

CAMP

THROUGH THE

Entire Bible

BY D.J. HORTON

WEEK 9

Family CAMP devotions are a way to come together as a family and interact with God's Word. We will go through the entire Bible together this summer! Don't miss the opportunity to CAMP with your family each week using this simple family devotion guide.

How do we CAMP as a family?

Come together
Access God's Word
Make conversation
Pray



C: Come Together

Come together and remove distractions. Prepare your heart and mind to hear from God's Word together today by getting some Play Doh or clay. Begin pressing it and shaping it in your hands. What happens to it as you move it around in your hands and apply pressure? Talk and discuss about how it changes the shape and the ability to make it into different things. Today we are going to talk about what it looks like to let God and the truth of His Word shape our lives instead of all the ideas, things, people around us. We are going to learn about what it means to be transformers not conformers!

A: Access God's Word

Access God's Word by reading today's Bible passage together and the daily devotion aloud.

Open your Bible and read aloud Romans 12:1-2.

An apostle of Jesus named Paul wrote the book of Romans. For the first eleven chapters he has been sharing the details of the Gospel (the good news) of Jesus with the Christ followers in Rome to make sure they know it backwards and forwards. But in chapter 12,

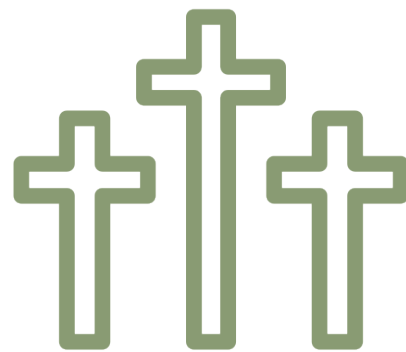


Paul changes things up. He wants to make sure that the Christ followers not only know what they believe, but also how to live out those beliefs every single day in a world that may not believe the same! Paul wants those who have experienced the mercy and grace of God through Jesus to be transformers, not conformers! But what does that mean for us as Christ followers?

The word conform means to make, be, or act like something. Have you ever started saying something just because a friend says it? Have you ever started acting a certain way because the people around you act that way? These are examples of what it looks like when we conform to the world. It means we start doing what someone else is doing and start allowing the world to shape us.

But Paul says that is not what we are to do. He tells us we should instead be transformed by God! The word transform means to actually change the form, structure, or shape of something. Only God can truly change us from the inside out...only God can transform us. The power of God alive in us through His Holy Spirit transforms us! The power of God's Word to show us truth in the middle of a world full of lies transforms us!

When we give our lives to Jesus as our Savior and Lord, He transforms us. The awesome part is that He can then use our lives to transform the world around us! Through Christ, we can be a transformer, not a conformer! That means that when everyone else is believing things and making choices that do not line up with God Word's, we can choose to be different! We can choose to agree with God's truth even when others are not. God will guide us every step of the way because He is changing us, shaping us, transforming us to look more and more like Him! He shows us His plans and purposes for our lives!



We get to choose: be a conformer or be a transformer! Let's not conform to all the constantly changing ideas of the world that come from minds and hearts that are rooted in sin. Instead, let's choose to be transformed by the good news of Jesus and the absolute truth of God's Word! Let's be transformers who let the power of God work in a big way in us and through us so the world can know the truth of God's grace and His never ending, unchanging love!

M: Make Conversation

Make conversation around today's Bible passage and devotion by asking the questions provided. The goal of this time is to discover together the truths from God's Word and the daily devotion. Think of ways that you and your family can put this truth into action.

1. What does the word conform mean? (to make, be, or act like something) What are some ways or times when you have looked more like the world than like God in choices you have made? (Discuss and don't be afraid to share your own example first. Our family needs to see our own willingness to admit that we are sinful by nature and show our personal need for Jesus as well.)



2. What does the word transform mean? (to actually change the form, structure, or shape of something) Can we transform ourselves? (No! Only God can!) How can we be transformed by God? (When we trust Jesus as our Savior and Lord and give our lives to Him completely. Then, his Holy Spirit lives in us and changes us from the inside out! God's Word shows us the truth and that truth changes us to look more and more like Jesus!)

3. How can we not fall for the lies that are in the world? (We must believe and remember that the Bible is true. We need to know the truth of God's Word- the Bible- so that we are not shaped by the things and ways of the world.)
4. What are some ways as a family that we can help one another live as transformers, not conformers? (We can kindly remind one another when we are thinking, acting, speaking in ways that do not line up with God's Word. We can share the transforming power of God with others through acts of kindness or acts of service to those around us.)

P: Pray

Guide your family through a prayer to end your time together.

Praise God for the good news of Jesus!

Thank God that we can know how to live for Him in a sinful world because He shows us how in His Word.

Confess ways or times that you have chosen to be a conformer by looking, acting, thinking, and speaking like a sinful world.

Ask God to help you stay faithful to reading and knowing the truth of God's Word and to trust the guidance of the Holy Spirit alive in you.

Ask God to help others see the transforming power and truth of God in your life so that they will come to know and trust Him instead of the lies of the world.

Family CAMP Activities

1. Research together the transformation of a caterpillar to a butterfly. Look up videos that show the process or even visit a Butterfly farm! Talk about how also God transforms us in a beautiful way. Talk about how the perspectives of the caterpillar and butterfly are different- what each might see. Can you imagine a butterfly wanting to go back to being a caterpillar? This is what Paul is telling us in these verses from today! When God changes us from the inside out, we don't ever need to go back! We need to live like the beautifully changed and transformed people that we are!
2. Spend time making Play Doh creations together as a family and have conversations about today's lesson as you create together!
3. Go to a local pottery studio to create or paint art pieces together as a family. Have conversations about the process of the pieces that you are painting being created. Talk about how you are continuing to shape and change the pieces even with the paint and glaze you are adding. Discuss the amazing ways God shapes and changes us more and more into His image.
4. Plan an act of kindness or act of service that you can do together as a family this week. Keep it simple: bake cookies for neighbors, take out the neighbors trash, etc. Take time through the week to talk about what it looks like to live as a transformer!
5. As a reminder of today's lesson, write both of the words "conformer" and "transformer" on one piece of paper. Draw a red line or a "no sign" around the word "conformer" and put a big check above the word "transformer". Then, write the address for today's scripture, "Romans 12:1-2" at the top or bottom. You can make one of these for the family or have each family member make their own. Place this somewhere prominent as a daily reminder for everyone.