Harvester Christian Church

Life Groups | **PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY**

FOLLOW THE LEADER | BEING CHANGED BY JESUS

**WEEK 2**

Last week in our introduction we put forth a definition of a disciple based on Mark 1:17 where Jesus said, “Come follow Me and I will make you fishers of men.” We said a disciple is one who knows and follows Jesus, is being changed by Jesus, and is committed to the mission of Jesus. This week we focus our attention on what it means to be changed by Jesus.

**An Example in Scripture**

We see examples in scripture how people can and do change for the better. People can grow, mature, develop, overcome weaknesses, and, by the power of God, learn to be a better version of themselves. Let’s begin this week by looking at two stories from the life of Peter that illustrate these truths.

**Read Luke 22:54-62**

What is taking place in this passage? Write a brief summary.

What had Peter promised Jesus in Luke 22:33?

How would you describe Peter in these verses?

**Read Acts 4:1-20**

What is taking place in this passage? Take a look at the context and write a brief summary.

How are Peter and John described in this passage?

To what do you attribute Peter’s growth?

The New Testament makes it clear that every believer can and should be changed by Jesus. Please read and summarize the following scriptures. What important truths do they teach about transformation?

2 Corinthians 5:17

Romans 12:2

Philippians 1:6

2 Corinthians 3:18

Colossians 3:9-10

**Change as a Testimony**

In Mark 5:1-20 Jesus healed a demon-possessed man whose life was in shambles. After the healing, the man begged to go with Jesus, but the Lord said to him, “Go home to your family and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how He has had mercy on you” (Mark 5:19b). Your story may be less dramatic, but each of us has the opportunity to show people around us the difference that Jesus can make in a person’s life. Please read and summarize the following verses that talk about how our changed behavior can affect those around us.

Matthew 5:14-16

I Peter 2:12

**Summary**

A disciple is one who is changing day-by-day, by the power of God, to be more like Jesus, with the result being that others see the change and want to know more about our Lord and Savior.

**Weekly Challenge**

Take some time this week to do some assessment in regard to the trajectory of your life. Think about the person you were when you first came to faith in Jesus. Write down some ways in which you have grown and matured. Take some time to give God thanks for working in you and empowering you to become more like Jesus. Now stop and consider some areas of your life in which change is still needed and ask God to continue the work that He started in you. Write down one specific area in which you know that change is still needed and consider sharing that with the group this week as a prayer request.

**Group Discussion**

What jumped out at you in this week’s teaching time or Personal Bible Study?

What does it say about us as humans that Peter spent three years with the Lord and then denied Him three times when Jesus was arrested?

What does it say about Jesus that Peter went on to become a great leader in the early church?

What would you say are some of the big barriers that keep us from experiencing the change God desires in our lives?

We said that when God works in us and changes us it can become a testimony to those who don’t know the Lord. How have you seen this take place?

As you look back on your walk of faith, what is one area in which you have seen God change you for the better?

It has been said that God loves us the way we are, but loves us too much to let us stay that way. What is one thing about yourself that you would like God to change?