

Romans 12:1–2

BIBLICAL PASSAGE

Romans 12:2

MEMORY VERSE

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. **Romans 12:2**

Daniel approached his youth pastor, Greg, with a puzzled look on his face. “Greg, does Romans 12:2 mean that God wants to brainwash us?” Daniel asked.

“Yeah, I can see where you might think that,” responded Greg. “But think about who God is. He has never tried to control us in that way. He would rather our relationship with Him be one that we choose out of love for Him. Renewing our minds simply means that when we turn from the world and focus on the things of God, eventually we’re going to see through His eyes, and it’s going to change us in a good way!”

“That’s cool. I can deal with that,” Daniel said.

Read Romans 12:1–2. Paul wanted the Roman Christians to see that Jesus Christ ushered in a time

when worship and commitment to God did not mean religious rituals, but a full lifestyle of worship. Believers can now relate to God on an intimate level that is life changing. This is a completely new outlook.

Students are at a very impressionable stage in life. Conforming to the world is not hard for them to do because they just want to fit in. They need our example and encouragement to live in the world but not become part of it. Your influence on them is a major part of the process of transforming them into people God can and will use. Do not underestimate God’s ability to work through you to help your student in the renewal process.

FAMILY DEVOTION TIME

Connect . . .

Family members take modeling clay and each create an object that is symbolic of who they are in terms of personality, interests, or talents. Ask everyone to share their creations and the meanings behind them. Discuss:

Do you believe that God can take what you’ve made and re-form it into what He desires?

Explore . . .

A family member reads Romans 12:1–2. Then discuss: **How is it possible for us as a family to live fully committed to God? What would it look like if we were more conformed to God’s ways? How would living in this way be an act of worship?**

Transform . . .

Family members evaluate ways their family life may be more of a reflection of the world than of God. Discuss whether the family schedule honors God and one another. Discuss: **What would we need to adjust to be healthier in our use of time, money, and family resources? What do we do that shows that we value God, each other, and other people more than we value things?**

Pray that your family would submit to the transforming ways of God so He can mold and shape you into the family He wants for His purposes.