

Group Leader Notes for week of 9/24 Romans 12:2

Greeting and may God be with you all. Please be sure to read the bottom of this document for clarification on the 5:1 Transformation journal and small group process beginning next week. I look forward to our leadership retreat this Saturday. May God be glorified in and through us.

1. From reading Romans 12:2, how can you test (know) and approve (value) the will of God?

- In Romans 12:2 and in Tim's message we learned that two main things we must do. 1st, we must stop conforming to the pattern of this world. In others words don't imitate the culture around you. 2nd, we must allow God to transform us through the renewing of our minds. This will happen if I submit to transformed thinking. I must realize I need it (read Eph 4:17-18), depend on the power of the Holy Spirit to accomplish it (read Titus 3:5), pray for understanding (read Colossians 1:9), Spend time in the word of God (read Matthew 4:4, this is of the utmost importance) and commit to continuing in the renewal process. Read 1 Corinthians 3:8 & 4:16-18). Jesus said in Luke 9:23, if anyone wants to be his disciple, he must deny himself and follow him every day! By doing so, I begin to know and value of God's will. This allows me to experience God in a new and amazing way.

2. Tim talked about the negative command, "Don't be conformed to the pattern of this world - don't be squeezed into thinking like this world." What are the patterns of this world, our culture, from which you need to break away?

- Allow people to share struggles in everyday life. This may or may not be sin. Often our passions, pursuits, and priorities direct our lives in a direction that makes us become conformed to our culture. Success on the job or at school, relationships with other people (especially the opposite sex), desire to be accepted, even political agendas can all lead us to be consumed by our culture.

3. According to the message, how does transformed thinking happen?

- Refer to Tim's five steps in his message. Remember, it is God who works in you to will and act according to his good purpose. Our role is to listen and obey His word. The key word is submission. Submission of my thinking to God's thinking. Submission of my will to God's will.

4. Will you commit today to reading, meditating, praying, and journaling every day for the next 5 weeks?

❖ If so, tell someone about your commitment and ask him/her to help hold you accountable.

- Encourage people in your group to commit to daily reading during the next 5 weeks. I would even consider a voluntary signed covenant between people in your small group. Perhaps people can pair off and have accountability partners that pray for one another and ask each other weekly how they are doing in the daily reading commitment.

5. What is the single biggest change you need to make in life before you can sustain a daily time with God and His word during 5:1 Transformation?

- Get people to talk about changes they need to make. This might be attitude towards time with God. It might be schedule commitments. What time they get up in the morning. What they do at lunchtime. It might be giving up something that keeps them from God.

We serve an awesome God and He is worthy to receive our praise and honor. Time with Him is one of the best (if not the best) ways to worship God and to renew your mind and test and approve the will of God.

Begin using your journal this week. For five days this week, read, meditate, pray and journal from John Chapter 15 and Philippians Chapters 1, 2, 3, and 4. During the remaining two days, meet with your small group and worship with us on Sunday.

Important - Group leaders, have the members of your group begin using the journal the day after you meet this week. Ask them all to read the first six pages or go over them in your group meeting this week. The goal would be that next week when you meet they have completed five days of the journal (pages 7-12) and you can complete the small group study found in the journal on page #13&14 next week (week of October 1st).

Sample: Schedule for a group meeting on Wednesday nights

9/27 you meet and discuss Romans 12:2 and commit to 5:1 Transformation journal plan (review pages 1-6)

9/28 (Thursday) Week #1 Day #1 page 7 & 8

9/29 (Friday) Day #2 page 9

9/30 (Saturday) Day #3 page 10

10/1 (Sunday) Worship

10/2 (Monday) Day #4 page 11

10/3 (Tuesday) Day #5 page 12

10/4 (Wednesday) small group session page 13 & 14

10/5 (Thursday) Week #2 Day #1 page 15-16

10/6 (Friday) Day #2 page 17

and so on.... got it?

Each journal includes a prayer journal to record prayers, scripture promises, and answers. Use this if it works for your group.