

PRAYER

- Thank God for His Word that He has lovingly authored for you so that you may have joy in your salvation and progressive transformation.

- Read 1 Peter 2:2,3. Pray that the Holy Spirit would give you such a hunger for the Word of God, and that by renewing your mind daily He would be able to cause change to happen.

- Pray that God will cause lasting change to take place as you live according to His Word (Psalm 119:9).



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Something to Change me

Week 2

NOTES

[illegible]

CONNECT

- Tell us of something you used to do in the past that you are glad you are no longer doing today. Why are you happy about this change?
- If you were to decide to change something in your life today, how would you normally go about it?
- Tell us of a time when you changed your mind about something. What made you do that?

WORD

³³ Teach me, O LORD, to follow your decrees; then I will keep them to the end.

³⁴ Give me understanding, and I will keep your law and obey it with all my heart.

³⁵ Direct me in the path of your commands, for there I find delight.

³⁶ Turn my heart toward your statutes and not toward selfish gain.

Psalm 119:33-36

WHAT What does the Bible say?

We all crave for change in our nation, our circumstances, and our character. However because of sin, lasting change is elusive. We try to change whatever we can in the outside hoping that the inside will follow but we know this does not work. The Bible says true transformation can only happen if we work from the inside out (Psalm 119:36). How then can we have true and lasting change?

- **God's Word transforms us.**

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Romans 12:2

God wrote His Word for us even if He did not have to. Think about it, He could have just left us aimless, helpless, and hopeless but He did not. In the Bible, He lovingly made Himself and what He has done to save us through Jesus known. And God's Word is not just a history book where we can get ancient information. This Living Word has the power to transform us. From the verse, what else does the Bible tell us about?

- **God's Word renews our minds.**

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. . . .

Romans 12:2

We are used to following the world's ways in meeting our needs, although we know that most of these are faulty and will eventually lead to destruction (Matthew 7:13). Good thing, God's Word offers a way that is sure to deliver through Jesus and what He has done. However, shifting to

God's ways takes a little getting used to. It needs us to have a "change of mind" through God's Word. What kind of mind do we need to ask the Holy Spirit to give us as we allow Him to move in our thoughts (1 Corinthians 2:14,16)?

- **God's Word purifies us as we obey it.**

⁹ How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word. . . .

¹¹ I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.

Psalm 119:9,11

As our minds are renewed, the change will eventually be seen in our actions. If all we have is knowledge on God's Word but we do not obey it, we only deceive ourselves (James 1:22). The transformation that the Word of God brings will only be at work as we believe and live it out. Give an example when you experienced change as you obeyed God's Word.

SO WHAT What is the relevance of the Word to my life?

- When you want to change a habit or an attitude, how do you usually do it? Knowing that God's Word brings true transformation, how does this help you?
- What habits or beliefs that you have can you see influencing your general outlook on life and your decisions?
- Generally, how effective do you think are you in applying the lessons that you learn?

NOW WHAT How do I apply the Word to my life?

- What can you do starting today to expose yourself to God's Word and the lasting transformation it offers? Do you have your own Bible?
- How can you make time in your daily schedule to renew your mind with God's Living Word?
- Discipleship is following Jesus with others. How can your friends help you read and discuss the Word regularly and ensure that you apply what you learn? Discuss this with the group.