

FIELDSTONE CHURCH

Sanctification

The Lifelong Journey of Becoming Like Jesus
Weekly Discipleship Resources

Full Small Group Discussion Guide

Opening Thought

Sanctification is the word the Bible uses for something we all experience — the slow, sometimes frustrating, always worthwhile process of becoming more like Jesus. It doesn't happen in a moment. It happens over a lifetime, and it requires all of us: God's Spirit doing the shaping, and us choosing to cooperate with that work day after day.

The encouraging news is that God is not a passive participant. Like a silversmith sitting over a fire, he watches closely, works carefully, and knows exactly when the work is done. His goal? To see his own image reflected back.

Big Ideas

1. Sanctification is a lifelong process — not a one-time event. We are made new in an instant, but becoming new takes a lifetime (Ezekiel 36:26-27).
2. God is the one who initiates and sustains our transformation. He gives us a new heart, his Spirit, and the desire to obey — we can't do it on our own.
3. Our transformation is ultimately about God's glory. He takes our brokenness and uses our healing to show the world how great he is.
4. The process is slow by design. Our ongoing need drives us into constant dependence on God — which is exactly where he wants us.
5. Spiritual maturity deepens our awareness of both our own brokenness and God's grace. The more we grow, the more we marvel that he would save us at all.
6. God will finish what he started. The work he has begun in you will be completed (Philippians 1:6).

Ice Breaker

(Light and easy — works for anyone in the room)

Think of a skill, habit, or relationship that took you a long time to develop. What kept you going when progress felt slow?

Scripture Discussion & Life Application

Read the passages together and work through the questions. Let the conversation breathe — don't rush.

Understanding Scripture

1. Read Ezekiel 36:25-27. What does God promise to do in these verses — and what does that tell us about who does the heavy lifting in our transformation?
2. Read Romans 7:21-8:1. Paul is honest about the ongoing struggle between wanting to do good and still falling short. How does 8:1 change the tone of everything he just said?
3. Read Malachi 3:3. What does the image of a silversmith refining silver tell us about how God works in our lives — and what it costs him to do it?

Personal Reflection

4. Where in your life right now can you see God doing some refining work? What does that feel like from the inside?
5. The message described how spiritual maturity leads to a deeper awareness of both our sin and God's grace at the same time. Have you experienced that tension? What did it produce in you?

Life Application

6. What does it look like practically to "cooperate" with the Holy Spirit's work in your life this week? Is there a specific area where you sense God nudging you?
7. Philippians 1:6 says God will complete the work he started in you. How does that promise change the way you respond to your own failures and slow progress?

Prayer Prompt

Father, thank you that you don't leave us the way you found us. Thank you for the new heart, your Spirit, and the promise that the work you've begun will be finished. We confess that the process is harder and slower than we'd like. We want to be patient with ourselves the way you are patient with us. Teach us to lean into you — especially in the moments where we feel most aware of our failures. We trust you. Refine us. Make us more like Jesus. Amen.

Quick Small Group Guide

Quick Recap

Sanctification is the lifelong process of becoming more like Jesus — and it is very much a process. At the moment of salvation, we receive a new heart, the Holy Spirit, and forgiveness. But the actual shaping of who we are happens slowly, over time, through the refining work of God. He watches closely, works intentionally, and will not quit until the work is done.

Read Together

Read aloud as a group:

Ezekiel 36:26-27 — "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws."

And:

Philippians 1:6

"...being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."

Discuss

1. The silversmith's story at the end of the message said he knows the silver is refined when he sees his own image in it. What does it mean to you that God is looking for his image in you — and that he stays with you through the whole process?
2. Where in your life right now do you most need to trust that God is still at work — even if you can't see the progress?

Closing Prayer

Ask God to give your group patience with the process — in yourselves and in each other. Pray for eyes to see where he is already at work, and for courage to cooperate with what he's doing.