddleback Kids Club
- Watch the [video Bible Bible story “Jesus Loves Everyone”](#) from Crossroads Kids
- For more free illustrations, visit [Christian Clip Arts](#) and [Ministry-To-Children](#)

Object Lesson (5 minutes)

Greet children and discuss things that change...

Hello, children of God!

What do I have here? *Hold up a food item that has changed from something else, like ketchup from tomatoes, pickles from cucumbers, chips from tortillas, etc.* Now, do you know what this was before it became this way? Hold up the item of origin. That's right, believe it or not, this pickle used to be a simple cucumber! It has gone through a change to become this way, soaking in some special spices and juices to take on a new flavor. It's almost like this cucumber was baptized—but more on baptism later. Do you think the pickle could go back and become a cucumber again? Of course not. That's silly to think about. And besides, who would choose a cucumber over a pickle?

There are other things in the natural world that undergo change and transformation. For example, there are some animals that experience huge alterations. *Hold up pictures as you discuss.* Here is a beautiful butterfly. Before this, though, this creature was just a simple caterpillar, wiggling around eating leaves. Can this butterfly crawl back into its chrysalis and become a worm again? No, and it wouldn't want to! It can fly now! Or look at this frog...would it go back to swimming around like a tadpole? No! Not when it can jump around. These animals have gone through a transformation into something new and wonderful. They wouldn't go back to the old ways of being.

Did you know that, as Christians, we experience a special transformation, too? We don't grow wings (that would be cool), but our lives change from knowing Jesus. He takes our sins and trades them in for new life. If you have been baptized, you can remember that baptism is like "dying," almost. We have died to our old sins and selves, and coming up

out of the water is like the resurrection of Jesus. Because He died and rose again, we die and come back to life! Our sinful ways don't hold us captive anymore.

Once we lose those sins, we shouldn't want to go back to that way of living. Just like a frog doesn't want to be a tadpole again, how could we desire to be slaves to sin? Now, unfortunately, this doesn't mean we never sin anymore. We will still make mistakes. We still do things we shouldn't. But those things don't control us, because God has power in our lives. He has already forgiven our trespasses, past, present, and future. When we sin, we can always come back and pray for forgiveness.

We are a new creation, so we should live that way! When we are tempted to do the wrong thing, we can cling to the hope we have in Jesus. He has made us new and made us for Himself. We belong to the Lord. His grace covers our lives completely. So live it out in joy and gladness!

Prayer: (Invite the children to repeat each line)

Dear God,

Thank you for giving us new life.

We are freed from sin and transformed in you.

Please help us to live as people with new lives.

Thank you for your love

We love you, God!

In Jesus name, Amen!

Game & Activities Suggestions

(10 minutes)



This Bible lesson teaches how we are transformed and made new by Jesus. He gives us new life, trading our sins for blessings. Consider a few simple activities to kick things off:

- Have a large cross cut out of cardboard or drawn on paper. Invite students to write down sins and mistakes they have made, and then “nail” (tape or write) them to the cross, showing that Jesus has paid for our sins on the cross.
- Remembering baptism...discuss baptism (for students who have been baptized) and why it is important and reminds us of new life in Jesus.
- Remembering baptism...uniquely! Play a water game (especially if the weather is hot) to recall the joy of baptism and how it cleanses our sins. Consider a sponge relay (passing a wet sponge and squeezing into a container), “leaky cup relay”, or even a water balloon toss.
- Trading up: Give children an old worn out item, or an empty paper wrapper. Then trade them for something new and better, or a treat inside, to show how God takes our sins and gives us new life.
- Washed clean: watch a powerful object lesson of sin cleansing. Show students a jar with colored water (use food coloring). Demonstrate how the water is made clean by pouring bleach inside. When we have Christ in our lives, our sins are wiped out and we are made new and clean!

Share with students that this lesson comes from the book of Romans, and focuses on how we are made new and clean in Jesus. We give up the old sinful ways and have new life in Christ!

Main Bible Teaching

(15 minutes)



This passage from the book of Romans reminds us of the importance of salvation through grace. Students can know that they have new life in Christ, and are not slaves to sin. For younger students, explain verses as they are read. Older students can take turns reading the parts of the passage in turn.

Romans 6:1-4 NIV *What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? (2) By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? (3) Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? (4) We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.*

If students have been baptized, this is a great opportunity to discuss the importance and significance of baptism, celebrating our “death” and “resurrection with Jesus. Even without baptism, though, children can be glad for freedom from sin. These verses remind us that Jesus has covered our sins. They are behind us. Some people think that because we have been forgiven, we should just keep sinning with reckless abandon, knowing that God takes away our sins. This passage explains how silly that concept is. Yes, we make mistakes and God forgives them, but we shouldn't even want to sin. Those ways should be behind us, because life with Jesus is so much better! We want to please and bless Him with our lives.

Ask: What are some things that get new life? (Think of butterflies, plants, etc.). Those things wouldn't want to go back to their old ways. Neither should we! We are made new!

Romans 6:5-7 NIV *For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. (6) For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin— (7) because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.*

Invite children to consider what it would be like to be trapped or tied to something. Would you want to be kept in captivity? Of course not! This reminds us that we are not slaves anymore. We don't have to be stuck in sins, but can be set free. No one would willingly want to be a slave. We are free in Jesus! We are also united with Him. He has made us new!

Ask: What would you do if you were suddenly set free from something that had you held down?

Romans 6:8-11 NIV *Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. (9) For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. (10) The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. (11) In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.*

Death has no dominion. That means we don't have to fear death, because it doesn't control us anymore. We are alive in Jesus. He is our master and controller, more powerful than sin, death, or destruction. Jesus is our ruler and gives us life!

Ask: What does new life mean? How can you celebrate being a new creation?

Romans 6:12-14 NIV *Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. (13) Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought*

from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness. (14) For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace.

This reminds us to live as free people, not as slaves. Our whole lives should demonstrate that we have been made new and don't live in sin anymore. Yes, we sometimes sin. But God forgives us! We are not ruled by those old mistakes. We should live in grace, rejoicing in the new life that Jesus gives us.

Ask: How can we serve God with our whole lives? How could you honor Him in body, action, and spirit?

Close with prayer, thanking God for giving us new life in Jesus.

Craft Activities (15 minutes)

Because of our identity in Jesus, we have died to our sins and have new life through the power of Christ's resurrection. As Christians, we are transformed by our identity in Jesus and given a new freedom in Him, apart from the old self and slavery to sin. These crafts celebrate those truths from Romans 6:1-11. A "Sprouting up New Poster" uses seeds and flowers as the analogy of new life in Christ. A "Butterfly in a Bag" considers how we are a new creation because of Jesus.

Craft one: "Sprouting up New Poster"

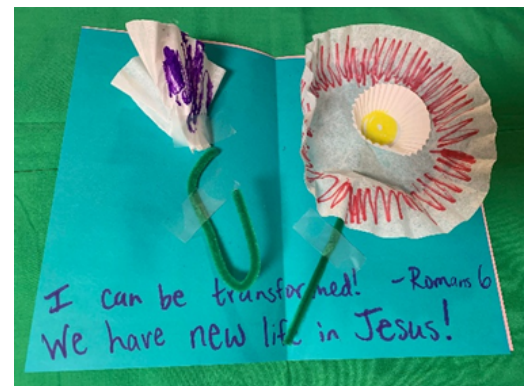
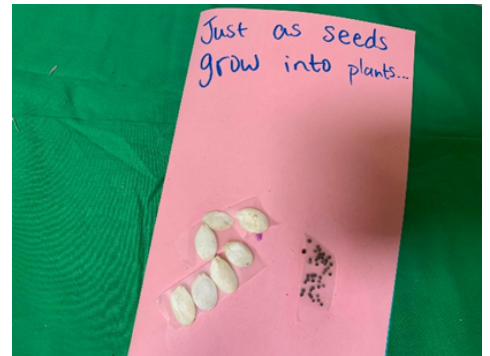
You will need:

- Construction paper/cardstock
- Seeds (of any type, "glue-able" size)
- Crayons and markers
- Coffee filters and/or cupcake liners
- Pipe cleaners
- Glue or tape



Procedure:

1. Fold a piece of paper or cardstock in half widthwise.
Option: glue two different colored pieces of paper together prior to folding.
2. On the outer side of the card, glue or tape several seeds. Add verses and captions to acknowledge the significance of the seeds.
3. Inside the card, create a sprouting garden: make flowers out of coffee filters or cupcake liners. Attach pipe cleaners for stems.
4. Add extra verses or captions inside with the flowers.



Craft Two: "Butterfly in a Bag"

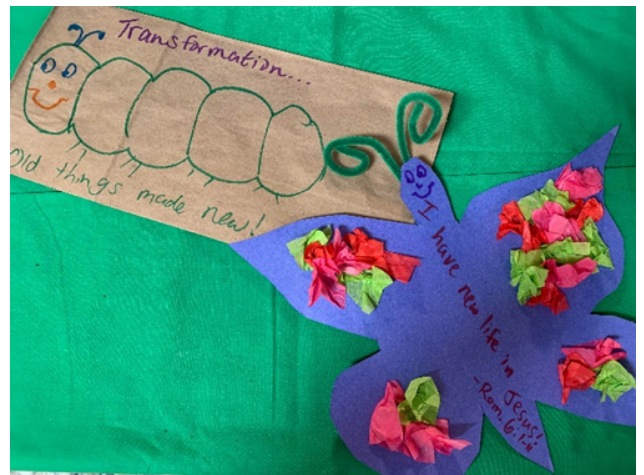
You will need:

- Paper bags
- Construction paper/cardstock
- Pipe cleaners
- Glue or tape
- Markers or crayons
- Tissue paper



Procedure:

1. Decorate the paper bag to look like a chrysalis, adding verses or captions.
2. Extra option: draw or cut and paste a caterpillar to the outside of the bag.
3. Cut a butterfly shape out of a piece of paper or cardstock.
4. Add features to the face and wings. Attach curled pipe cleaners for antennae.
5. Take pieces of bright tissue paper and crunch up, gluing onto the wings with each piece of tissue.
6. Place the butterfly in the chrysalis and remove to celebrate transformation and new life in Christ!



Romans 6:8 NIV

*Now if we died with Christ, we believe that
we will also live with Him.*





Now if we died
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Word Search Puzzle

Grace - Christ - Members - Transform - Freedom - Newness

Baptize - Righteous - Instrument - Dominion - Life - Sin

R I G H T E O U S X I
I I K U Z R C O Y X N
F L I B N G H H Y S S
Z W F B C S R D G T T
H A R N A R I A E O R
H C E M E P S N C H U
C T E Z L W T Y I E M
V G D O M I N I O N E
Q U O H F X F E Z T N
M E M B E R S E S E T
T R A N S F O R M S D

Word Search Answers

