

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of August 21-27, 2022

"BEING TRANSFORMED"

GETTING STARTED

To the facilitator: Use this section to introduce the topic. If possible, give a brief recap of the sermon.

Share a memorable point, a spiritual lesson, a personal application, a question, or something that challenged you from the sermon last Sunday.

When you think about peer pressure, what do you remember as one of the biggest challenges you personally faced?

GROUP DISCUSSION

Read ROMANS 12:1-2

1. When we talk about "transformation" for a Christian, what facets come to mind? (See also Acts 3:19; 1 Corinthians 13:4-8; 2 Corinthians 3:18, 5:18; Galatians 5:22-23; Colossians 3:9-10).
2. What are the "mercies of God" that Paul is thinking of in Romans 12:1? How do these "mercies" motivate you to live a Christ-honoring life?
3. What imagery comes to mind when Paul talks about offering our bodies as a living sacrifice? In what practical ways can you 'present' or 'offer' your body to God as an act of worship? (See also Rom 6:13-16; 1 Peter 1:14; 1 John 2:15.)
4. The word translated "spiritual" (*logican*) act of worship might also be translated "rational or logical" act of worship. What is the point Paul is trying to get across regarding the motive and design of a believer's worship of God? Do you ever obey God out of fear or ignorance? What would change if you obeyed him out of gratitude and a desire to please him?
5. Why does Paul focus on transforming our minds first, rather than our actions? Would that transformation affect people's "discernment" (Romans 12:2)? What examples can you think about in your own personal life where this applies?
6. "If we want to be good at something, we have to be disciplined at something." How do you respond to this statement? List down some things in your life that need discipline. Share and discuss how you and/or the group can help you in this area.

7. What highlight or takeaway struck you the most in our sermon series "We are the Church"? How has this series challenged you, as one who belongs to the body of Christ, the church?

8. NEXT STEPS

The Christian journey is a journey of transformation.

- ☐ I will present to God all that I am, and all that I have, as a living sacrifice. This is my response to his love, and my spiritual act of worship to him.
- ☐ I will yield to the Holy Spirit as he works to change me to the image of Christ we are called to be conformed to.
- ☐ I will remember that transformation as normal to the Christian and that it is personal as we let God change us.
- ☐ I will share Jesus and his love with others, and reach out to my friends and loved ones.

Don't forget to:

- ☐ Go through the devotionals everyday this week.
- ☐ Have a regular daily time of prayer and reading of God's Word.

CLOSING THE SESSION.

Close the session by taking the time to pray for one another. Consider the following as you pray:

- Pray for God to transformation by renewing your mind by his Spirit.
- Pray for a discerning heart that enables you to recognize the Lord's will.
- Pray for relationships to grow with other Christ-followers, that you will encourage and care for one another.
- Pray for your unsaved family, friends, and loved ones.
- Pray for protection, provision, healing and comfort for everyone who's going through physical, emotional, mental and spiritual pain.

BIBLE READING SCHEDULE.

August 22	Romans 12:1-3
August 23	Luke 3:15-18
August 24	Galatians 5:16-26
August 25	Hebrews 13:8
August 26	Luke 9:51-56
August 27	Psalms 84:1-7
August 28	Genesis 25:19-34