

Transformed by Christmas: Jesus Came to be our Triumphant King

(1 John 3:1-10)

Opening Discussion: In your life, has good ever come from something you thought was a total defeat? What happened and how was it different from what you expected?

Transformational Principle: Learn to see the _____ battle for your _____ that is going on in and around you.

1. _____ is working in His _____. (1 John 3: ____ - ____)

For further discussion: What does John say about God's motivation for sending Jesus to earth? Why is love so important for us to understand as we see God transforming us daily? (See Romans 5:8: How does Paul agree with John in revealing God's motivation for sending Jesus to earth? How are you cooperating with God in holiness and purity in your life?)

Notes: _____

2. You _____ to be _____ on you. (1 John 3: ____ - ____)

For further discussion: What do these verses tell us about the nature of God's children with regard to sin? Why is the distinction between committing sin and practicing sin so important as we discuss these things? What do you think is the difference between committing sin and practicing sin? (See Philippians 2:12-13: What does Paul add to our discussion of "working on you?" What does "working on you" have to do with "working out your own salvation?" How are you doing in this area of your life and ministry?)

Notes: _____

3. Jesus is _____ in our _____.
(1 John 3: ____ - ____)

For further discussion: How does John describe the difference between the children of God and the children of the devil? Have you seen the devil attempting to work in your life over the years? How has God destroyed that work in your life, freeing you to live for Him? (See John 15:1-5: In John's gospel, what does Jesus say is the way to live holy lives? How is this same idea put forth in John's first letter? How are you "remaining" in Jesus?)

Notes: _____

Response: How have you seen Jesus bring _____ in your life from things you thought were _____?

Transformational Principles

Week 1: Because we are prone to conform, we must let God transform. (Romans 12:1-2)

Week 2: Because of all Jesus has done, surrender what you think you know. (Mark 8:34-37)

Week 3: If we really want to know what to do, abandon the world's ways for God's ways. (Isaiah 55:6-11)

Week 4: Accept that the world's ways are at odds with the ways of God. (1 Corinthians 1:18-30)

Week 5: If you want to be transformed, you must learn to deal with your sinful nature. (Romans 8:1-11)

Week 6: Look past what is seen and believe what is unseen. (Hebrews 11:1-6)

Week 7: Overcome the world with love and humility. (Romans 12:9-21)

Week 8: Recognize that the purpose of our transformation is not personal or private. (Mark 10:42-45)

Week 9: Individual transformation happens best in the midst of united community. (Hebrews 10:19-25)

Week 10: Some may go and some may stay: but working together, God is transforming the world through the power of the gospel. (Philippians 4:10-20)

Week 11: Transformed people do the work of God like it's second nature. (Matthew 25:31-46)

Week 12: Transformed prayer leads to a transformed mind. (Philippians 4:4-9)

Week 13: A transformed heart will change the way you talk to others. (Ephesians 4:29)

Week 14: Transformed people unite in transformed community. (Ephesians 4:1-6)

Week 15: Right attitude speaks louder than right action alone. (Philippians 2:14-18)

Week 16: Transformed people are on the go. (Romans 10:8-17)

Week 17: Recognize your need for a Savior. (Matthew 1:18-23)