

## Joyful Transformation Group Leader Notes

*This week is going to be a bit different than the weeks before. The focus of our discussion this week will be on transformation. The fact is that each person in Christ has been transformed. But transformation is not a one-and-done moment. Each of us in Christ continue to be transformed into a better representation of Jesus, as we submit to the leading of the Holy Spirit and mature in our faith. Transformation should be celebrated, and we can't think of a better place to celebrate each other's transformation than in your group.*

*There are intentionally fewer questions this week since we want to encourage more participation as people share their stories in their group. Feel free to give people the time they need to share their own transformation. You may have someone that has never really thought much about their testimony, much less shared it with others. We would love to hear about some of the stories that come out of your groups. So, please reach out to us if you have someone with an awesome story of transformation.*



**1. What do you typically find yourself praying for on a daily basis?**



**Read Philippians 1:3-6.**



**2. Every believer in Christ is transformed the moment they receive the gift of salvation through their faith in Jesus. Paul joyfully celebrates the transformation of the Philippian believers. Did you experience major transformation from your old life when you were saved? Describe that change.**

*Paul states that he joyfully prays for the Philippian church because of their partnership in the gospel since the first day. Clearly, Paul recognized the transformation that had taken place within the believers there in Philippi. As Christians, we need to recognize that it is not only our eternal destination that changes the moment we are saved, but also how and why we live our lives. For some people, transformation is dramatic. We have all heard the stories of people that instantaneously leave a life of addiction once accepting Christ.*

*However, other people see gradual transformation. Regardless, 2 Corinthians 5:17 says, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" It is important for us to celebrate what God has rescued us from and the fact that the Holy Spirit does amazing work in us as we seek to live Christlike. Take time as a group to share and celebrate that reality.*



**3. For some people, transformation is radical. For others, transformation is gradual. But for all of us, growth in our faith requires intentionality. What rhythms do you normally practice to mature in your faith? How have you seen them change you?**

*For the Philippian church, we see them practice generosity by giving to Paul's ministry. So much so, that he commends them on it in Philippians 4:10-20. Sacrificial generosity is certainly a rhythm God uses to grow us. There are also plenty of other rhythms that helps us grow. Things like daily devotionals, dedicated and extended prayer time, open repentance to God and people you trust to spur you on in your faith, serving your community, regularly sharing how God is working in your life with others, and daily worship all work together to deepen our faith and draw us closer to the Lord.*

*It is also important to know that our transformation will become stagnant if we do not put forth the effort to become more like Christ. Share with your groups how crucial these rhythms are and ask how your group can work together to regularly encourage each other to practice them.*



**Re-read Philippians 1:6.**

**4. What does it mean that the, "good work," of transformation will be completed in you? Are you confident that complete transformation will take place in your life?**

**Why?**

*Paul could have confidence that the good work God began within the believers in the Philippian church would be completed. He understood that once a person was truly saved, they always would be (1 John 5:13, John 3:16, Romans 5:1, Romans 8:31-39, Ephesians 1:13-14, Hebrews 6:18-20, John 3:3, 2 Corinthians 5:17, Hebrews 13:5, 1 Peter 1:5, Psalm 97:10, John, 10:28, Hebrews 7:25, John 10:29, Ephesians 4:30, John 6:39). The important thing to understand is that this applies to us, as believers, today. We too can be confident that we have eternal security that we can rely on.*

*Knowing that we are saved and sealed in that salvation gives us confidence that we will reside in the presence of God for all eternity where we will be glorified (Colossians 3:4, 2 Timothy 4:8, 1 Peter 5:4, Romans 8:30, 2 Thessalonians 1:9-10, 2 Corinthians 5:1-9, 1 Corinthians 1:8, 1 Thessalonians 3:13, Philippians 3:20-21).*

*To be clear, we will not experience complete transformation on this side of Heaven. We still contend with a sin nature and continue to fall short of God's perfect standard. This, however, does not give us a pass on striving towards Godly living. Remember that Paul said in Philippians 2:12-13 that we ought to work out our salvation. We are running a race and should be straining for the finish line.*



**Re-read Philippians 1:3-5.**

**5. Do your prayers often reflect Paul's? Do you thank God for the transformation in yourself and those in your Oikos? How do you shift your mindset to have more joyous prayers?**

*We begin to have more joyous prayers when we realize that the Christian life isn't about getting a ticket to Heaven. It is about knowing God and praising Him for the transformative work of the Gospel.*

*Even in the difficult times that the Philippian church, and Paul, were enduring, Paul saw God at work. When we recognize that God's Kingdom is continually expanding, despite our circumstances, we cannot help but smile. That does not mean that difficult times are pleasant, but it does mean that we cannot help but be joyous when we see, and know, that God saves.*