Date | March 20, 2022 Family Theme | The Transformed Life Study Text | Romans 12:1-21

Objective: Family members daily present themselves to God to do His will and be transformed by His Word.

How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible: In this section of his letter to the believers in Rome, written around AD 57, Paul taught how we should respond to the blessings God has poured out on us through the gospel.

<u>Bible Basics:</u> Memorize the names and order of books 13 through 17 of the New Testament (1 and 2 Thessalonians, 1 and 2 Timothy, and Titus) this week and work with family members to do so as well.

Read the Word: Romans 12:1-21

Disciple Your Kids

Talk with your children and grandchildren about how we can daily present ourselves to God to do His will and how we can be transformed by learning and applying God's Word.



Key Truth: We Should Respond to God's Mercy by Giving All to Him (Romans 12:1-2)

Paul alluded to the Old Testament sacrificial system to help his readers understand how they were to respond to all God has done for us. In the Old Testament system, the burnt offering was to be completely devoted to God. Followers of Christ are to do the same, offering all we have and all we are to God. Then, as we learn and apply God's Word we are transformed to think and act more and more like Christ. This transformation begins in the mind, the seat of intellectual and moral judgment. The Holy Spirit uses the truths of the Word of God to shape and transform our thinking. That leads to a change of our hearts and lives.



Key Truth: We Should Respond to God's Mercy by Using Our Gifts to Serve (Romans 12:3-8)

As believers we are called to serve God and the others who make up His body. We do this by humbly using the spiritual gifts God has given us. Using the illustration of the human body, Paul spoke of every believer having specific functions in the body of Christ. He referenced that they were *members of one another*. The term *gifts* in verse 6 referred to the special abilities given by God to serve Him. God, as a result of His grace, allots these gifts for use in ministry to the body.



Key Truth: We Should Respond to God's Mercy With Christlike Conduct (Romans 12:9-21)

Here, Paul focused on how a life transformed by the gospel responds to God's blessings. The relationships mentioned and the corresponding instructions provide insight for how believers are to interact with both other believers and nonbelievers. Exhortations range from love for other Christians to hospitality to strangers, all with a series of short commands that include both positive and negative exhortations. This section is rooted in the primacy of love in all of our relationships. We are to strive for peaceful relationships with everyone, even when experiencing opposition and hatred from others.

Discussion Starters

Use one or more of the following questions as discussion starters with family members this week. Questions in **bold** will be good to use with elementary age children.

- · What does it mean to conform to the lost world around us?
- What is it that renews our minds and how does that transform us?
- How is the church like a body?
- How are we to respond to those who treat us poorly?
- How can you more fully offer yourself to God this week?
- How can you allow love to guide your attitudes and actions this week?
- · What does it mean for us to present our bodies to God as living sacrifices?
- Why is it important to live differently from the world?
- How can reading God's Word change your thoughts, words, and actions?

Everyday Extras

Watch a YouTube video of a caterpillar's metamorphosis into a butterfly. That's transformation! You might also have a craft activity where you use recycled trash to make something beautiful (an old t-shirt can be made into a necklace, or an empty pop bottle can become an Easter basket). When you become a Christian, God changes you from darkness to light, from being an orphan to being His child. Your life is transformed for the better.

To thank God for this new life, give it back to Him. We need to use the gifts that God has blessed us with to glorify Him and bless other people. Talk with your child about what your spiritual gifts are and how you use them at home, at work, and at church. Talk with her about what her spiritual gifts might be, and how she can use them to glorify God.

Preschool Highlights for SQUARE & ROUND

Today your child learned God wants us to obey with a good attitude. He or she also learned God loves us with an everlasting love and He rewards our faithfulness and obedience to Him. He or she heard a Webster family story that told of a time when Jamie and his friend, Josh, had to make a choice to obey God's Word and help someone or not.