

STW LESSONS

Lesson 1

Transformation



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Objectives

- To realize what God has done for us
- To recognize what life without God is like for people around the world
- To accept our responsibility to spread the word to those who have not heard

Materials

- White board or poster board and writing utensils
- Paper
- Pens and pencils
- Bibles

■ **Starting the Journey [15 min.]**

Ask: *What are some of the greatest inventions in history?*

Allow students to list a few, and then discuss how those inventions changed life for the people of the time. Encourage them to focus on how life was before and how that differed from life afterward. If you have a large group, you could get them into small groups and give them a few minutes to come up with these and then report back to the overall group.

■ **Gaining Speed [10 min.]**

Say: *Think of people who have made a difference in your life. Describe what they have done and how they have impacted you.* It could be a coach, teacher, parent, youth worker, and so on,



but point out the difference between life before (or what life would be without them) and life after (or life with them). As the leader, you may want to tell about someone in your life to set the stage.

Down the Straightaway [15 minutes]

Say: *Just as inventions and people have changed the world and your life, those of us who claim to follow Christ have undergone an even greater transformation. Sometimes we can get bogged down and forget just what has happened in our lives, so let's review. We'll start back at the beginning.*

Read: the scripture and make notes in the left-hand column below of how the verses describe the state of life for humans in the very beginning.

Say: *We know that life changed forever when sin entered the world. Read the scriptures and make notes in the right-hand column of how the verses describe life after sin entered the world. Possible answers are listed next to each passage but these are not the only possibilities.*

Life in the Beginning	Life After Sin
Genesis 1:27–28. Made in image of God and blessed.	Genesis 3:16–19. Cursed with painful existence.
Genesis 2:25. Unashamed.	Genesis 3:8b. Ashamed.
Genesis 3:8a. Walked with God.	Genesis 3:23. Banished from God's presence.
Genesis 2:16–17. Life without death, freedom.	Genesis 2:16–17. Condemned to death.

Say: *When humans sinned, they separated themselves from God, who cannot be with sin, bringing death and pain into the world. But fortunately the story does not end there.*

Read: John 3:16–17.

Ask: *What happened?*

Say: *God sent his Son to save the world. Life for humans has changed once again.*

Ask: *How was life before Christ?* Read the scriptures and make a list in the left-hand column.

Ask: *How is life after Christ?* Read the scriptures and make a list in the right-hand column.



Life Under the Curse	Life After Christ
Romans 3:19–20. No one righteous under the law.	Romans 3:21–22. Righteousness apart from law.
Romans 3:23. All are sinners.	Romans 3:24. Justified freely.
Romans 6:23a. Condemned to death.	Romans 6:23b. Given eternal life.
	Romans 5:1. At peace with God.
	Romans 8:1. No condemnation.
	Romans 8:14–17. Children of God, co-heirs with Christ.
	Romans 8:26–27. Have an advocate and intercessor.
	Romans 8:38–39. No separation.

Say: *Christ’s sacrifice on the cross has made it possible for us to experience true life through a relationship with the One who created us.*

■ Heading for the Checkered Flag [10 minutes]

Ask: *What about for you personally? How has Christ changed your life?*

Have students make their own personal lists on a piece of paper describing how life was before Christ in one column and how life is after Christ in another. If a student came to know Christ at a young age, it may be difficult to remember life before. Encourage them to think of their friends who do not know Christ and how life is different for them. This is a simple way to teach them how to share their testimonies.

■ Crossing the Finish Line [10 minutes]

Say: *We have been given a wonderful gift, but it is not a gift to be kept to ourselves.*

Read: Revelations 5:9.

Ask: *Who did Christ come to save? (Everyone.)*

Read: Romans 10:13–15.



Ask: *What does it say to those Christ has already saved?* (It is our responsibility to spread the word.)

Return to the testimonies each student prepared and instruct them to think of the people in their lives who cannot fill in the right-hand column because they have not met Jesus or experienced the salvation God offers.

Challenge them this week to begin to pray that God will reveal how he wants to use them to share Christ with at least one person they thought of. This is a good time to introduce them to the 360 Revolution, watching for where God is at work all around them and praying for at least 3 friends, 6 days a week, and missing 0 opportunities. You can find a free teaching series for the 360 Revolution at www.chogy.org under evangelism tools.

Close in a prayer for boldness, power, and wisdom this next week as you all seek ways to spread the word.

