



Study Guide for Transform Me

March 2, 2008
(101 level)

Open Up

All adults have undergone transformation of their physical bodies from infant to full-grown. Share with your group a personal, humorous example of a change you experienced as you grew: braces, voice changing, clumsiness, etc. **TRANSITION:** Our bodies transform as a natural part of being alive – the transformations happen whether we want them to or not – sometimes in awkward ways and inconvenient times! Spiritual transformation requires intentional choice and ongoing commitment.

Dig In

(1) Read 1 Samuel 3:4-10, and Isaiah 6:1-8, and Luke 1:35-38. How did these servants of God react when faced with God's transforming call? Tell your group about someone you know who allowed himself or herself to be transformed by the Holy Spirit. How does their example affect you? Are you inspired to follow their example? Are you intimidated that you do not feel that you can measure up? (2) Read Moses Exodus 3:1-4, 11-14, and Exodus 4:1-4, 10-15. How did Moses react when faced with God's transforming call? (3) Read Luke 9:59-62. How did these followers of Jesus react when faced with God's transforming call?

Work On and Lift Up

(1) As a whole group, read aloud Hebrews 4:14-16. Use the translation (NIV?) that the majority of the group brings to the study so that you are reading the exact same wording, even if this means two or more people sharing the same Bible. (2) Prepare for a time of extended silent prayer by telling your group "Our high priest Jesus gives us grace that transforms us from weakness and fear to confidence and faith." Ask your group during the silent prayer to briefly confess to God a sin and follow each confession with the silent phrase "Thank you Jesus for your mercy and grace." Through the silent prayer time, go on to a different sin situation, not dwelling too long on any of them, and always repeating the phrase "Thank you Jesus for your mercy and grace." (3) Lead your group in directed prayer for Maryland and the world. Open each section with the short spoken focus phrase and then allow time for silent prayer: "Hear our prayers our Lord as we cry out to you for our neighbors.... Hear our prayers our Lord as we cry out to you for the 109,000 in Harford County who don't know you.... Hear our prayers our Lord as we cry out to you for new sites in our area for Mountain to worship.... Hear our prayers our Lord as we cry out to you for new churches to plant in Maryland.... Hear our prayers our Lord as we cry out to you for practical needs on our current campus.... Hear our prayers our Lord as we cry out to you for Kenya.... Hear our prayers our Lord as we cry out to you for Brazil.... Hear our prayers our Lord as we cry out to you for the Dominican Republic.... Hear our prayers our Lord as we cry out to you for India...." (4) Close by praying aloud in unison "God, we have come to you in prayer, because these needs are bigger than us. We place these in your hands and ask that you would transform us that we might be a partner with you to transform your world. Amen."

PREPARATION: Either photocopy or handwrite the prayer so that each person can read for himself or herself, and take home a copy.



Study Guide for **Transform Me**

March 2, 2008

(Advanced)

(use with 101 level study guide)

Dig In

(1) Read Hebrews 10:15-25. God forgives us at the same time that God desires to transform us. What phrases in this Bible passage describe God's graciousness to forgive? What phrases in this Bible passage describe the transformation we should undergo as a result of receiving forgiveness?

(2) Read Romans 12:1-2. Paul tells us that freed from slavery to sin, we face a choice for the first time in our lives. We can fit into the mold of the world, or we can break the mold by being broken by God and then transformed into something new. Share with your group about an area in your life in which you can choose to no longer conform to the world but instead be transformed.

Another Step

This week's study guide links with some of the group prayer exercises from the March 1 Transformed! Fresh Encounter. Check Ethan Magness' blog <http://onthewalk.besquared.org/> for background.

Check Alex Lozada's blog for study guide updates <http://alexlozada.wordpress.com/> or email Alex@mountainchristian.org direct.