

Worship the fuel of Discipleship
Worship and Transformation Romans 12:1-2

Week of March 10, 2019 – Bay Park LifeGroups (Leader)

Quote: “Worship is not measured by how high I lift my hands on Sunday morning, but by how much my life looks like Jesus throughout the week.”

KI: Worship is measured by transformation, not just sensation.

Objective: To refresh our minds with the power of the gospel and take a practical look at our hearts and lives for ways God is wanting to transform us.

(Leaders, remember that LifeGroups are about a journey of discovery together. This is not a course. The goal isn't to offload content. Transformation, not information is the goal. The Word of God and the Spirit of God are our guides. Everyone in your group is at a different point and place in their journey and benefits from digging deeper into God's ways collectively. As you work your way through the questions, be sure to leave time for response in prayer, this is a sacred time of allowing God to touch our hearts together.)

*To learn and not to do is really not to learn.
To know and not to do is really not to know.¹*

1. Do you agree or disagree with the above quote? In what ways does it connect to Sunday's sermon key idea - worship is measured by transformation not just sensation?
2. If it is the gospel that transforms our heart and mind, we first need to review: what is the gospel? Do we really know it?
 - a. What are the key components of the gospel? (Hint: If you need help look up John 3:16-21, 1 Cor 15:1-4, Romans 3:23-26)
 - b. Can you explain the gospel in 3 sentences?

(Digging Deeper if you have the time)

- c. What scripture references do you go to when you explain the gospel?
 - d. Spend some time thinking on how controversial and upside down the gospel is. What amazes you about this good news? What do you still find difficult to wrap your mind around or understand?
3. Read Romans 12:1-2.
 - a. How is the idea of a living sacrifice upside down or backwards?
 - i. In the culture of the day, how would this have been received?

(Leaders: Animal sacrifice used in ritual and cultic worship would have been the go-to image of a sacrifice in Paul's day. Those sacrifices were messy, literally bloody. They were a one-time sacrifice because the sacrifice ended with the death of the animal being offered.)

¹ Covey, Stephen R. Covey, *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People: Powerful Lessons in Personal Change*. 1989

- ii. In our culture, if you were hearing this for the first time, how you feel explaining this to someone else? How is a living sacrifice counter intuitive?
- b. Read through 2 Corinthians 6: 1-10. What did “living sacrifice” mean to Paul practically speaking? How was Paul’s life transformed by the upside down gospel?

(Digging Deeper if you have the time)

- c. Do you know anyone who has been radically changed Gospel? Or, how has Gospel reshaped your thinking and living these days?

4. Reread Romans 12:2 slowly and meditatively together. Worship is measured by transformation, not just sensation. What we believe influences how we will behave. That’s why our minds are a battle ground. The world wants to control our minds so as to get us to confirm to their ways, God wants to transform our minds, to set us free. Transformation rarely feels good, but it’s desperately needed. A transformed life is one of the most attractive and beautiful things in our world. It’s also what we secretly long for, the change that leads to real joy, peace, hope and contentment.

- a. Every generation of Christian has to fight this battle for the mind. Where do you think the battle rages most fiercely in this day and age? Where is the Holy Spirit trying to effect the greatest transformation in the Canadian Church and Christians today?

- b. On Sunday, Rachel talked about “achieving” goals as well as “becoming” goals. Rather than only focusing on achieving, to instead with prayerful consideration who God is wanting you to become? Read Galatians 5:13-26. What one fruit of the Spirit is God looking to grow most in you these days that together we can pray for?

As you go to prayer, keep in mind that *Jesus himself is also the picture of the human ideal. As the faithful one, he loves the creation and the Father perfectly. He combines authority with compassion, and justice with mercy. He displays the freedom found in obedience.*²

Here’s a couple of great tools to keep you focused on worship through transformation this week:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3QCKBL2DfVg>
<https://www.alisonmorgan.co.uk/pdf/Meditation%20on%20Discipleship%20Alison%20Morgan.pdf>

Set aside some time this week to work through either or both. They’re great tie ins to Romans 12 and John 4. You might also want to text, or email, or grab a coffee with someone from your LifeGroup to chat about them.

² Chatraw, Joshua D. and Mark D. Allen. *Apologetics at the Cross*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2018.