

“TRANSFORMED” - LESSON 1

“From Death To Life”

Main Focus:

When it all seems over, Jesus brings the dead to life!



Power Verse:

“Jesus told her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying.’”

– John 11:25



Whatchagaddaknow:

“God Can Bring The Dead To Life!”

LEADER’S INFO

Jesus was a miracle worker. He began his earthly ministry by performing His first miracle of turning water into wine. From that point on, Jesus established Himself as someone with supernatural power beyond that of mortal human beings.

Jesus didn’t stop performing miracles when His earthly ministry ended. No way! He continues to perform miracles today. In fact, He wants to perform miracles both in and through each one of us. All we have to do is trust and believe.

Believing is the hardest part. Sometimes it seems that there is just no way a miracle can happen because we believe it is “too late.” In this lesson, the children are going to learn through the story of Lazarus being raised that it is never too late for Jesus. Even when it seems all hope is lost, Jesus can show up and perform a miracle!



“The Spark” Intro Video

“Come Alive!”



“Whatchagaddaknow” Video

Peggy Sue teaches “Whatchagaddaknow”



Character Skit

“Ronnie Robo”



Offering Time



Game Time!

“Ping Pong Golf”



Bible Story

“Lazarus Is Raised”



Power Verse Video

“Jesus told her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying.’”

– John 11:25



Call To Action

“From Death To Life”



Rewind!

Review Game



Small Group Experience

Main Focus:

When it all seems over, Jesus brings the dead to life!



Power Verse:

“Jesus told her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying.’”

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Whatchagaddaknow:

“God Can Bring The Dead To Life!”

Lesson 1 Materials Needed:

“The Spark” Intro Video

- “Lesson 1 - The Spark” Intro Video

“Whatchagaddaknow” Video

- “Whatchagaddaknow” Teaching Video
- “Whatchagaddaknow” Trigger Video

Character Skit

- “Ronnie Robo” Theme Graphic/Music
- Transformers Robots

Offering Time

- “Offering Time” Bumper Video

Game Time!

- “Game Time!” Bumper Video
- “Ping Pong Golf” Graphic
- One Table
- One Large Styrofoam Cup
- 10 Ping Pong Balls
- Two Straws Or Empty Paper Towel Rolls

Bible Story

- “Lazarus Is Raised” Graphics

Power Verse Video

- “Lesson 1 Power Verse” Video

Call To Action

- “From Death To Life” Graphics
- A Volunteer
- A Large Wall Clock

Rewind!

- “REWIND!” Bumper Video
- “REWIND!” Lesson 1 Graphics

Small Group Experience

- Bible Story Print Piece
- Pencils, Crayons, Or Markers
- Toilet Paper
- A Way To Keep Time
- Scriptures Print Piece
- Bibles

“The Spark” Intro Video

“Come Alive!”

“Whatchagaddaknow” Video

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Game Time!

“Ping Pong Golf”

Bible Story

“Lazarus Is Raised”

Power Verse Video

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Call To Action

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Rewind!

Review Game

Small Group Experience



Introduction to “The Spark” Intro Video

Leader: Hey, kids! Today, we are starting a series called “Transformed!” In this series, we are going to take a look at some people in the Bible who had face-to-face encounters with Jesus and walked away totally and completely TRANSFORMED!

Today’s story involves a time when Jesus was assumed to have shown up a little bit late. Have you ever been late to something? Maybe you arrived late for school and everyone was starting at you while you walked to your seat. Isn’t that embarrassing?

When we are late, we always have a good reason - or at least an excuse - as to why we are late. We want everyone to understand and give us a break. But when someone else is late and YOU are the one having to wait on them, it’s a little harder to deal with, isn’t it?

To help you understand a little more about what we are going to be talking about today, I want you to watch this video.

(play “The Spark - Intro Video Lesson 1”)

Leader: Jesus is never too late! He’s always right on time. The problem is that we don’t always like His timing. We want things to be done on OUR time.

We have to learn to trust God and His timing. If we will trust Him, we will find out that it is never too late to be TRANSFORMED!

We will learn all about that today. Right now, it’s time to find out “Whatchagaddaknow.”

(play “Whatchagaddaknow” Teaching Video)



CHARACTER SKIT

Character: “Ronnie Robo” *(He is a child that has always loved robots! He dresses cool and always carries around a Transformers robot or two.)*

Ronnie: *(enters with two Transformers)* Hi, everybody! My name is Ronnie Robo!

Leader: Welcome, Ronnie Robo. That might be the coolest last name I have ever heard.

Ronnie: *(playing with his robots)* I know. I get that all the time. I come from a long line of Robo’s.

Leader: *(pokes Ronnie)* Are you a real person?

Ronnie: Haha! Of course I am, and so are these! *(in a robotic voice for the toys)* We are real. We are powerful. We are Transformers!

Leader: Oh my! You do a great robot voice. Where did you learn that?

Ronnie: Are you kidding? I am a Transformers Top Star Viewer! I have been awarded many times for memorizing every line in the movies AND cartoons and knowing everything there is to know about Transformers! In case you were wondering, Transformers is a media franchise produced by an American toy company and a Japanese toy company. It primarily follows the heroic Autobots and the villainous Decepticons, two alien robot factions at war that can transform into other things, such as vehicles and animals.

Leader: Whoa! You are serious! I am super impressed!

Ronnie: You should be. Generation One was from 1984 through 1993. Generation Two was from 1993 through 1995. I have seen every episode and every movie! *(talks in robotic voice for the toys)* We are Transformers!

Leader: Does anyone in here like Transformers? *(allow kids to respond)* I do, too. Robots that can turn themselves into other cool forms? Count me in! As if being a robot wasn’t already cool enough!

Ronnie: Transformation, also known as conversion or shape-shifting, is the process by which a Transformer switches between modes. The term “Transformation Scheme” refers specifically to the way in which the parts of an individual Transformer move and shift in relation to each other during transformation.

Leader: *(stands with jaw dropped)* Okay, wow! I definitely don’t know what all of that means...

Ronnie: Basically, it’s when they change shapes.

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CHARACTER SKIT

(continued)

Leader: That makes more sense!

Ronnie: So what goes on in here? This seems like a cool place.

Leader: This IS a cool place! We come here to worship and learn about God, and we have a lot of fun doing it.

Ronnie: I like fun! I like to learn about God! I like to worship Him! *(holds up toys)* So do they!

Leader: You should stay! We might just have Transformer Day one day and we can all bring robot toys!

Ronnie: That would be awesome! Can I tell you something? Sometimes, these robots help me through hard times, so they mean a lot to me. When my parents split up, they comforted me.

Leader: Sorry to hear that, Ronnie. I know that can hurt. But we have a special promise from God that can really help you and the rest of us when people hurt us.

Ronnie: A promise? I've heard some promises before! They aren't supposed to be broken, but some people break them anyway.

Leader: I know how that feels. Sometimes people let us down, even the people we love the most. But God will NEVER let us down! It's impossible for God to lie or break promises, so we can trust everything He says!

Ronnie: Wow! I've never heard that before.

Leader: God knows what we are going through. He knows our pain. More than that, He knows how to help us through it and give us a new life.

Ronnie: That would be awesome! New things are good. In fact, my mom promised me I could get a new Transformer today. I don't want to be late, so I'd better get going. Thanks for letting me come in! My name is Ronnie Robo! *(in a loud, robotic voice)* We will never stop fighting for our freedom!

(EXITS WHILE HIS THEME MUSIC PLAYS)



GAME TIME

“Ping Pong Golf”

Items Needed For Game:

One table; One large styrofoam cup; 10 ping pong balls; Two straws or empty paper towel rolls

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Preparation:

Choose two boys and two girls to participate in this game.

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How To Play:

One member from each team will stand at one end of the table, holding a cup against the edge of the table. The other team member will stand on the other end of the table with a straw or paper towel roll and 10 ping pong balls.

Set a timer for one minute. The teams will compete one at a time. When you say “go,” one player will blow through the straw/paper towel roll to send each ping pong ball across the table to the other side, attempting to get the ball into the cup. The other teammate may move their cup side to side, but the cup **MUST** be touching the edge of the table at all times. If it comes off the table, the team loses a point. Each ping pong ball that lands in the cup is worth one point. The team with the most points at the end of one minute wins!



Bible Story

“Lazarus Is Raised”

Materials Needed:

The graphic slides for Lesson 1; begin with the slide that says “Bible Story”; follow the instructions below, changing the slides to follow along with the story (*as shown*)

Preparation:

Familiarize yourself with the story in John 11:1-44; have your open Bible in your hands as you tell the story

The Story:

Today’s Bible Story is found in the book of John, chapter 11. In this chapter, we find Jesus and the disciples ministering in a little town when they are approached by a messenger. (*show pic*) The messenger said to Jesus, “Your friend Lazarus is very sick.” Lazarus was, indeed, Jesus’ close friend. Jesus had become close friends with Lazarus and his two sisters, Mary and Martha. But even though Jesus heard that Lazarus was sick, He stayed where He was for two whole days instead of going to visit Lazarus.



Finally, after two days, Jesus decided to go visit Lazarus. When Jesus arrived, He was met by Lazarus’ sister Martha. She was very upset and crying because Lazarus had already died. In fact, Lazarus had been dead for four days by the time Jesus arrived. (*show pic*) Crying, Martha told Jesus, “If only You had been here, my brother would not have died.” Martha knew that Jesus had the power to heal the sick. But now, she felt like it was too late. Lazarus was already dead.



Jesus told Martha, “I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in Me will live, even after dying.” Then Jesus went to the tomb where they had buried Lazarus. Lazarus’ other sister, Mary, told Jesus the same thing - “If You had been here, Lazarus would not have died.” Jesus cried. He loved Lazarus, and He loved Mary and Martha. But Jesus knew that He was about to do something that would amaze everyone who was there.



Jesus ordered that the people move the large stone that had covered Lazarus’ tomb. Martha said, “Jesus, are you sure you want to open the tomb? He’s been dead for four days. He stinks terribly by now.” The stone was rolled away, and Jesus stood a little ways away from the tomb. (*show pic*) He called out toward the tomb, “Lazarus, come out!”

Moments later, guess who came walking out of the tomb? (*show pic*) Lazarus appeared at the entrance of the tomb. He was alive! WOW! Talk about being TRANSFORMED. Lazarus went from death to life - instantly! Mary and Martha thought it was too late. Jesus proved that it is never too late to be TRANSFORMED.

In your lesson today, you are going to learn the same lesson that Mary and Martha learned. Even though it may look like there’s no chance for a transformation, it’s NEVER too late with God.



Call To Action “From Death To Life”

Materials Needed:

The “From Death To Life” graphics; A volunteer; A large wall clock

Preparation:

Begin with the slide titled, “From Death To Life”; have your volunteer wait out in the hallway until it’s time

The Message: *(title slide)*



I am super excited about this series, “Transformed.” Today, we are talking about a *major* transformation that happened - Jesus transformed Lazarus from *death to life*. *(look at your watch)* Well, I was supposed to have a prop to start this off today, but it looks like *(volunteer’s name)* isn’t here yet. They were supposed to be here ten minutes ago. Hmmmmm. I’m not sure what I am going to do now. *(wait a few seconds, looking around the room like you are searching for something, and then have the volunteer bust into the room, out of breath and holding the large wall clock; have them apologize for being late over and over, making up a bunch of reasons why they are late; then, have them leave the room again)*

Don’t you just hate it when someone is late? Have you ever had someone who was supposed to meet you somewhere at a certain time but they were late? All you can do is wait. *(hold the clock up, looking at it, tapping your foot)* It’s never fun to wait. But it’s even worse when someone is not just late... but TOO late. As in - the event is over and they never showed up. That really makes us upset, doesn’t it?

Well, that is exactly how Mary and Martha felt in our Bible Story today. They had sent for Jesus to come visit their brother, Lazarus, while he was very sick so he could be healed. Jesus showed up after their brother had already died. Mary and Martha were so upset. They said, “Jesus, if You had been here, our brother would not have died.” In other words, “You’re too late, Jesus! He’s already dead! It’s too late now!”

They assumed that Jesus just didn’t understand what was going on. But they were wrong. They needed to learn a lesson that each one of us needs to learn also...

Jesus Knows What You Are Going Through *(slide)*



Jesus wasn’t taken by surprise when He arrived to find that Lazarus had already died. In fact, Jesus already knew that Lazarus was dead. Remember, Jesus knows everything! He wasn’t surprised that Lazarus was dead, and Jesus isn’t surprised when things go wrong for you. He’s not surprised when you are in need of a miracle. He knows exactly what you are going through.

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Call To Action (Continued)

Jesus spoke with Mary and with Martha, the sisters of Lazarus. The Bible tells us that when He saw how much pain they were in, Jesus wept. That teaches us something important...

Jesus Feels The Pain You Feel *(slide)*



Jesus hurts when we hurt. He loves us very much. When we feel pain, He feels pain. The people who saw Jesus weep said, “See how much Jesus loved Lazarus!” Jesus did love Lazarus. He also loved Mary and Martha. He felt the pain they were feeling.

Jesus feels your pain, as well. When you have a family member who is sick, Jesus feels your pain. When you have a huge need in your life, Jesus feels your pain. When you are sad and depressed, Jesus feels your pain. Jesus knows exactly how you feel. He loves you. He cares for you.

Mary and Martha thought it was too late for their brother to receive a miracle. They had waited and waited for Jesus to arrive, but He didn’t arrive before Lazarus died. They forgot...

It’s Never Too Late To Be TRANSFORMED *(slide)*



Even though it seemed like Jesus had arrived too late, Mary and Martha soon found out that it was definitely NOT too late. Jesus spoke, and Lazarus came walking out of the grave. He had been dead for four days, but even death was not strong enough to resist the power of Jesus! It wasn’t too late for Lazarus to be TRANSFORMED from death to life!

It’s not too late for you, either. Perhaps you have waited and waited for God to TRANSFORM a situation in your life. Things may look like they are completely over - *dead!* You may be convinced that it is just too late for a miracle. With Jesus - it is NEVER too late to be TRANSFORMED. He can perform a miracle for you today. He can TRANSFORM that “dead” situation you are facing and breathe *life* into it. It’s never too late to be TRANSFORMED!

ALTAR RESPONSE: *(play soft music)*

Pray for the children who need to receive a miracle from God. Pray that God will completely TRANSFORM their situation - from death to life!



Materials Needed:

“REWIND!” Lesson 1 Graphics; “REWIND!” Bumper Video

Preparation:

Play the “REWIND!” Bumper Video; Begin with the slide titled “REWIND!”; there is a slide for each question

1. Whatchagaddaknow today?

Answer: “God Can Bring The Dead To Life!”

2. Who was the friend of Jesus who died in our Bible Story?

Answer: Lazarus

3. Who were Lazarus’ sisters?

Answer: Mary & Martha

4. How long had Lazarus been dead when Jesus arrived?

Answer: Four Days

5. What did Jesus do when He saw the pain that Mary and Martha were in?

Answer: He Wept

6. What happened when Jesus spoke to Lazarus?

Answer: Lazarus Walked Out

7. According to our lesson today, “Jesus _____ What You Are Going Through.”

Answer: Knows

8. According to our lesson today, “Jesus Feels The _____ You Feel.”

Answer: Pain

9. According to our lesson today, “It’s Never Too Late To Be _____.”

Answer: Transformed

10. Where was our Power Verse found?

Answer: John 11:25