

Transformation

Discussion #1 New Creation

Big idea: The same God that made all things from nothing promises to make His People new creations through His Holy Spirit.

1. Icebreaker question
2. Connection to the sermon
 - a. **From the sermon on New Creation, why do we need to be made new creations?**
 - b. The fall of mankind presented the need for new creation. The Old Testament continues to illustrate the fallenness of mankind and looks forward to what God will do with new creation. Today we live after the crucifixion, resurrection, ascension of Jesus and the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.
 - c. **When you consider God's transformative work done by the Holy Spirit in the Christ follower, what does this tell you about God's character?**
3. Read Jeremiah 31:31 to 34, Ezekiel 36:26 to 27, and Joel 2:28 to 29
 - a. **Imagine yourself living in a time before Jesus lived and died, how might you expect these promises of a new covenant, a new heart, and God pouring out His Spirit to be fulfilled in God's people?**
 - b. **Moving to today how do we see the promises being fulfilled in the Spirit's work in the church?**
4. Read II Corinthians 5:17 to 19
 - a. **How does God use us to reconcile others to Himself?**
 - b. **How do you think God is calling you today to be a new creation?**
 - c. To be a faithful follower of Jesus in close relationship with our Savior, He instructs us to keep His commandments (John 14:15). Many Christ followers can think of a few things that they need to stop and other things that they need to start to follow Jesus in consistent faithfulness. Often the issue is not what is my next step, but how can one consistently follow through with that step.

Find someone who cares for you, knows you well, and will commit with you to check in on whether your follow through on your next step is consistent or not.

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Discussion #2 People Jesus radically changed

Big idea: God radically saves and transforms His people.

1. **From the sermon on Coming to Jesus, what stood out to you from this message?**
2. Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, **when we consider God's power demonstrated through the gospel, what does this tell you about who God is?**
3. **What do we know about Peter before he met Jesus?**
4. Read Luke 5:1 to 11
 - a. **In Luke 5:10 Jesus tells Peter not to be afraid, what might have caused Peter to fear Jesus?**
 - b. **Remember the last story in the gospels is about how Jesus purposefully restored Peter to ministry, what does that tell us about Jesus and His plan for Peter's life?**
 - c. **When you think about all the things that Peter did in the book of Acts, how do you see him as the same man as in the gospels and how do you see him differently than in the gospels?**
5. Saul of Tarsish, **what do we know about Saul before he meets Jesus in Acts 9?**
 - a. **How did God radically save Saul?**
6. Read Acts 9:22 to 30
 - a. **How would you describe the early days of Saul as a follower of Jesus?**
7. Read Acts 11:19 to 30
 - a. **When you think about what Barnabas did for Saul, where do you see yourself in relations to other believers? Do you need someone to pour God's grace into like Barnabas? Or do you need to pour God's grace into another like Saul?**
8. Application questions
 - a. **What does a comparison of Peter's and Paul's conversion experience tell us about how God works in people's hearts and minds?**
 - b. **As you reflect on this comparison, which would you say is more similar to the start of your faith journey? Why?**
 - c. **What encouragement to you find in the different ways that God worked in and through both men?**

When you consider what God is doing in your life, where are you? Do you need to start your journey by accepting Jesus as Savior? Do you need restoration to relationship like Peter? Do you need someone alongside you like Saul need Barnabas? Do you need to find someone to encourage like Barnabas to Saul? Do you need to get out and boldly share the good news like Peter and Saul? Take a time this week to seek the Lord and where He would direct you to go. Find someone from the group to share this with.

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Discussion #3 The hard work of spiritual growth

Big idea: The Holy Spirit transforms us. We can develop disciplines that prepare our hearts and minds for His transformation.

9. Icebreaker question:
2. Connection to the sermon
 - a. **In the sermon we heard and saw that sanctification is by grace through the work of the Holy Spirit, how does this challenge the way you think about the Spirit's work and our works of service for God and His people?**
3. Renewed mind
 - a. Read Romans 12:1 to 2
 - i. Here is another famous transformation passage in Paul's letters. He contrasts conformity to this world to transformation by renewal of our minds. Conformity means to follow the same pattern. Transformation means to be made into something new.
 - ii. **What are some areas of life where Christ followers tend to follow the world's pattern? (give some examples)**
 - iii. **How would life be different if Christ followers lived out their faith in the areas given as examples?**
4. Renewed lives
 - a. Read Ephesians 4:17 to 24
 - i. Here Paul is addressing how the people in the Ephesian church should walk (ie the disciplines that make up their daily lives). He tells them to put off their old way of life and put on the new way of life. Notice how Paul places his teaching on how the Ephesians should live now after his teaching on their new identity in Jesus.
 - ii. **Think of a time when you struggled to put off your old self and put on the new self. How did you handle that time?**
 - iii. The New Testament letters have specific applications of put off and put on. These are known as admonitions.
 - iv. **After this passage Paul gives many specific applications about how the Ephesian church should live (see Ephesians 4:25 to 32). In addition to these, if someone like Paul were to write you a letter today what specific applications would this person address in your life?**
 - v. **What steps do you need to take this week to address this area of life? Who will you seek to help you be accountable to follow through?**

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Discussion # 4 One another one another

Big idea: A transforming church is called to live in community with one another.

1. Icebreaker
2. Connection to the sermon
 - a. God's purpose to transform the world is carried out by the Holy Spirit through His people. **What does it tell us about God's character that He uses us to fulfill His plans?**
3. One another passages
 - a. There are more than forty one another verses in the New Testament. Today, we will consider three before making a group commitment on how we will practice one together.
 - b. Read Romans 12:10
 - i. **Can you think of a time when a fellow Christ follower showed love and honor to you? What did that do for your faith?**
 - ii. **Who are those overlooked and forgotten? How can we show love and honor to these?**
 - c. Read Hebrews 10:19 to 25
 - i. **What encourages you to make and keep a discipline?**
 - ii. **How could you encourage a fellow Christ follower to show love and do good works?**
 - d. Read Romans 15:1 to 7
 - i. Like in every church, in the Roman church there were Christ followers who were strong in their faith and others who were weak in their faith.
 - ii. **In what ways did Paul instruct the strong to bear with the weak?**
 - iii. **What are ways we seek to please ourselves rather than live in harmony with fellow Christ followers?**
 - iv. **How do we need to change so that we welcome others like Jesus has welcomed us? What are some things that you could do to share Christ like love to others?**
4. Commitment time
 - a. **Together as a group make a commitment to fulfill one of these or another one another command throughout the rest of this year.**
 - b. This may present the opportunity to plan an outreach service project. If so delegate to someone to organize the effort and opportunity to serve outside the LifeGroup.