

Bonus Activities *

Younger Children:

Learn about Transformation: Read books about transformation such as *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*. Talk about how God can transform us, too.

Elementary Children:

Create Something New: Gather a variety of items (construction paper, scissors, bubble wrap, empty containers, empty egg cartons, glue, tape, paint, etc.) for children to use to create art. For older elementary children, encourage them to choose what they wish and create a picture or use the items to make something new. For younger elementary children, encourage them to dip the containers and bubble wrap into paint to see the different patterns they make on the paper.

Older Preschoolers & Elementary Children:

Transform a Friend: Gather a variety of clothing items (two of each item), such as button down shirts, rain boots or flip flops, hats, sunglasses, pants, etc. Set up a relay race and divide children into teams. Each team will dress a volunteer in one of each clothing item. One person will race with one item, put it on a teammate, and then tag the next person in line.

Pathlight*

www.cbf.net/pathlight

CBF's *Pathlight* curriculum helps children explore the Good News of Jesus through stories, scripture and activities.

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Your word is a lamp that gives light wherever I walk.

Psalms 119:105 (CEV)

Theme Overview *

Keith Holmes and Mary Van Rheenen work with Romany Christians who are not shy about sharing their own stories of transformation. Vasilita is a Romany woman from Moldova who once left the church, bitter and disillusioned. But she has once again opened her heart to Jesus and God's transforming power. This session focuses on the theme of making changes.

Bible Verse *

Matthew 18:1-4

About this time the disciples came to Jesus and asked him who would be the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Jesus called for a child to come over and stand near him. Then he said: "I promise you this. If you don't change and become like a child, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven. But if you are as humble as this child, you are the greatest in the kingdom of heaven." (CEV)

Session Outline *

Prepare

- Make copies of the Student Handout.
- Review the Story and Bible Verse.

Welcome

- Greet students as they arrive.
- **Ask:** Have you ever wanted something badly enough that you were willing to do whatever you had to do to get it? What happened?

Engage

- Distribute the Student Handout.
- Read and discuss the Bible Verse.
- Work on the Handout Activity.
- Transition to Story Time.

Share

- Tell the story, "Vasilita Changes Attitudes."
- Share the photo and caption.
- Discuss the Story and pray.

Conclude

- Lead students in Bonus Activities as time permits.

Vasilita Changes Attitudes

“Thank you so much for meeting me today, Leonora. I know you have some questions about Jesus, and I wanted to share my story with you,” Vasilita said as she sat down across from Leonora. “Yes, I have many questions. And I’m just not sure that Jesus would be able to change my life,” said Leonora. “I have been there, Leonora,” Vasilita said. Before my husband and I built our house, we were faithful attenders of our church. But then, I wanted our home so badly that I convinced my husband to do some things he shouldn’t so that we could get the money. The people in our church confronted us. That made me so angry! I turned my back on them and on God. We built our house and moved on. But I was still so angry. And I wasn’t very nice to anyone. I had lost myself. But then, something happened that I can’t explain. Jesus just changed me. It wasn’t overnight but, slowly, I began to have a better attitude. I became nicer to people. And I wanted to help others again! It was hard to confess to our church, but I felt so much better afterwards! I was transformed. And now I do everything I can to share God’s amazing love with others. God’s love truly can change you if you let it.” As Vasilita finished, Leonora took her hand. “I need that kind of change, Vasilita,” Leonora said. “I want my life to be different. I need a new start. Can you help me follow Jesus?”

Discussion and Prayer ✨

- **Ask:** How were Vasilita and her husband living? What was their attitude like?
- **Ask:** Has Jesus helped you have a better attitude? What happened?
- **Ask:** How can you share Jesus with others?
- **Say:** Vasilita knew that she was doing the wrong things. But Jesus helped her change her attitude. Jesus helped her do the right thing. Jesus can help us figure out the right thing to do, and help us change our attitudes, too.
- **Pray:** God, thank you for giving Vasilita a better attitude and for helping her make better choices. Please help us have good attitudes and do what you want us to do. And when we don’t, please change our hearts. Amen.



Vasilita

Vasilita used to be angry and dishonest. Now, because of her relationship with Jesus, Vasilita shares God’s amazing love with others.

Pathlight

Your word is a lamp that gives light wherever I walk. Psalm 119:105 (CEV)

Learn About *

CBF field personnel Mary Van Rheen works with Romany Christians who are not shy about sharing their own stories of transformation.



Bible Verse *

Matthew 18:1-4

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Matthew 18 Word Search

Find the words in bold from the Bible verse, located in the Word Search.

L	C	S	M	I	I	S	G	H	M	T	R	L	C
A	N	G	O	E	E	C	M	I	I	E	K	D	U
A	L	E	I	U	T	C	O	A	G	H	U	L	P
H	S	N	T	H	S	U	S	E	J	N	I	S	R
R	D	D	T	S	E	T	A	E	R	G	D	R	O
H	E	I	H	D	D	E	T	S	V	N	R	I	M
E	H	S	A	U	P	E	P	L	E	P	D	E	I
T	D	C	E	E	M	C	H	V	N	L	H	A	S
U	I	I	G	I	L	B	A	E	I	K	M	L	E
M	S	P	N	P	V	E	L	H	E	H	P	G	S
I	U	L	A	E	H	S	C	E	V	E	M	S	H
N	I	E	H	T	A	A	K	I	N	G	D	O	M
D	S	S	C	E	N	H	J	G	R	E	M	N	S
N	E	G	R	J	P	N	E	V	E	R	I	E	E

About this time the **disciples** came to **Jesus** and asked him who would be the **greatest** in the **kingdom** of heaven. Jesus called for a **child** to come over and stand near him. Then he said: "I **promise** you this. If you don't **change** and become like a child, you will **never** get into the kingdom of **heaven**. But if you are as **humble** as this child, you are the greatest in the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 18:1-4 (CEV)

PROMISE
CHILD
CHANGE
HUMBLE
HEAVEN

DISCIPLES
GREATEST
NEVER
KINGDOM
JESUS