

Small Group Leaders Notes 10/29/06

Greetings Shepherds, I thank our God in heaven for your faithfulness! May our Lord bless you and keep you, may He make His face shine upon you, and give you His peace.

THIS WEEK

Open up the discussion on how God had transformed you and renewed your mind through this study. How has journaling helped you in your transformation?

I would love to hear any powerful testimonies from your group members, please share with me what you are hearing via email or in person.

This is the final week of our guided study. Discuss what you think God has planned next for this group.

IMPORTANT NOTE: We have come to the end of 5:1 Transformation. After several discussions around this series, we have come to the conclusion that many of you would like to see this continue beyond October. I say, praise God! When we started this we had not planned beyond October however I am more than willing to take any lead we get from God and it appears He is leading us to stay the course of a guided reading schedule and opportunity to dig into the word beyond what is preached on Sunday.

Therefore, I am going to put together an **optional daily reading schedule and small group study option for November and December.** We will make **blank journal pages** available to you on Sunday morning as well. (I am attaching a copy you can even print on your own). In January, we plan to start a series on classic stories from the bible. During that time, we will use the reading schedule and study guide to dig deeper into the lesson. Some of you are planning to begin other studies such as Experiencing God and I want to encourage you to do so. I sent out a list of many options I have personally led and can recommend. If your group wants to do another study, feel free to go in that direction.

Encourage one another to continue meeting together every week. Commit to daily reading of the word, prayer, and journaling.

LESSON

Colossians 3:12-17

¹²Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

¹⁵Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. ¹⁷And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Discussion Questions:

1. How have you seen these Christ-like characteristics, listed in verse 12-17, show up in the lives of people in this group?

Use this as a time to encourage and lift one another up in the Lord. Knowing that we are all in the process of change, becoming like Him, we still need encouragement from our brothers and sisters to recognize that God is at work in and through us.

2. Which of these characteristics do you still consider yourself to be a work-in-progress? Let people share, as they are comfortable. This will give you a chance to capture how you can pray for your group members.

3. Having studied all of these verses this month, do you believe that God is capable of transforming you from the inside out?

By now, I think all of us that have committed to the reading, praying, meditating, and practicing the word have experienced transformation already and become convinced that God can and will carry on his work in us until the day we stand before Him. His word transforms me through the renewing of my mind. A renewed and transformed mind flows into my heart and then out through my hands, my feet, my mouth, and my life. This is transformation.

4. Review Romans 12:1-2, what is the benefit of living a transformed life?

I will test and approve God's good and perfect will. This brings focus and purpose to my life. It brings peace and joy into my life. It equips me to handle all things that come at me in life. And to produce eternal fruit in my life.

5. Our memory verse this week is found in Colossians 3:1-2. How will setting your mind on things above help transform your character into Christ-likeness and your values into Kingdom values?

As I test and approve God's good and perfect will, my life purpose becomes to please and serve Him. To worship and glorify Him with my life. I no longer see things as the world does but as He does. Everything is seen through an eternal perspective. This changes my character, my values, and my priorities. Transformation is an on going process and it is essential that we continue in the word.

Close by praying for spiritual transformation for each person in your group by name.

God Bless You,
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