

**Please allow time for the kids to write down or dictate their prayer requests each week. Thanks!**

### ***The Reef***

**Theme:** Transformers  
February-March 2012  
Power Lab

**Scripture:** Romans 12:2-3

Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God **transform** you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will know what God wants you to do, and you will know how good and pleasing and perfect His will really is.

#### **Memory Verse:**

Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God **transform** you into a new person by changing the way you think. Romans 12:1-3

#### **Opening**

Show pictures of chameleon and butterfly to the class.

#### Ask

† Are you a chameleon or a butterfly? If you are a chameleon, sit on the left side of the room. If you're a butterfly, sit on the right side of the room.

After everyone moves, ask

† Why did you choose the animal that you did?

† What are the characteristics of a butterfly? A chameleon?

#### Say

† During this rotation, we will be talking about what it's like to be a transformer. Both of these animals change their appearance somehow during their lifetime. How they do it and the reasons they do it, however, are completely different.

† First of all, let's start out by taking a look at what the bible says about being a transformer and change.

#### **Scripture Lesson**

#### Say

This transformer scripture is written by a follower of Jesus named Paul. He wrote a letter to people on Rome to let them know how to best follow Christ.

#### Ask:

- Which testament in the Bible do you think this story would be in?

- If Paul wrote this letter to the people in Rome, what book of the Bible do you think it would be in?

Do:

- Have everyone open their Bibles to the New Testament (Divide Bible in 1/2 then in the back half, divide in half again.)  
 Grades K-2 – find Romans and teacher read passage out loud  
 Grades 3-5 – find Romans 12:1-3 and have a student read the passage out loud

Say

Another translation of the Bible says it like this.

“Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing.”

(New Living Translation)

Say

God wants to change us by changing the way we think.

Ask

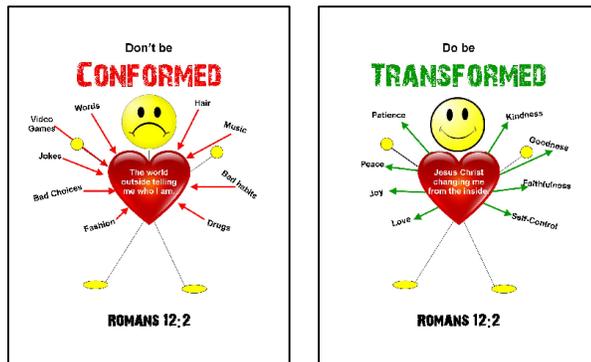
- Why do you think God wants us to change?
- How do you think we can learn more about God?
- How do you think your life will change because of learning more about God?

Say:

God wants us to look carefully at God and study God’s word so God can change us. During this rotation, we’re going to learn more about being transformed into the person God wants us to be by reading the Bible, praying, going to church and serving others.

Show the class the Conformed/Transformed poster.

Talk about what it means to be “conformed to the world” – to do what everyone else does because it makes us accepted by our friends.



Talk about what it means when we transform our minds to be more like Jesus Christ – how we change how we think and act.

Say

✠ Let’s go back to Mr. Chameleon. Chameleons are best known for their ability to change colors easily. Once, color change was thought to serve as camouflage, or a sort of disguise, allowing the chameleon to match or blend in to its surroundings. Scientists now believe that colors change in response to differences in temperature, light, and the chameleon’s mood.

### Ask

- † Is a chameleon more like someone who is conformed or transformed?
- † What about a butterfly?

Explain the butterfly life cycle.

### Say:

- † Butterflies on the other hand, undergo a complete metamorphosis. Each stage of life appears as if it were a totally different animal. It is a complete transformation.
- † Metamorphosis is a good representation of our transformation from our old person to a new person in Christ. We're quite comfortable as a caterpillar. We know who we are even when things are not quite the way we'd like them to be.
- † The caterpillar must cease from being a caterpillar. It has to become something totally different, in many ways, from what it is. This process is called 'pupation'.
- † First, a caterpillar literally loses its skin, legs, and 'head' to become a chrysalis. We do the same thing to become a Christian; our old legs/arms took us places and did things that our new person in Christ should not go/do.
- † A caterpillar can 'see' light and darkness with its eyes. Our old eyes were un-Christ-like; looking at things with envy, staring with hatred, and other things eyes should not do.
- † A caterpillar loses its mouth to become a chrysalis. A caterpillar eats and is known to cannibalize other caterpillars and even chrysalises. Sometimes we say and do things that are not Christ-like. When God transforms us by changing the way we think, we talk and act differently.
- † A chrysalis seems to be doing nothing. But inside, it is changing completely. New legs, head, mouth, and wings are being formed.
- † The process is quick for a caterpillar. It takes three minutes for a caterpillar to become a chrysalis. A chrysalis may take from five days to nine months to become an adult butterfly. On the other hand, we take a long time to change and in the changing, we still say and do things we shouldn't. That's normal. That's where God's loving patience and grace comes in.
- † The adult butterfly finally emerges; able to do things very different from a caterpillar. As a Christian emerges, that person very different than the earlier version of him/herself. We are always changing and growing in our bodies and in our faith. We are being transformed. God isn't finished with us yet.

### Ask

Again I ask you – as a follower of Christ, are you a Chameleon or a butterfly?

### Say

- † A CHAMELEON-TYPE CHRISTIAN is the type of person who, at church or Bible study, may look like a Christian, but once he is away from Christians, he looks like everyone else. A chameleon changes color based on the environment he is in to fit/blend in. If it's on something green, it turns green; if it's on something brown, it turns brown. But you know that the chameleon is exactly the same critter. So it is with many who carry the name "Christian" around Christians, yet look and act like everyone else.
- † A BUTTERFLY-TYPE CHRISTIAN is one who has truly been transformed into a most beautiful NEW creation. Once a caterpillar, now a butterfly! He is not the same any more - he has been transformed!!! This is what happens to the Christian. When a person is a Christian he CHANGES! When he's at church or Bible study he's a Christian (like a beautiful butterfly) and when he is around friends at school or at the ball park, he still is a beautiful butterfly. He doesn't change based on his environment. Some may not like him being a butterfly, but he is one! He has been transformed through Christ !

### **Activity #1**

Set up butterfly garden by transferring caterpillars to their new environment.

### **Activity #2**

Look at butterflies and other objects using the SpyClops.

### **Activity #3**

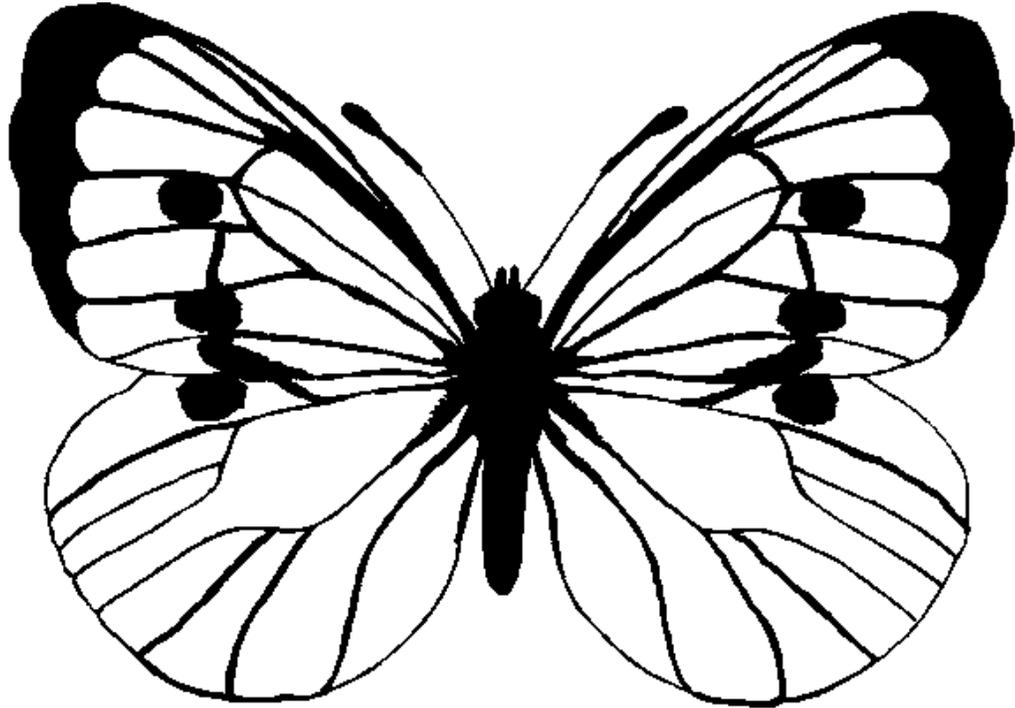
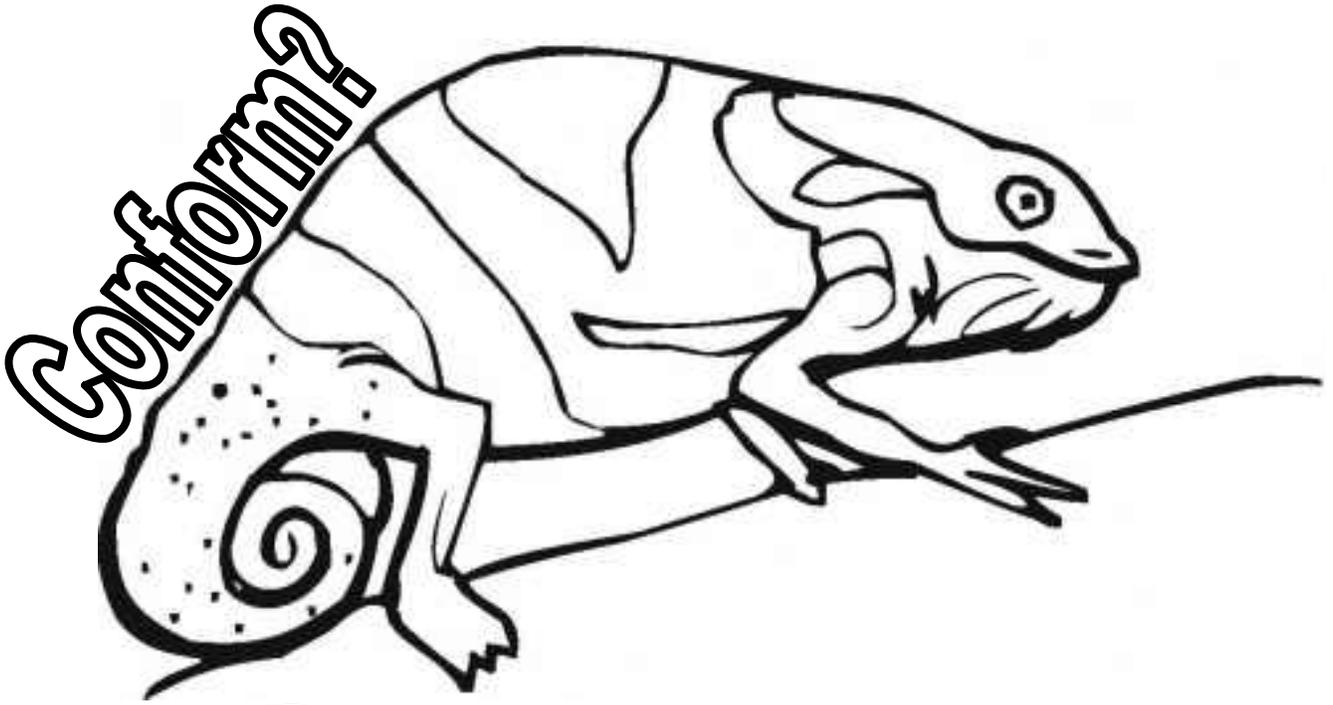
Watch butterfly movie in the Oasis.

### **Closing Prayer**

Thank you, God, for transforming my mind to be more like you. Help me to be more like a butterfly and less like a chameleon each day.

Amen

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*Transform!*

Romans 12:2