

life groups' sermon guide

kingsway underground - transformation



Life Groups exist at Kingsway to provide authentic relationships for the life application of the Core 4 elements of worship, grow, serve, and share.

Transformation. Becoming more and more like Jesus

Get Started:

Transformation. Our culture demands it. Let's face it: We love "Extreme Makeover" shows about houses, faces, bodies, and families. We want the scoop when someone's diet and exercise program works. There are magazines featuring living room re-do's and flattering hair-do's. Books on how to renovate our homes, update our closets, and spruce up our yards. All we have to do is turn on HGTV and we're hooked – we can't wait to see the result of the transformation and learn how they did it!

Q: What is something you've transformed and how did you feel when it was finished?

Q: What is one lesson you learned through that transformation project?

My family recently purchased a new (to us) house. It is definitely a fixer-upper, and I could not wait to get in there and tear out the ugly, replace with new, and wah-la! Show the world our newly renovated home.

My thoughts were on paint colors, carpet, flooring, kitchen cabinets, light fixtures...you know...the fun stuff. Our daughters chose paint colors for their rooms, I looked for window coverings. It was fun!

What I didn't realize was that there was more that needed done than the cosmetic changes we'd planned. We learned that the foundation was a little off. Just a little...but it posed a danger to the entire house if we didn't take care of it. Then, we discovered that the roof didn't just need a few shingles replaced, it needed an entirely new roof – rafters, decking, and all! That put everything into an entirely new perspective. We had to make sure the foundation and roof were safe before we could invest in any activities or lasting changes inside the house.

The same is true for our own transformation.

Get the Scoop:

Check out Romans 12:1-2.

Verse 1 shares with us the foundation of our transformation: It must come as a response to God's mercy. We've got to understand the gravity of our sinfulness and the immensity of God's forgiveness. The desire to live in response to that mercy initiates our transformation.

Q: Quickly share a time that you've acted in response to God's mercy.

Verse 2 instructs us in the how-to of that transformation.

Q: What directions does Paul give us in verse 2?

Q: In what areas do you find yourself conforming?

Q: In what areas have you made a stand not to conform?

Dig In:

We're going to look a little more deeply at Paul's words, "be transformed by the renewing of your mind..." The word "renew" implies that this is an ongoing process; we are not going to have new minds and be completely transformed in one shot. This mind-renewal is a daily decision. What we think about must be intentional. When we aren't intentional about our thoughts, we'll find our mind filled w/ worries, worldly desires, and weakness.

On notecards: Take a minute and write down what you've been thinking about lately. (worries, schedules, kids, comparisons, negative thoughts about self, negative thoughts about others, etc.)

Q: How would you categorize your thoughts? Negative? Worrisome? Reflecting God? If you found any negative thoughts creeping in, go ahead and tear up your notecards and throw them away. Let's look at Paul's direction for what TO think about:

Let's check out Philippians 4:8.

Q: What is your initial response to that passage? Let's share some examples of true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent, or praiseworthy things...

People are often stumped when asked to intentionally think the Philippians 4:8 way. However, with a daily decision to do so, we'll find ourselves reflecting God in our thought-life. *Creating a thought-life that reflects Jesus is the FIRST step in our transformation to become like Christ.*

Take it home:

Creating a plan for renewing your mind is part of a strong foundation in your transformation. Your transformation to be like Christ will be life-long...it's a continual process...filled with joys, journeys, baby steps and giant leaps.

Q: What action steps will you take this week in your thought-life?

1. What things will you rid from your mind? (represented on your torn card.)
2. What things will you think ON this week? (This may be a great time to make a huge list as a group. For example: children's health, growth you see in your friend/spouse/child, God's provision, God's creation, a "thankful-for" list..., family, friends, etc.)
3. Write your intentional-thoughts down on your calendar or mirror to remind you.
4. Who will check in with you mid-week and ask about your thoughts?

Write Romans 12:1-2 on one side of a note card and Philippians 4:8 on the other. Keep it in your purse, car, bathroom – somewhere you'll notice it daily. Memorize both verses. Be bold! Ask God to help you memorize them. Ask Him to make you aware of your thoughts and help you redirect them.

Partner w/ someone and pray for each other today before leaving, and then throughout this week.

For further study: Read Phil. 3:20-21, 2 Cor. 5:17, 2 Cor. 3:18, Rom. 12:1-2

Q: According to Paul, (Romans 12:1-2), Christians should be counter-cultural in many ways. In what ways are you living a counter-cultural life? In what areas is God calling you to the next level? When you make that change, how do you see your transformation affecting others? Is there an area God's asking you to change that's hard for you? What's holding you back? How would an accountability partner help you? Commit to being in God's word daily. It is our responsibility to be in the Word, and to apply the Truth of God's Word. God will use the transforming power of Christ in our lives to impact the lives of others.