

LESSON 2

Bible Study for Children

Stewardship of Life

–Carole Green–

Bible Passage: Romans 12:1-2

Memory Verse: Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Romans 12:2 (NIV)
(Use the translation of your choice.)

Every Sunday School class for children needs a minimum of two teachers. If you have more than 10 children, a ratio of one teacher to every 5 children is desirable. All teachers should plan together for each Sunday's lesson. Each teacher will select a "Beginning Activity" and a "Bible Application" activity to plan and teach. One teacher, usually the department director, will lead the "Large Group Time."

Before the Session

Teachers Preparation

1. Read Romans 11:33 – 12:2 in several different translations. Whenever a passage begins with the word, "therefore (12:1)," it is always good to read the preceding verses. The last 4 verses of chapter 12 are a hymn or doxology to God in praise of His wisdom and knowledge.
2. Choose a translation for the memory verse and memorize it yourself.
3. Write the following words on 3 by 5 cards, or any other paper. Put one phrase to a card.
 - On the playground at school
 - In your bedroom by yourself
 - With your friend in the backseat of your car
 - In the parking lot at the grocery store
 - In the hallway between Sunday School and church
 - In your school classroom with a substitute teacher
 - In the worship service at church
 - In your neighborhood

Put the cards in a colorful sack or gift bag.

During the Session

Beginning Activities (10-15 minutes)

(Choose activities that are appropriate for the children you teach. Have these activities ready and begin teaching when the first child arrives.)

1. Using both a Bible Dictionary and a regular dictionary, lead children to look up the unknown words from Romans 1:1-2. Be sure to include "sacrifice," "conform," "transform," and any other words your children do not understand. Designate one wall of the classroom as the "word wall" and post these definitions along with the definitions from last week's lesson.

Supplies: Bibles, Bible Dictionary, dictionary, poster board or large pieces of paper, markers

2. Let the children make a Bible bookmark on a small piece of cardstock or construction paper. Have them write today's Bible verse on the bookmark. Provide small stickers with pictures of a map of the world or a globe that they can put on the bookmark.

Supplies: Bibles, 3 inch by 6 inch pieces of cardstock or construction paper, map or globe stickers, markers

3. Using 3 by 5 cards (or other paper), write one word of the Memory Verse on each card. Let the children take turns putting the words in the right order. You can do the same with last week's Memory Verse as a review.

Supplies: Bibles, cards, markers

Large Group Time (15-20 minutes)

- Briefly review of last week's lesson. Point to the definitions of "steward" and "stewardship" that should still be on the "word wall." If a Bible Application Activity group did the drama last week, allow them to show their video or still pictures and tell about it.
- Ask the children to open their Bibles to today's Memory Verse. Read it aloud together. Point to the "word wall" and ask the children who wrote the definitions today to read them. Practice saying the Memory Verse by dividing the children into two groups. The first group says the first phrase from memory, and the other group answers with the second phrase. Then swap phrases. Be sure to always include the Bible reference.
- Tell the children that today's Bible passage is not a story. Read Romans 12:1-2. Tell the children that Paul wrote these words.

Bible Study

Paul was the first missionary mentioned in the New Testament. He traveled to many different cities and countries telling people about Jesus. In some of the cities where he went, the people who became believers in Jesus started new churches. Because of his travels, Paul knew people in many different churches. He wrote many letters to these churches to help them know more about how to live the Christian life.

Many of the books of the New Testament are Paul's letters. The book of Romans is one of Paul's longest letters. He wrote it to the people of the church in Rome. He wanted them to know about the good news of Jesus. In this letter he emphasized that this good news is for everyone. It does not matter if a person is a man or a woman, nor does it matter what color this skin is nor what country he is from.

Paul loved God deeply and he wrote a song, also called a doxology, about Him. (Read, or ask a child to read, Romans 11:33-36.) In this song Paul is praising God. Everything exists because of God.

Because of who our great and wonderful God is, we should worship Him. Paul says we should give our bodies as living sacrifices. He is not talking only about our physical body. He means that we should give God our whole self – that includes our body and our mind (thoughts). In the Old Testament times people who loved God offered dead animal sacrifices to Him. Paul says that Jesus was the greatest sacrifice. So because of what Jesus did for us, we do not need to sacrifice animals to God anymore. Now God wants us to give our whole selves to Him. We should put aside our desires so that we can follow Him.

We are not to copy the behavior of the people in the world who do not know Jesus. We are to even think differently than they do. When we think about Jesus and seek to follow

Him, our minds are changed or transformed. When this happens we can know what God wants us to do. And we will know how good it is to do what He wants us to do.

- Lead in a time of prayer, or ask a child to pray. Ask God to help us all remember the truth of the Bible Verse we have learned today.
- Divide the children into pairs. Pass around the colorful bag with the phrases in it that you have already prepared. Each pair of children will select one of the cards. Ask them to work together. Each pair is to answer these two questions.
 - 1) In the place listed on your card, what might someone do who is conformed to the world (does not follow Jesus)?
 - 2) In the place listed on your card, what might someone do whose mind is transformed (changed) by God?

Allow a couple of minutes for each pair to prepare their answer. Then go around the group and have them share their answers. Encourage discussion when appropriate.

- Give instructions for the Bible Application Activities. Let each teacher briefly explain the activity he/she has selected. Give each child the opportunity to choose an activity.

Bible Application Activities (15-20 minutes)

Select the activities that are appropriate for your students. Plan for at least two of the activities, and allow the children to make a choice.

1. A mirror accessory – the purpose of this activity is for the children to make something that will remind them of the truth of Romans 12:2, every time they look in the mirror. Use a 5 inch square piece of stiff poster board, core board, mat board, or whatever you have available. Using markers or other decorative writing implements, let the children design their projects in creative ways. They can write “Transformed, Not Conformed,” or any other memorable phrase that will remind them of this verse. Tell the children to take them home and put it on their mirror in their bedroom or bathroom. You can provide double-sided foam tape for the back of this accessory, if you choose.

Supplies: 5 inch square of poster board, or other material; markers or other writing implements; double-sided foam tape

2. A mobile – make a “Ways I Can Offer My Life to God” mobile. A small group of children can make one mobile together, or each child can make his own mobile. Provide small pieces of construction paper, or other sturdy paper. Lead children to list ways they can offer their lives to God. Allow them to write these ways or illustrate them on the small pieces of paper. Attach a string or piece of yarn to the paper and tie it to a clothes hanger.

Supplies: construction paper or poster board, markers, yarn, clothes hangers

3. A montage -- make a “Ways I Can Offer My Life to God” montage. A montage is a single-concept picture or design created with pictures and/or words. A small group of children can do this together, or each child can make her own montage. Provide a poster board for each montage. Let children write the montage title on the poster board using markers. The children can cut pictures from magazines, old teaching pictures, or other sources to illustrate their montage. Glue or tape the pictures to the poster board.

Supplies: poster board, markers, old magazines, glue, scissors

Cleanup and Dismissal