



# OPERATION TRANSFORMATION

DAY FOUR

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

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# 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                     | <br>Thumbprint                             | <br>Footprint | <br>Flashlight                     | <br>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<br>Acts 9:1-19   | Saul meets the disciples in Jerusalem<br>Acts 9:20-30   | God works through Paul in prison<br>Acts 16:16-34  | Paul remembers God's call<br>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.<br>John 1:12 | My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.<br>John 10:27                     | He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way.<br>Psalm 25:9  | Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ...<br>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:<br/><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:<br/><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:<br/><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:<br/><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   |

# 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 4 Overview:

### Today's Passcode:

**Jesus' call transforms  
my mission**

### Today's Theology Focus:

**Sending**  
Use every opportunity to  
weave this into your time  
with the kids.

### Today's Bible Story:

**Acts 22:1-16**  
(read aloud)

## Review Today's Memory Verse:

### John 17:3a

"Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ..."

## 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 17:3a are included on the media section of [nazarene.org/vbs](http://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:

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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, 2, and 3 Songs with Hand Motions

Starting with music engages everyone's attention and participation.

## Welcome

The following is a suggested script:

**Director:** Welcome to Day Four of *Operation Transformation!* I am Special Agent \_\_\_\_\_ and it is so great to see all of you today! I have been looking forward to seeing you and going on our mission today. We are going to have a great day! Did you remember our Bible verse for the week? *(Say the verse you just sang.)*

We have already learned three other verses. Who knows John 1:12? *(Pause for answers)*

Does anyone remember our passcode for Day 1? It has something to do with becoming children of God...*(Pause for answers)*

That is right! "Jesus' love transforms my identity!"

On Day 2 we learned about hearing God's voice and that His power transforms us when we follow Him. Who can remember our verse, John 10:27? *(Pause for answers)*

Does anyone remember the passcode from yesterday? Paul demonstrated this even when his circumstances were bad. *(Pause for answers)*

That's right! "Jesus' presence transforms my choices!"

How about the verse from yesterday? *(Pause for answers)*

Psalm 25:9 says, "He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way." You have really been paying attention!

We have had a great week so far, and it is not over yet! We are in for another great day together! Paul went on many great adventures with God. Today we are going to hear as Paul thinks back over his life and celebrates how God called him and transformed Paul's mission. God was faithful to provide for Paul's needs throughout his life. Through Paul's life, we have seen God's transforming love and power over and over. As Paul remembers, he realizes how God's call to follow Him put Paul on a special journey, a mission from God Himself. Which brings us to our passcode for today, **"Jesus' call transforms my mission."** Say it with me, **"Jesus' call transforms my mission!"** Let's hear the boys!...Let's hear the girls!...Now all together! **"Jesus' call transforms my mission!"**

We also have a new verse today that helps us on our mission of sharing the Good News! **John 17:3a** says, **"Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ..."** Paul's mission was to share this good news with the world. This is also the ultimate mission for us to share today.

## Offering

**Director:** As we receive our offering today, we are going to sing this verse and learn the motions. But before we do, who can share what our offering project is for this week? (*Share about your mission project for those who may be new. You can find information about the Kids Reaching Kids Offering at [nazarene.org/sdmi](http://nazarene.org/sdmi).)*)

That's right. So far you have given \$\_\_\_\_\_ towards our project. We are going to sing our new verse for the day and learn the motions while you bring your offering. Don't worry if you don't have anything to give today, follow your leader anyway. Now that you know, you can bring it on Sunday when we share all we have learned with our parents. Today, we will all meet back here before going home and that's when we'll see if the GIRLS or BOYS won!

*(Play today's memory verse 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! You just heard today's memory verse song. We'll be singing it all day—but of course we need to learn it first! So let's sing it one more time before we meet Agent Tre and Buddy to find out about today's mission.

## Sing Theme Song with Hand Motions

## Sing Day 4 Song with Hand Motions

# Opening Skit

## Props & Characters:

- **Special agent lockbox**, marked “Top Secret”
- 1 cross
- 1-2 chairs
- 1 watch
- NIV Bible
- **Special Agent Tre** (Code Name: Trinity); dressed like a spy, with a hat and sunglasses
- **Special Agent Buddy** (Code Name: Barnabas); dressed identical to Tre
- **Agent Strange/Scout**

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:** *(Practicing John 17:3a to himself)* “**Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ...**” (John 17:3a). I need to get this right for tonight’s commissioning ceremony. “Now this is eternal life...” *(Phone rings, Tre answers)* **Jesus’ call transforms my mission.** Agent Trinity speaking. Yes sir. Of course, sir. Do You want me to wait for Buddy...I mean Agent Buddy? No? Ok, I will head right out. Thank You, sir. *(Tre exits stage)*

**Agent Buddy:** *(Enters opposite side of stage)* Agent Tre? Kids, have you seen Agent Tre? What? He was just here? That’s weird; he usually waits for me. Oh, well. I’ll just wait here for him.

Hey recruits! I’ve got something to show you! *(Sits down, removes his shoe and places it to his ear)* Dial tone! And that’s not all! *(Jumps up and goes over to the special agent lockbox)* Check this out! *(Opens lockbox with thumbprint and proudly holds up the cross and Bible.)*

**Agent Tre:** *(Re-enters stage)*

**Agent Buddy:** Agent Tre! Look! I can open the special agent lockbox! I can hardly believe it. I really am a special agent. Well, almost. I know it’s not official until the ceremony, but still—this is AWESOME!

*(Agent Strange enters same side as Tre)*

**Agent Buddy:** What is HE doing here?

**Agent Tre:** Agent Buddy, this is Scout. *(Awkward moment as Buddy glares at Scout, who looks down at the floor)* Have a seat and make yourself comfortable, Scout. *(Scout sits down, now even more nervous. Buddy pulls Tre to the other side of the stage for a “private” talk.)*

**Agent Buddy:** *(In a loud stage whisper)* Are you serious? Why would you bring him here? You know he can't be trusted! Yesterday he trapped you, the day before he tricked you—or tried to...

**Agent Tre:** Agent Buddy, when the Boss gives us a mission, what are we supposed to do?

**Agent Buddy:** Carry it out. Follow wherever He leads us.

**Agent Tre:** That's right! Well, He gave me a mission this morning: to bring Agent Strange—I mean Scout—back here. So that's what I did. Whatever the Boss has in mind, there's one thing I know: everyone needs the Lord, Buddy. Even Scout! If I recall, it wasn't too long ago that you didn't have a relationship with Jesus either.

**Scout:** So, uh, thanks for inviting me into your headquarters and all, but why am I here? What exactly do you want from me?

**Agent Tre:** Oh, I don't want anything FROM you, Scout. I was wondering if I could do anything FOR you.

**Scout:** What???

**Agent Tre:** Well, I don't really know you, but I know the Boss really loves you and...

**Scout:** *(Stands up, suddenly angry)* Stop right there! I am out of here! *(Starts walking away)*

**Agent Tre:** What? Wait! Did I say something wrong?

**Scout:** Yeah! You did! *(Turns and faces Tre)* You said the Boss loves me but that can't be true. I've tried and tried to be good enough, but I always fall short. *(Tre and Buddy look at each other, confused)*

**Agent Tre:** What makes you say that?

**Scout:** My dad was an awesome agent—you've even said so yourself! So I've tried to do all the things I saw my dad do, only better, but it just seems like no matter how hard I try, I always mess things up.

**Agent Buddy:** Scout, I've got to be honest. When I first started coming here, I just liked the cool gadgets Agent Tre had and the exciting missions he went on. I thought if I could just be like him, I would become an agent too. I started dressing like him and acting like him but that's all it was—an act! I was no different on the inside. That's when I realized that becoming an agent is about being transformed on the INSIDE, not changing what I look like or act like on the outside. But as hard as I tried, I could never change who I was on the inside. I just didn't have the power to do that. And I still don't—but God does! He made real transformation possible through Jesus. Jesus is the key! That's why Jesus IS the Way! Real transformation only happens through a real relationship with Jesus.

**Scout:** Then I guess I'm just hopeless. (*Starts for the door*)

**Agent Buddy:** I get that. (*Scout pauses*) I understand how you feel because that's what I believed too. I thought following Jesus meant you would suddenly have it all together and never mess up again. Then I realized that didn't make any sense. Jesus' disciples certainly didn't have it all together. They messed up, too. But something WAS different about Jesus AND His followers. They were different on the inside, which changed how they responded on the outside. They really were transformed. Take Agent Paul and Silas, for instance. They were unfairly beaten and imprisoned, and yet they still had joy. Following Jesus doesn't mean I'll never mess up or that I won't experience consequences, or hard times. It means that I can have joy deep inside even when bad things happen, because I'm never alone. Jesus is right there with me.

**Agent Tre:** Thanks, Buddy. I couldn't have said it better myself. Hey, Scout! We're having a special agent commissioning service for Buddy. I'd love for you to be there if you can make it. Oh! One last thing before you head out. I wanted you to have this. (*Takes out the watch purchased during the earlier mission and hands it to him.*)

**Scout:** (*Scout looks at it in shock; voice gets shaky*) Wh-where...did...you get this?!

**Agent Tre:** The Boss sent us on a mission to find it. He didn't tell us why. We looked all over the city for it. Just now, I got the clear impression that I was supposed to give it to YOU.

**Scout:** This is just like my dad's watch. I don't know what else to say but thank you! I, uh, I'll think about what you said, Buddy. And maybe I will be at that service. I don't know. I've got a lot to think about. (*Scout leaves. Tre and Buddy look at each other.*)

**Agent Tre:** I had no idea that watch would mean so much to him.

**Agent Buddy:** I think it's awesome being an agent for a Boss who loves people so much!

**Agent Tre:** And I really appreciate how you told your story, Buddy. That's exactly what Agent Paul did. When people are hurting, they often get angry and they can lash out. They might even want to argue about God and Jesus. But when we just share the facts about what Jesus did for us and how we were transformed when we chose to follow Him, there's nothing to argue about because it's the obvious truth!

**Agent Buddy:** (*Beaming*) Oh, I almost forgot! My thumbprint worked and THIS was in the special agent lockbox! (*Holds up the cross*) Do you know what it means?

**Agent Tre:** Nope. I guess we'll have to find that out in our Mission Brief! In the meantime, let's get ready for your commissioning ceremony! Recruits, you're all invited to Buddy's commissioning too. We'll see you after your Transformation Stations!

**Director:** I wonder if Scout is going to be all right. I sure hope so! Isn't it something how the Boss spoke to Tre about giving Scout that watch? I can't wait until Buddy's special ceremony. I'm so glad we are all invited to celebrate. Wow! We have a big day ahead! I'll be sure to take the cross to your Mission Brief Station so you can figure out how it relates to today's mission!

## Closing:

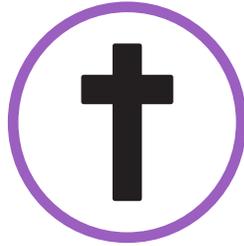
If time allows, sing 1-2 songs focused on Jesus our King; our obedience; God's call.

End with Day 4 Song, "*John 17:3a, Now this is eternal life,*" 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: A TALE OF TWO BALLOONS!

### Preparation:

- If possible, the leader should wear a **white lab coat**.
- Prepare a **large manila envelope** with "MISSION BRIEF #4" written in large letters on the outside. Place a copy of the **script** inside.
- A **small cross**, like the one in the lockbox from the opening skit.
- Have a **current NIV Bible** with your supplies.
- **2 balloons**, identical in color and size. Fill one with helium and fill one with air. Draw identical faces on each with a marker. (Hide these two balloons while you review the previous lessons.)

### Directions:

Play the song for today's verse as children arrive and leave. Have the two balloons hidden while you review previous lessons. Do not let the children see that they are different in any way.

As you teach the lesson, hold one balloon in each hand at the base so they each stand upright.

### Review:

#### Day 1: Jesus' love transforms my identity.

How is our white flower today?

*(Emphasize the fact that the more we spend time with God in prayer, reading the Bible, and learning from other Christians, the more we look like Jesus. The more time the flower spends in the colored water, the more it looks like the colored water.)*

## Day 2: Jesus' power transforms my life.

What is caterpillar soup and what does it have to do with Jesus' power to transform my life?

Caterpillars completely dissolve into a "caterpillar soup" in their cocoons and are totally transformed, literally re-made into butterflies, just like we are when Jesus comes to live inside us! He changes our focus. We become a part of His family with a new identity. As we trust and follow Him, He transforms us as our faith in Him gets stronger.

## Day 3: Jesus' presence transforms my choices.

Who remembers what we learned in our Mission Brief yesterday?

Because Paul kept his eyes on God, he chose to praise God even though he was in jail. It would have been easy for Paul to look only at his circumstances and be sad because he had been beaten and was now in jail for doing nothing wrong. Because of his choice to praise God, Paul was able to share the good news with the jailer and the jailer's whole family was saved. We also talked about growing closer to Jesus by reading the Bible and praying or talking to Him. We learned that the Holy Spirit helps us to understand the Bible and to see things from God's perspective!

## Mission Brief Summary:

*(Feel free to make this your own!)*

1. Tell the story outlined in **Acts 22:1-16**. Paul shares his story with the crowd. (Jesus' call transformed Paul's mission.)
2. Explain that Paul had known it might be dangerous to go to Jerusalem, but he also knew that God had called him to go there. His relationship with Jesus had sustained him through hard times before. Paul wanted to share with the crowd all that God had done for him and through his obedience.
3. Explain that Paul wanted to be sure that everyone knew that God had transformed his identity, his life, and his choices. God had called him to bring the Good News of Jesus' love (represented by the cross) to a group of people that he understood best. God had totally transformed Paul's mission from persecuting Christians to encouraging Jews to become new Christians who were free from their old ways and free to accept Jesus and His mission.
4. When it is time to let the balloons go, they show that when we accept Jesus as our Savior, we are free to be all He created us to be—agents of His love in a hurting world—rather than continuing to be burdened and weighed down by our guilt and shame. As we share our story of His transforming love at work in us, others will be challenged to look up and see our changed life, and His transforming power will begin to work in them as well.

## Mission Brief Leader Suggested Script:

*(Feel free to adapt to your context.)*

Wherever Paul went, they discouraged him. Sometimes they put him in prison and beat him for preaching about Jesus. In our story today, Paul had gone to Jerusalem. Some Jewish leaders had stirred up a great riot, saying Paul was a trouble-maker. The mob of people got so angry that they were determined to kill Paul. When the Roman soldiers heard about the riot, they immediately came and arrested Paul. When they asked the crowd what Paul had done, the crowd became so wild that the soldiers actually had to carry Paul away. As they were taking him away, Paul asked to speak to the crowd. The commander let Paul stand on the steps so all the people could see him. Then Paul did something so strange! He spoke to the crowd in a different language so he could get their attention. They all listened closely while Paul told the crowd his whole story!

Paul told of how he grew up and that he was taught by the best teachers. He shared that he was a good student and followed all the Jewish laws. *(Ask the children if anyone can help by telling what they remember learning about Saul on the first day. Pause for answers.)*

Paul said something like, "I used to believe exactly what you believe. I used to persecute Christians, putting them in jail and even killing them." Then he told them about what happened on the road to Damascus. *(Ask for a volunteer to tell what happened.)*

A bright light blinded him. Saul heard Jesus' voice and followed His instructions. He told them about Ananias, who prayed for him, and after that prayer, he could see again. Then he told them what Ananias said to him that day. "The God of our ancestors has chosen you...You will be his witness to all people of what you have seen and heard. *(Hold up the cross)* And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name" (Acts 22:14-16).

Whenever Paul had the chance to speak to someone, he told this story! He told of how he came to know Jesus was real. *(Hold up the cross.)* This cross can always remind us that Jesus is real and His love for everyone is real. Paul told everyone how they could come to know Jesus... "Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name."

It was Jesus' call that transformed Paul's mission! Paul was on a mission to stop Christianity. When Jesus called Paul, suddenly his life mission was totally changed.

Do you see these two balloons? They represent two people. One of these people knows and follows Jesus. One does not. Can you tell which one is a Jesus follower just by looking at them? They both have happy smiles on their faces.

But one of them is filled with something special. When we become a Christian, we realize we have disobeyed God (we have sinned) and we tell Him we are sorry. We ask Him to forgive us and wash away our sins. We are free from our old way of thinking. We are free to understand God more clearly and to think about how He wants us to live. We then have room in our hearts for Him to come in and live inside. The Holy Spirit, the Counselor and Comforter we talked about yesterday, comes to be our Forever Friend and we never have to be alone again. He fills us up with God's love and His presence. He fills us with wisdom and understanding about how to live in a way that will please God.

*(Let go of both balloons. One will rise to the ceiling. The other will fall flat.)*

THIS is why Paul spent the rest of his life telling people about Jesus! He wanted all of us to know the truth he found...that Jesus is real and His love for us is powerful! That Jesus had come to set us free from our sin and disobedience and set us free to be what God had created us to be, His special agents in the world. Agent Paul wanted everyone to hear this good news.

You see, Jesus' call in Paul's life transformed his mission, and when Jesus comes into OUR lives, we want to share this amazing Friend with others, too!

It is as easy as doing what Paul did, telling our story of how Jesus has come in our hearts to be our Friend! We want everyone to be filled with His Spirit and to be set free to carry on God's mission of telling others the good news of Jesus *(Point to the helium balloon)*.

*(Invite any who want to share their story of accepting Jesus to share. Ask if anyone wants to accept Jesus' free gift of salvation. If so, use the Leading a Child to Christ document from the resource section of [nazarene.org/vbs](http://nazarene.org/vbs). Be sure to share with a child's leader if a child accepts Christ as their Savior so that they can share this news with the child's parent.)*

# Transformation Station



EVIDENCE VAULT:  
JOHN 17:3a

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](http://nazarene.org/vbs)

## Evidence Vault Leader Suggested Script:

We have learned a lot of great verses this week. Who can name a verse you have learned? *(Pause for answers)*

Try to review each verse so far.

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

**Jesus' call transforms my mission!**

Our verse today helps us better understand what mission the passcode is talking about. Our verse is:

John 17:3a

"Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ..."

According to our verse, what do you think the mission is? *(Pause for answers)*

What does this verse mean? *(Pause for answers)*

John tells us how we can have eternal life or life forever—by knowing the one true God and His Son, Jesus.

God loves us so much that He sent His own Son to make forgiveness possible. John 3:16 says that God loved us so much that He sent His one and only Son into the world so that through believing in Him, the world would have eternal life with God. On the first day of VBS, we talked about the importance of receiving the gift He gave and believing in His name. We said that if we do this, we are adopted into God's FAMILY! He gives us the right to become children of God! That is what our verse said in John 1:12, "Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God...." Today's verse says that the way to eternal life is to KNOW the only true God and His Son, Jesus Christ.

When we say we know the only true God and His Son, Jesus, we are not just saying we know ABOUT God. We are talking about having a real relationship with God. Like you know your very best friend. You know their voice because they are familiar to you. You have spent time with them. It's not just knowing about someone, like a movie star that you recognize on TV. This is knowing someone because you have a friendship with them. Jesus is one friend you can always count on to be with you. Jesus is never too busy for you. He will always listen to you and He is always speaking to us through the Bible, through His Spirit, and other Christians.

**BONUS  
VERSE:**

**Psalm 46:1**

"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble."

## 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: SALVATION BRACELET

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.

### Supplies:

- **Salvation Bracelet Kit**
  - One of each: black, red, blue, white, green, and yellow bead for each child
  - Strip of leather, shoestring, or thin, black elastic long enough for the child's wrist with enough room to tie knots to hold the beads in place.

### Directions:

Give each child the pre-sorted materials for the craft. If possible, place beads and string in a zip top plastic bag for each child prior to class. Lead the children through the directions of making the bracelet with the colors in this order: black, red, blue, white, green, and yellow. As you make the bracelets, share with the children what each color represents.

### Craft Lab Leader Suggested Script:

We can tell our story many different ways. Today we will do a craft to help us tell our story to others!

The black bead represents sin. Sin is disobeying God. Everyone has sinned. Sin separates us from God (Romans 3:23).

The red bead represents love. God loved us so much that He made a way for us to not stay stuck in our sin (John 3:16 or 1 John 4:9).

The blue bead reminds us of the water used in baptism. Baptism is a sign that our sins have been washed away (Acts 2:38 and 41).

The white bead represents our sins being forgiven. When you ask Jesus to forgive your sins, your heart is clean (Psalm 51:7 or 1 John 3:5).

The green bead reminds of things that grow. We want to continue a vibrant relationship with God as we read God's Word and learn to follow Him (2 Peter 3:18).

The yellow bead represents heaven. God has given us eternal life and prepared a place called heaven where there are streets of gold (1 John 5:12).

You can use this bracelet to tell other people about Jesus, just like Paul wanted everyone to know what Jesus had done for him. He wanted them to have the same joy of knowing Jesus as he had experienced.

Is telling others about your faith easy?

How will your friends, family, and neighbors hear about Jesus' love unless someone tells them?

*(Form pairs and give children a chance to practice by telling each other the story of God's love using their bracelets.)*

# Transformation Station



## RECHARGE STATION: POPCORN TRANSFORMATION

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.

### Supplies:

- **Kernels of popcorn** (un-popped)
- **Popped corn** (If possible, have popped popcorn already divided into bagged portions for each child).

### Recharge Station Leader Suggested Script

Who likes popcorn?

Today we are going to eat some yummy popcorn for our snacks!

*(Hand the children each several unpopped kernels of corn and hear the groans.)*

We have been talking all week about TRANSFORMATION.

Who can tell me a transformation story we have heard this week while I pass out the popcorn that has already been transformed into the yummy stuff we can eat?

Whenever you eat popcorn, I want you to remember that God can change hard hearts, like Saul's, from the inside out!

Saul's story reminds me of this popcorn.

- He started out with a hard heart like this hard kernel of corn.
- It takes heat to transform this popcorn from the inside out.
- It took Jesus' love to transform Saul from hating Jesus to giving his whole life to serve Jesus.
- Jesus offers His love and forgiveness to each of us sitting around the table today!
- Think of the amazing things God might do with each of you as you give your life to follow Jesus!
  - Can you imagine how amazing our world will be if each one of you will learn to be kind to people like Jesus was? Can you think of someone you can be kind to? (*Let the children share*)
  - You might be a doctor helping heal people, like Jesus did. Or, you might be a president or leader who prays for and serves our country. You might be a teacher who gets to love children and speak truth into their lives. Or, you might be a mommy or daddy that gets to teach your children how to trust Jesus. What would you like to be when you grow up and how might you serve God doing that job? (*Let the children share*)
- God changed the world through Paul and God can change the world through YOU!

*(As you eat popcorn, ask questions to engage the kids in Paul's life; review the various parts of this week's lessons. Let them have a chance to process what they have learned by asking questions.)*

## Closing:

If time allows, have the kids review the passcode, the verse with motions, and songs.

# Transformation Station



## AGENT TRAINING FIELD: HELPER AND FRIEND (3-LEGGED RACE)

### Equipment:

Rope, bandana, cloth, or some other way to tie the middle legs together for the race

### Objective:

Be the first pair to reach the end of the race by working together and running in sync with the two legs tied together.

### How to Play the Game:

Begin by having the children pair off (preferably girls with girls, and boys with boys). The children stand side-by-side and tie the two middle legs together. The children have to use the legs that are tied together to help each other run. The first pair to reach the finish line wins.

Give them some time to practice prior to the race. This is how they will learn that they need to work out a plan to use the middle legs together.

### Memory Verse Application:

When God comes into our lives, we need to listen to Him, learn to work together with Him, and run alongside Him to accomplish all He has planned for us!

What happened when one person on the team ran at a different time than the other person? (*Pause for answers*)

Both people fell! That is a good example to show how hard it is to get anywhere in life when we are pulling away from God as His child. Some of us want to live life with God but not really listen to or obey Him. He wants what is best for us. When He gives us instructions, it is always for our good and for His glory.

## Alternative Game: Simon Says

### Equipment:

None

### How to Play the Game:

Children follow directions that are preceded with the phrase "Simon Says." If they choose to follow directions that are given without this phrase, they are out. Keep playing until one person is left. This person becomes "Simon." Play several rounds allowing a different child to be "Simon" each time.

### Memory Verse Application:

How does this game remind us of listening to God? We must listen carefully to God's voice and follow His directions and call on our life.

# Transformation Station



## INFILTRATION SERVICE PROJECT

Do something that will share Jesus with others.

### 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 will be given to share the love of Jesus with others. You can write a note for each gift to be delivered and have the children sign it. A note might say something like, "At VBS this week, we learned about the gift God gave us when He sent Jesus to be our Savior and Friend. We wanted to share Jesus' love with you, in hopes that it would make you smile. Remember, God loves you so very much!"

### Ideas:

- Make peanut butter and birdseed bird feeders for those in a retirement home to be able to see the beautiful birds. This is one way to say we care and you are not forgotten.
- Prepare dry soup mixes in jars or zip top plastic bags to give to the hungry. The ingredients could be donated prior by church members.
- Prepare dry cookie or cake mixes in jars or zip top plastic bags to give to those in the church's neighborhood, inviting them to come to church Sunday. It could be an outreach activity or part of the VBS activity for the older kids or the teens to deliver these (with the approval of parents and supervision of plenty of adults) to the neighborhood on the last day.

# 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.

## Props & Characters

- 3 chairs
- 1 flashlight
- 1 pair of sunglasses identical to Tre's, to be presented to Buddy
- **Special Agent Tre** (Code Name: Trinity); dressed like a spy, with a hat and sunglasses
- **Special Agent Buddy** (Code Name: Barnabas); dressed identical to Tre
- Scout

## Dialogue:

**Director:** What a great day we had learning that Jesus' call transforms our mission! Let's welcome back our worship leader to review our songs for this week.

*(Worship leader sings theme song and today's memory verse song with hand motions.)*

Who would like to share one of our passcodes from this week? *(Ask children to share until each day's verse and passcode has been recited.)*

It is a big day for Tre and Buddy. Let's see what they are up to today...

**Agent Tre:** *(Standing up and announcing in an official voice)* Ladies and gentlemen, today, we have the special privilege of commissioning a brand new agent! Agent Barnabas, please rise.

*(Before Buddy stands up, Scout walks in quietly and humbly.)*

**Scout:** Am I too late?

**Agent Tre:** *(Huge smile)* No! Not at all! In fact, you are right on time! We were just getting ready to commission our newest agent. Please join us!

**Scout:** *(Takes a seat on stage)*

**Agent Tre:** *(Still smiling, repeats in the same tone)* Today, we have the special privilege of welcoming a brand new agent into the family! Agent Barnabas, please rise. *(Buddy stands by Agent Tre)*

Buddy, this week you prayed to receive Jesus' gift of salvation. You accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior and pledged to follow Him all the days of your life. You were baptized and committed to carefully study the Agent Handbook *(Holds up a Bible)* and to do what it tells you to do. You have been praying and listening carefully to Jesus, our wonderful Boss. In addition, I see you sharing what you have learned with others. It is clear to me and to everyone who knows you that Jesus' love has transformed your identity, Jesus' power has transformed your life, Jesus' presence transforms your choices, and Jesus' call has transformed your mission. We celebrate what God has done in you and what He will now do for others through you.

This flashlight is now yours. May it serve as a constant reminder that Jesus is the light of the world and that the world is filled with people walking in darkness. It is now your lifelong mission to live in the light, to walk in the light, and to share this light with others. If you ever have trouble finding your way, humble yourself, admit where you are, and never be too proud to ask for help. Do you accept this challenge? If so, say, "I do."

**Agent Buddy:** I do.

**Agent Tre:** *(Gives Buddy a pair of sunglasses and both put their glasses on)* Everyone, please welcome Special Agent Buddy!

**Agent Buddy:** *(Nods and mouths "thank you" to everyone)*

**Agent Tre:** Are you ready?

**Agent Buddy:** I sure am!

**Agent Tre:** Then let's go! We've got work to do! *(Both start to head out the door)*

**Agent Buddy:** *(Stops and turns to Scout)* Hey, friend! Wanna' come along?

**Scout:** Me? Really? YES! *(Jumps up and steps between them; Tre and Buddy put an arm around Scout's shoulders and all three walk out together)*

**Director:** God has given us a great last day at *Operation Transformation!* Each day we have celebrated God's transforming love and power! 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 \$\_\_\_\_\_! Way to go! *(Give a report on the total offering for the week and what the children have accomplished. If you had a goal or a special incentive to help kids reach their goal, share it now.)*

*(Ask all the volunteers to stand and give children a chance to thank all the workers at VBS with applause. If you are planning a special program, share the details. If possible, plan some extra time during the closing to practice the songs and the passcodes to share in the program. Be sure to have an invitation for children to take home to their families inviting them back to be a part of the program. If a dinner is also happening, be sure the details are provided so that new families understand they are invited.)*

Thank You, God, for Your transforming love for each one of us. Thank You for the chance to learn more about You and the chance to help other children around the world. We pray that you will help other children know Your love and Your Son, Jesus! Bring us back together on Sunday to celebrate all You have done this week with our families! In Your Son's name we pray. Amen.

*(Remind everyone to invite someone to the program or dinner on Sunday.)*

## **Closing:**

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