



OPERATION TRANSFORMATION

DAY TWO

A **Vacation Bible School** Curriculum for the Church of the Nazarene, Inc.

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Table of Contents

Week at a Glance	4
Leadership Meeting	6
Opening & Welcome	8
Opening Skit	10
Transformation Stations	14
Mission Brief.....	14
Evidence Vault.....	17
Craft Lab.....	20
Recharge Station.....	21
Agent Training Field.....	23
Infiltration Service Project.....	25
Closing Skit	26

Week at a Glance

“Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind...”
Romans 12:2a

	DAY 1	DAY 2	DAY 3	DAY 4
PASSCODE	Jesus' love transforms my identity	Jesus' power transforms my life	Jesus' presence transforms my choices	Jesus' call transforms my mission
FOCUS	Salvation	Sanctification (Initial)	Sustaining	Sending
ICON	 Thumbprint	 Footprint	 Flashlight	 Cross
AT A GLANCE FOR TEACHERS	God gives us new life through Jesus. Saul the murderer becomes “Brother Paul” the Christian.	Jesus leads me where I never imagined. As I trust and follow Him, Jesus transforms me.	Jesus is always with me. He equips me with wisdom, provides for my needs, and shows me the next step when I persevere.	God calls me to share my transformation with others.
BIBLE STORY	Saul's transformation Acts 9:1-19	Saul meets the disciples in Jerusalem Acts 9:20-30	God works through Paul in prison Acts 16:16-34	Paul remembers God's call Acts 22:1-16
MEMORY VERSE	Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. John 1:12	My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. John 10:27	He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way. Psalm 25:9	Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ... John 17:3a

	DAY 1	DAY 2	DAY 3	DAY 4
MUSIC	<p>Theme song</p> <p>Today's memory verse song</p> <p>Optional worship song theme: <i>Jesus our Savior and God's love</i></p>	<p>Theme song</p> <p>Today's memory verse song</p> <p>Optional worship song theme: <i>Jesus our Lord; surrender; or trust</i></p>	<p>Theme song</p> <p>Today's memory verse song</p> <p>Optional worship song theme: <i>Jesus our friend, guide, and strength</i></p>	<p>Theme song</p> <p>Today's memory verse song</p> <p>Optional worship song theme: <i>Jesus our King; our obedience; God's call</i></p>
MISSION BRIEF	Flower Power	Caterpillar Soup	Decode God's Perspective	A Tale of Two Balloons!
CRAFT LAB	Identity Badge	Butterfly Footprints	Invisible Ink	Salvation Bracelet
RECHARGE STATION	Road to Damascus	Sheep Snacks	Paul In Prison Snack Mix	Popcorn Transformation
AGENT TRAINING FIELD	Hold On, Saul! (Statues Game)	Follow Me	I Know My Shoe!	Helper and Friend (3-legged Race)
INFILTRATION SERVICE PROJECT	Giving something that points to new life through Jesus	Doing something that will transform someone's day	Being a help and a friend to someone because Jesus is our Help and Friend	Doing something that will share Jesus with others

DAY TWO

Leadership Meeting

- Greeting and appreciation
- Our goal is to *help kids experience life-transforming encounters with Jesus Christ.*
- Review training meeting highlights (bathroom policy, safety policy, discipline, what to do in case of illness or emergency, releasing children at day's end, etc.). Since the details were provided at a prior training, offer these on a single printed page as a reminder.
- Remind leaders of the special offering project.

Day 2 Overview:

Today's Passcode:

**Jesus' power
transforms my life!**

Today's Theology Focus:

Initial Sanctification
Use every opportunity to weave this into your time with the kids.

Today's Bible Story:

Acts 9:20-30
(read aloud)

Review Today's Memory Verse:

John 10:27

"My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me."

Review Top Secret Hand Signal:

Tap-tap, clap-clap, snap-snap, SHHHHHH!

Pat palms on top of legs two times, clap hands two times, snap fingers two times, and place finger to lips while shushing.
NOTE: some people have difficulty snapping their fingers; encourage them to close all four fingers onto their palms.

- Review today's songs. Motions to John 10:27-28a are included on the media section of nazarene.org/vbs.
- Review today's schedule.
- Questions, comments, or concerns?
- Close with prayer at least 15 minutes before start time.

OUR PRAYER FOR YOU:

Father God, we worship You for Who You are.

There is no one like You, Who loves, seeks, and saves the lost.

All of our preparation has brought us to this moment.

Now, Father, bring the children You know need to be here today.

Cut out all distractions so the Good News will go forth without hindrance.

Give us ears to hear Your Spirit and the right words to communicate Your love to the children.

Help us remember what we have prepared to present to the children today.

Give us the energy and enthusiasm to make Your Word

as exciting, engaging, and powerful as it truly is.

We pray the children will fall in love with You and with Your Word.

Draw them by Your grace into a right relationship with you.

Grant us strength to carry out Your work here today.

Protect these kids and these workers.

Take care of our families at home while we seek to expand your Kingdom here.

May Your Kingdom come and Your will be done here today.

We will be careful to give You all the glory.

In Jesus' name and for the sake of His Kingdom,

Amen.

Opening & Welcome

Be prepared to transition quickly from music to dialogue to music to skit to keep attention focused.

Sing Theme Song and Day 1 Song with Hand Motions

Starting with music engages everyone's attention and participation.

Welcome

The following is a suggested script:

Director: Welcome to Day Two of *Operation Transformation*! I am Special Agent _____ and it's great to see you again! It looks like we have some new friends with us today, so let's teach them our *Operation Transformation* top secret hand signal. This signal tells us to stop, look, and listen. If you have anything in your hands, put it under your chair or the chair in front of you. Leaders first! Stand up, leaders! Ready, set, go!

Tap-tap, clap-clap, snap-snap, SHHHHHH!

Alright! Now everybody stand up and let's try it all together when I say, "Go." Ready, set, go!
(Pause)

YES! That was OUTSTANDING! All right, everybody sit down.



Offering

Director: We are doing something VERY special this week! We are receiving an offering each day to help God's people share the Good News of Jesus with others. All the money you give this week will help kids everywhere join the mission through the Kids Reaching Kids offering project. *(Explain your mission project. You can find information about the Kids Reaching Kids Offering at nazarene.org/sdmi.)*

Through *Operation Transformation*, we are going to MAKE A DIFFERENCE in the lives of girls and boys around the world! Pretty cool, right? In a minute, some special agents are going to teach us our theme song for the week. So when you hear the music begin, follow your leader to bring your offering—and be sure to put it in the right place! If you don't have anything to give today, follow your leader anyway and be sure to bring it tomorrow. We'll all meet back here before we go home and we'll find out then who gave the most: the GIRLS or the BOYS!

(Play the theme song and receive the offering. Use this time to make any other special announcements. When everyone has returned to their seats, lead them in the top secret hand signal to get their attention.)

Great job everyone! That was the official *Operation Transformation* theme song. Our new friends didn't get a chance to learn it yet, so let's help them out. Everybody please welcome our special agent worship team!

Sing Theme Song with Hand Motions

Sing Day 2 Song with Hand Motions

Opening Skit

Props & Characters:

- **Special agent lockbox**
- **Butterfly picture** (found in the resource section of nazarene.org/vbs). This is placed in the lockbox with an NIV Bible beforehand.
- **1-2 chairs**
- **1 large magnifying glass**
- **1 large envelope**, marked "Top Secret"
- **1 gold watch** (or the watch prop found in the resource section of nazarene.org/vbs). This will be used for the closing skit.
- **Special Agent Tre** (Code Name: Trinity); dressed like a spy, with a hat and sunglasses
- **Agent-In-Training Buddy** (Code Name: Barnabas); dressed in street clothes but now wearing a hat like Tre
- **Agent Strange**; dressed as much like Tre as possible

Note: Use any additional props available to increase interest. Encourage the characters to move often and to use the whole platform/stage.

Dialogue:

Agent Tre: Hi kids! It's great to see you again! I have something super fun to show you in the special agent lockbox!

Buddy: *(Comes tiptoeing in, looking at invisible footprints on the ground with a magnifying glass. Intent on following the footprints, Buddy runs into Tre, bonks his head, and looks up surprised, not realizing he was following Tre's path.)*

Oh, Agent Tre! It's you! Oh, man, what *IS* today's passcode? Oh yeah! *(Stands at attention)* **Jesus' power transforms my life!** I wasn't sure this special agent magnifying glass would actually work...but it really does because I was able to follow YOUR tracks. YES!

Agent Tre: It's good to see you, Buddy! I have something to show you. *(Tre goes to the lockbox and starts to scan his thumbprint.)*

Agent Strange: *(Enters holding out an envelope to Tre)* Agent Tre? I have special orders for you from the Boss.

Buddy: Another special agent? Oh, this should be good! (*Buddy plops down on the chair for a good "show." During the next dialogue, Buddy exaggeratedly looks back and forth between each speaker as if watching a tennis match.*)

Agent Tre: (*Confused*) Orders from the Boss? But He always gives me my orders Himself.

Agent Strange: (*A bit hesitant*)...Uh...Yes, I know, but this time He wanted me to deliver them to you.

Agent Tre: (*Looking the envelope over*) Well...these LOOK like the orders I get from the Boss...(Opens the envelope, pulls out a letter, and reads it to himself while moving his lips.) But they don't sound at all like the Boss's orders. I need to call Him to verify.

Agent Strange: (*Looks scared*) NO! YOU CAN'T...I mean...you don't NEED to do that, Agent Trinity. After all, the Agent Handbook says in Isaiah 1:19 that "you will eat the good of the land **if you obey.**" That means you should follow orders without question!

Agent Tre: Whoa! Now hang on just a minute! Jesus came to take away our sins, not our minds! I always follow the Boss's orders without question. What I'm questioning right now is whether these really are the Boss's orders! The Handbook also says in 1 Thessalonians 5:21 that I am to "test everything and hold fast to what is good." Before I do anything, I need to make sure these orders are the real deal, because counterfeiting the Boss' orders is exactly the kind of sneaky, lowdown, underhanded, dirty trick that Deceptor would try. So you just wait a minute while I check in with the Boss. (*Takes off his shoe to "make a call."*)

Agent Strange: (*Now very nervous*) I was told to deliver that envelope and that's exactly what I did. So I have done my job and I am OUT of here. (*Hurries offstage*)

Agent Tre: (*Into his shoe*) **Jesus' power transforms my life!** Boss, this is Agent Tre. A stranger just handed me an envelope and said he was delivering special orders from You. He looked like an agent, but I've never seen him before. No sir, he did not identify himself. Now that you mention it, he didn't give today's passcode either, and I should have asked for that right away. That's on me, sir, but that's why I'm calling. So You didn't send him? That's what I suspected, because those so-called "orders" didn't sound like anything You would ask me to do. Thank you, sir, I appreciate that! Goodbye to You, sir. (*Tre puts his shoe back on and rips up the envelope.*)

Buddy: Whoa, wait a minute! What just happened? (*Buddy stands up, interested.*)

Agent Tre: Well, Buddy, I don't know who that fellow was, but he was NOT a special agent and those were NOT orders from the Boss! I messed up by not asking him for today's passcode. That's why we need to be self-controlled and alert, because you never know when Deceptor's going to try to pull a fast one on you.

Buddy: But how did you KNOW he wasn't an agent and those weren't orders from the Boss? He sure looked like an agent. And he even quoted the Agent Handbook!

Agent Tre: That's true, Buddy, but always remember that Deceptor is a master of disguises. And he quoted from the Handbook when he tried to tempt the Boss Himself! If all it took to be a special agent was to dress like one and memorize a few lines in the Handbook, we'd all be in trouble. But it's not just what's on the outside that counts, it's what's on the inside!

Buddy: But how can we keep from being fooled?

Agent Tre: Well, for starters, there's the daily passcode. But the main thing is spending time with the Boss. The more time I spend with Him, the easier it is to tell the difference between good and evil and right and wrong. Always remember that people have quoted bits and pieces of the Agent Handbook for years to justify whatever they want to do. That's why it's important to know the WHOLE Handbook and not just a few favorite parts.

Buddy: That ability to tell the difference between good and evil and right and wrong—is that some kind of super power that only a few special agents have?

Agent Tre: Oh, no Buddy! The Boss gives that ability to all of His agents. That's why it's called *Operation Transformation!*

Remember when Agent Paul was called Saul and he was arresting all the Christians? It was only after he encountered Jesus that he realized what he was doing was wrong.

Buddy: I remember! Saul was told to go to a certain house on Straight Street, and then this guy named Ananias came and placed his hands on him, told him what God said, and suddenly he could see again.

Agent Tre: Wow, Buddy! You really were listening during yesterday's lesson! That's very impressive! When Saul met Jesus, everything changed, because that's what Jesus does! What's today's passcode?

Buddy: **Jesus' power transforms my life!**

Agent Tre: Exactly!

Buddy: What happened next? To Saul...or Paul...or whatever his name was! (*Buddy sits down, interested*)

Agent Tre: Well, he stayed with the people Jesus sent him to live with, because he knew he had a lot to learn. He knew how to *persecute* Christians, but he didn't know how to *be* one! But before long he was telling people what Jesus had done for him and openly declaring that Jesus is the Son of God! That really made his old friends mad because they still hated Jesus and they really hated anyone who said Jesus was God's Son. So they made plans to kill Saul. But the Boss warned him about their plans.

Buddy: How did he get away?

Agent Tre: His new Christian friends waited until it got dark, then they lowered him over the city wall in a big basket. That's how he escaped!

Buddy: Yes! (*Fist pumps*) Man, that was close! But I guess he had to lay low after that so he couldn't preach anymore or tell people about Jesus.

Agent Tre: No way! Saul the persecutor had become Paul the special agent, and he was on a mission from God! Once he discovered the truth about Jesus, that truth had set him free! So he wanted everyone else to know it too, so they could be transformed like him!

Buddy: He did a total 180! He went from hating Jesus and His followers to *becoming* a Jesus-follower! Talk about a radical transformation. People must have thought he was crazy.

Agent Tre: I know. It doesn't really make sense until you actually *know Jesus* yourself and then it makes perfect sense...but only afterwards. Look at this! (*"Scans" thumb print on the lockbox and takes out the butterfly picture.*)

Buddy: OK...It's a butterfly! What does that have to do with today's lesson?

Agent Tre: You'll find out in the Mission Brief! Hang on! (*Takes off his shoe and answers the "phone"*) **Jesus' power transforms my life!** Yes, sir! I'll leave right away.

Buddy: Another mission?

Agent Tre: Yes indeed! Want to come?

Buddy: Absolutely!!! (*Buddy jumps up and runs after Tre*) See you later, kids!

Director: I wonder what their mission is today! I hope they are back in time for our closing! In the meantime, we had better get to our Transformation Stations; we have a lot to learn today.

Closing:

If time allows, sing 1-2 songs focused on sanctifying power, Jesus our Lord, surrender, or trust.

End with Day 2 Song, "*John 10:27-28a, My sheep listen to my voice,*" with hand motions.

Kids are dismissed by groups and given any instructions they need to get to their Transformation Station.

Play theme song as children exit.

Transformation Station



MISSION BRIEF: CATERPILLAR SOUP

Learn about the transformation that takes place in a caterpillar as it becomes a butterfly and consider the transformation we experience as we become more and more like Jesus.

Preparation:

- If possible, the leader should wear a **white lab coat**.
- Prepare a **large manila envelope** with "MISSION BRIEF #2" written in large letters on the outside. Place a copy of the **script** inside.
- Have the **flower** from yesterday close by to review as a well as a **picture** of how it looked yesterday.
- Gather copies of the **Mission Brief Day 2 sheet** for every child (found in the resource section of nazarene.org/vbs).
- If possible, be ready to show the **video**.
- Have a current **NIV Bible** with your supplies.

Directions:

View the links below of videos and pictures of the life cycle of the butterfly. Choose which if any you want to show the children. Print the Mission Brief Day 2 sheet for each child if possible. Consider how you want to teach metamorphosis.

Options:

- [youtube.com/watch?v=WcokL7PRrnY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WcokL7PRrnY)
- [youtube.com/watch?v=ocWgSgMGxOc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ocWgSgMGxOc)
- [youtube.com/watch?v=V5RSpMQQOpw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V5RSpMQQOpw)
- Video for older kids or just to equip you as a teacher: [youtube.com/watch?v=AZk6nZGH9Xo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AZk6nZGH9Xo)
- Pictures: thebutterflysite.com/life-cycle.shtml

Review:

Day 1: Jesus' love transforms my identity.

How is our white flower today?

(Draw out the conclusion that the longer you spend "soaking" in the Word of God and being with God's people, the more you begin looking like a child of God. Compare the pictures of the flower placed in the red water yesterday to the flower prepped a week ago. There should be increased transformation over time.)

Mission Brief Summary:

(Feel free to make this your own!)

1. Retell the Saul meets the disciples story in **Acts 9:20-30**. (Jesus' power transformed Saul's life.)
2. Review yesterday. Retell Saul's experience in Damascus, his escape, and his introduction to the disciples in Jerusalem. God's power continued to transform Saul as he spent time with the disciples in Damascus and in Jerusalem. Saul trusted God and followed Him through situations Saul never dreamed he would face. God continued to strengthen Saul's faith and transform him into Christlikeness.
3. Explain the transformation of the caterpillar into a butterfly. This is an example of God's transforming power at work. God's power can also transform us.
4. Invite the children into a transformational relationship with Jesus.

Mission Brief Leader Suggested Script:

(Feel free to adapt to your context.)

Today we will learn even more about transformation. Does anyone remember what Agent Tre pulled out of the lockbox today? *(Pause for answers)*

Right!

Why do you think he told us to study the butterfly today? I'm sure it has something to do with today's special agent passcode: **Jesus' power transforms my life!** A butterfly is an awesome example of one thing being totally transformed into something else. Who knows what this butterfly was before it became a butterfly? *(Pause for answers)*

Right! A caterpillar!

(Go over the life cycle of the butterfly videos or pictures.)

What most people do not realize is that when a caterpillar is in the cocoon in the pupa stage, it does not just grow legs and wings and "poof," become a butterfly. It dissolves into a sort of caterpillar "soup." The caterpillar is made of proteins that are completely disassembled. Miraculously, a butterfly is REMADE from the bits of what used to be something that looked very different. It is like God recycles the caterpillar and reshapes it. God transforms it into a beautiful butterfly.

Perhaps the most amazing thing is that there is scientific evidence that the butterfly has memories of being a caterpillar! So it doesn't totally forget where it came from, even after it has been transformed.

The metamorphosis of the caterpillar helps us to understand what happens when God transforms us through a new relationship with Jesus. When God comes into our lives, He does not just add a few good things to who we already are. He remakes us and gives us an entirely new identity with a new purpose and new priorities. We begin to love the things God loves and want the things that God wants.

Remember our passcode today: **Jesus' power transforms my life!**

Can anyone remember the transformation of Saul?

The Bible says that when Saul could not see, his friends took him into Damascus where he waited for three days without eating or drinking. Saul did just as Jesus had said. He waited until he was told what to do next. Then God sent Ananias, who prayed for Saul and God restored Saul's sight. The first thing Saul did after he could see again was to be baptized. He wanted to show the world that he was now a follower of Jesus. Then it says that Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus.

This time of waiting for Ananias to come when Saul was blind and then the time Saul spent with his new brothers in Christ reminds me of the time a caterpillar spends in his cocoon! It is a time of un-making and re-making. Saul was learning a new way of seeing God and listening to Him. Saul was learning God's ways and God's priorities.

Look what the Bible says in the next two verses! "At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God. All those who heard him were astonished and asked, 'Isn't he the man who raised havoc in Jerusalem among those who call on this name? And hasn't he come here to take them as prisoners to the chief priests?'" (Acts 9:20-21). People were amazed and were witnesses to the fact that the time Saul spent in Jesus' presence had so powerfully transformed him that he was living a completely transformed life. His priorities were completely opposite from where they had been. In fact, Acts 9:22 says, "Saul grew more and more powerful and baffled the Jews living in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Messiah!"

Saul's transformation was so radical that the Jews planned to kill him. Saul's friends helped him escape to Jerusalem. The Christians in Jerusalem did not accept Saul right away. They knew Saul's reputation and were not sure if he could be trusted, but Barnabas spoke up for Saul and the disciples decided to give him a chance. They must have seen how God had transformed Saul's heart and life. Saul went from persecuting Christians to becoming a Christian, from *knowing about* Jesus to *knowing* Jesus as Lord and Savior.

(If appropriate and time allows, leaders should share their transformation story. What was your life like before you came to know Jesus? How are you different now? Share an invitation for children to begin this life of transformation. See Leading a Child to Christ in the resource section of nazarene.org/vbs.)

Seeing a butterfly or a caterpillar can remind us of God's transforming power at work in the world. Let's say today's code together before you head to your next transformation station, **"Jesus' power transforms my life!"**

Transformation Station



EVIDENCE VAULT:
JOHN 10:27

Play the theme song or memory verse song as children enter the room. Open your time with the top secret hand signal.

Supplies:

- Recording of the day's **memory verse song**
- **Memory verse chart**
- Optional **prizes or mission money**
- **Supplies for memory verse game** from the resource section of nazarene.org/vbs

Evidence Vault Leader Suggested Script:

Who remembers today's secret passcode? *(Pause for answers)*

Jesus' power transforms my life!

Our verse today helps us better understand the passcode.

John 10:27

"My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me."

(If time allows and they are catching on quickly, you can add John 10:28a: "I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish.")

These are Jesus' words! Jesus talked in parables or stories to help people understand what He was saying. In those days, where Jesus lived, shepherds were common. Everyone in Jesus' audience understood what He meant when He said, "My sheep listen to my voice; I know them and they follow me."

You see, sheep become very close to their shepherds. Shepherds carefully watch over their sheep and protect them. When their sheep get hurt, shepherds use special oil to help heal them. When sheep get lost, shepherds go looking for them. Shepherds lead sheep carefully because they need special care and could get hurt easily. Sheep recognize the voice of their shepherd. When it is time to gather the flock at night, the shepherd calls to them and they come to him. When two shepherds have been in the field together, they don't have a to be concerned about mixing up their sheep. Sheep will follow the voice of their shepherd. A good shepherd loves his sheep, and his sheep feel safe and will follow him.

Jesus wasn't just talking about *animals* when He shared our memory verse with the people of the Bible. Jesus was talking about the *people* that follow Him. He was using a word picture. He was saying, "I'm a shepherd to my people. I take care of the people that follow me. These people listen to my voice. I know each of them myself and my people follow me!"

He also said, "They will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice."

How do you think the sheep know the shepherd's voice? (*Pause for answers*)
They spend time with him.

How do you think we can know Jesus' voice so we can follow Him? How can you spend time with Jesus if you can't see Him?

- He left us the Bible so we could get to know Him.
- We can learn how to follow Him by obeying what the Bible says.
- We can pray and talk with Him.
- When we pray, we can listen for Him to speak.
- Jesus gives us His Spirit to help us know good from bad and to help us do what pleases Him.
- We can memorize His words (the Bible) so we can tell when we are hearing His voice. As His people, we obey His voice and follow Him only.
- We can practice a heart of thankfulness, which teaches us to see Him in everything.

Saul listened to Jesus and followed Him, and God's power totally transformed Saul's life.

Closing:

Outline the plan your church has made to reward children that memorize Scripture this week. A downloadable memory verse chart is provided for you to write the children's names and keep track of who has memorized which verses. Allow them time each day to repeat them to you.

Go over the memory verse several times.

If they are ready, have children come to you individually to say their verse. Mark it on the memory verse chart. If you are giving prizes or secret mission money for saying today's portion of the verse, hand them out now.

If time allows, play a memory verse game from the memory verse games resource.

Transformation Station



CRAFT LAB: BUTTERFLY FOOTPRINTS

Play the theme song and the memory verse song as children arrive. Ask the children to repeat the memory verse or the passcode for the day.

Directions:

Create a butterfly while talking about God's transforming power. View the link for detailed instructions and a list of supplies.

- mommypotamus.com/how-to-make-butterfly-footprint-art

Tip: When making hand and footprint art, use washable paint or stamp pads and have plenty of baby wipes close by to immediately clean paint from children's hands and feet.

Allow plenty of time and invite extra helpers to join in the fun. Add the Bible verse for the day or the phrase **"Jesus' power transforms my life"** to the bottom of the child's artwork to remind them of our theme.

Craft Lab Leader Suggested Script:

Just like God transforms a caterpillar into a beautiful butterfly, Jesus' power transformed Saul's life. His power transforms our lives, too, especially when we follow Jesus like Saul!

Most of us do not see a blinding light and I have never seen a person transformed in a cocoon! God transformed Saul's life in an amazing way. It all started on the road to Damascus, but it didn't stop there. God continued His transforming work in Saul as Saul listened to and followed God.

Do you remember our memory verse? **"My sheep listen to my voice; I know them and they follow me"** (John 10:27). When we respond to God, His transforming power helps us to hear Him and follow Him while He continues to work in us as we grow more and more like Jesus.

Transformation Station



RECHARGE STATION: SHEEP SNACKS

Play the theme song and the memory verse song as children arrive. Ask the children to repeat the memory verse or passcode for the day.

Directions:

Follow the supplies and directions according to your choice from the list below.

- dancingthroughtherain.com/no-bake-sheep-grahams
- kraftrecipes.com/recipe/211788/fluffy-marshmallow-sheep

Recharge Station Leader Suggested Script:

In the Bible, Jesus often uses sheep to explain how people behave. Even today if you go to Israel, you will see shepherds taking their sheep out to graze on hillsides. The most amazing sight is when two shepherds have been talking and their sheep have gotten all mixed up together as they graze on the hillside. When the two shepherds decide it is time to part ways, one shepherd walks one direction while calling their sheep and the other shepherd walks another way and calls to their sheep. What looks like a pile of sheep all of the sudden starts sorting this way and that way. Each sheep knows his shepherd's voice and follows! Those sheep would never follow another shepherd's voice!

Does that remind you of the memory verse we learned earlier today?

"My sheep listen to my voice; I know them and they follow me" (John 10:27).

Jesus also said this about His sheep, "...they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice" (John 10:5).

Remember when Agent Tre was given phony instructions from the fake agent? He did NOT listen to them because they did not sound right. He double-checked with the Boss...that's what we do when we belong to Jesus. When we are unsure about what is right, we talk to God about it. We listen for His answer.

What does God's voice sound like? *(Share how you have heard God speak before.)* Sometimes God's voice sounds like a small voice inside us telling us right from wrong. Some people call this our conscience. Sometimes our parents, teachers, or even our Christian friends can share what God has shown them to be true in their own lives.

How can we know if it is God's voice or the enemy's voice or our own? Great question!

1. God will never ask us to do anything that the Bible says we should not do. This is why it is so important for us to know God's Word and to memorize it!
2. God's Holy Spirit lives inside every believer and helps us know what is right and what is wrong. When you accept Jesus as your Savior and Lord, He sends the Holy Spirit to be your helper and friend.
3. The Bible says if we are not sure if something is God's will, we can talk to other Christians.

Is there anyone here who has any questions about what it is like to follow Jesus? *(Let children ask their questions and pray for wisdom. If you are unsure how to answer, let the child know it is a wonderful question, write it down, and let them know you will find out and get back to them. And follow-up!)*

Transformation Station



AGENT TRAINING FIELD: FOLLOW ME

Equipment:

- Blindfold
- A “prize” (a ball or toy)

Objective:

Find the “prize” by following the leader’s voice.

How to Play the Game:

Begin by having all children stand in the circle. The leader shows the “prize” to all the children. One child volunteer is blindfolded and placed in the center of the circle.

The leader gives the instructions.

“You are going to follow my voice. I want you to listen super closely, because if you follow my voice, I will lead you to the prize. Your job is to listen and follow my voice. As soon as you get the prize, you may take the blindfold off. It will be difficult for you, because ALL of the people in the circle are going to try to tell you things. They are going to be yelling instructions at you that may or may not be correct. But I will lead you to the prize, so always listen for my voice.”

Count down to begin and when you say “go,” everyone starts yelling instructions to the person to turn right, turn left, back up, straight ahead, two steps, etc. Only the leader’s voice is telling the right instructions.

Memory Verse Application:

(After you have played several times) Was it easy or hard to get the prize? (Pause for answers)

How did you find the prize? *(Pause for answers)*

Had to stop, concentrate, listen carefully for the leader. The more they listened, the more they were able to drown out other voices and just hear the voice of the leader.

This is like our walk with God. Sometimes other things or people can distract us from God and the choices He wants us to make. We have to stop, concentrate, ask God for help, and listen for God's voice. It is important that we recognize God's voice among all the others and obey Him. Listening to His instructions will help us know right from wrong.

Where can we go to understand what God would have us do? *(Pause for answers)*

Bible, church, mom and dad.

That is why it is always good to spend time reading God's Word.

Transformation Station



INFILTRATION SERVICE PROJECT

Do something that will transform someone's day.

Remember:

The importance of this activity is to teach the children the value of reaching out to others, so no matter the activity you choose, point to the fact that this gift represents the transformation that takes place when we give our lives to Jesus.

You can write a note to be delivered with each gift that the children sign. A note might say something like, "At VBS this week, we are learning that God's power transforms our lives when we live for Him. May God bless you with the power of His transforming love!"

Ideas:

- Make cards for those in the church who are elderly or unable to leave their homes.
- Send cards or Scripture to encourage those in the church who serve in the military and on the mission field.
- Draw pictures or make cards for firefighters or police officers and encourage families to deliver them to the station together.
- Make cards for those who serve others, like postal workers or trash collectors.
- Draw pictures for someone in the church who is sick. Include Scripture to encourage them.
- Work on the church property to transform a small area into something beautiful (pull weeds, plant flowers, pick up the nursery toys and organize them for the younger children, etc.).

Closing Skit

Play theme song and memory verse song as children return.

Ask volunteers to share the passcode, memory verse, favorite activity, or something they learned. Or have trivia questions prepared to ask early arrivers.

Begin with the top secret hand signal.

Dialogue:

Buddy: Whew! That was the longest mission in the history of FOREVER! Seriously, Agent Tre, why couldn't you just pick out any old watch? That was just WAY too long to wait for you!

Agent Tre: *(Laughs)* You're funny, Buddy. Some missions take a long time. We don't go on missions because they're fun—even though they sometimes are. We go on missions to help others, because that's what agents do!

Buddy: *(Interrupts, almost acts bored)* Yeah, yeah, yeah, I know...But we didn't actually help anyone at the mall, did we? Was that really a mission, buying a watch?

Agent Tre: Of course it was a mission! Anything the Boss tells me to do is a mission. It wasn't just ANY mall and it wasn't just any watch.

Buddy: *(Plops down, exhausted, on the floor or chair and quotes, sarcastically)* Oh, I know because we looked for it for three straight hours! "A gold watch with special engraving."

Agent Tre: *(Pulls out the pocket watch)* Well, that's where your magnifying glass came in handy, Buddy! I knew it was the right one because it's engraved with the Boss's seal. *(Tre shows the watch to Buddy. Buddy gets out his magnifying glass.)* See that triangle? It represents God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit—3 in 1.

Buddy: Oh, I see it! But why did the Boss send you to buy that watch?

Agent Tre: I don't know. My job is to trust Him and obey. Sometimes we never know the reason behind a mission. Sometimes He's protecting us. Like in our Bible story today. He told the disciples in Damascus to get Saul out of the city secretly. Sometimes we find out later how our mission helped someone else. And sometimes we never know why—but the Boss always has a reason.

Buddy: Ok...well then, why did you have to buy the watch with your own money? Why didn't the Boss give you the money to buy it?

Agent Tre: Well, actually, when I became an agent, I realized that everything I have comes from Him anyway and He supplies all of my needs through His glorious riches in Christ Jesus...so He actually did give me the money to buy it.

Buddy: Is it scary? Trusting Him like that?

Agent Tre: That's a great question, Buddy. The truth is it can be scary to trust completely, at least at first. But He has never broken a promise, and I know He really will take care of me because He always has. Now I don't even think about it. I just trust Him and follow what I know He tells me to do. The more I trust Him and obey, the more God shows how He is at work in my life. As I have followed Him, He has transformed what I want into more and more what He wants for me. Because He wants what is the very best for me, it is easier and easier to trust and follow Him.

Buddy: *(All of the sudden very interested)* Ooh! So I can have whatever I want just by asking Him?!

Agent Tre: *(Laughs)* I didn't say that. He always supplies my NEEDS, not all my WANTS. Just like He always answers prayer. Sometimes the answer is "yes" and at other times the answer is "no." And sometimes the answer is "wait." I can always trust that God is at work and wants the best for me.

Buddy: *(Jumps up, like a lightbulb just went off in his head)* Oh, I get it! I get it! When I realize how much God loves me and cares about me, I know I can trust Him no matter what. And when I realize I can trust Him completely, then I can follow wherever He leads me because that will always be the best choice for me. So when I choose to trust and follow Him, that's when God is at work transforming me. Have I got that right, Tre?

Agent Tre: *(Smiling huge, grabbing Buddy for a big bear hug)* I couldn't have said it better myself! Come on, Buddy! Let's get something to eat. I'm buying! See you tomorrow, kids!

Director: See you tomorrow, Tre and Buddy! What an amazing God! We have learned a lot about God's transforming power today. It is incredible to realize that God cares so much about the details of our lives that He actually will guide us as we trust and follow Him. Just like with Saul, God's power can transform our life, too. When we obey and follow God, we get a chance to see Him at work. God does some amazing things through His people and when we see God working, it changes us. Imagine if you were Saul and knew God was using His disciples to save your life by lowering you in a basket to get you secretly out of the city. Wow! That took trust! And just think how much more you would trust God once you lived through it and shared what God had done with others. God loves us so much that we can always trust that He wants what is best for us.

God has given us another great day at *Operation Transformation!* While you were in your Transformation Stations, we counted the offering. Do you want to know who gave the most today, the girls or the boys?

The girls gave \$_____ and the boys gave \$_____! So who gave the most? *(Pause for answers)* Right! But working together, you gave _____ to the real winners: children all around the world who will hear about *Operation Transformation* because of your unselfish generosity. Way to go!

Everyone please stand for our closing prayer: Thank You, God, for Your transforming power and love for each one of us and for the generosity of these children. We pray that you will help other children know You and Your Son, Jesus! Amen.

Everyone take off your nametags and give them to your group leader. You can pick them up when you come back tomorrow. OK? And everybody remember to bring a friend, so they can hear about *Operation Transformation* too!

Closing:

Give any other announcements or direction for dismissal. Play theme song as children leave.