

Sunday 17 February
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To Be A Transforming
Community Committed
to Jesus Christ

“Spiritual transformation is the process by which Christ is formed in us, for the glory of God, for the abundance of our own lives and for the sake of others; it results in an increasing capacity to discern and do the will of God” – Ruth Haley Barton. Discuss this quote in light of scripture (Rom. 12:1-2, Gal. 4:19, Col. 1:28, Eph. 4:13)

‘Transformed’ in Romans 12 v 1-2 derives from the word *metamorphosis* which is the process of a caterpillar turning into a butterfly – in other words complete, holistic change from the inside out. What does this metaphor bring up for you when you reflect on your own life? (hope, disappointment, comfort?) Why?

What are the four necessary ‘ingredients’ for spiritual transformation? (teaching, practice, community, Holy Spirit) – Which of these do we (both as a group and individually) need to include more in our lives?

Spiritual disciplines (i.e. the practices of Jesus) are “concrete activities we can engage in for the purpose of making ourselves available to God for the work only God can do” (Ruth Haley Barton) – these include prayer, solitude, fasting, meditation on scripture, celebration, Sabbath, service and simplicity (and more) – and they make up the ‘training’ for godliness scripture refers to (1 Tim. 4:7-8, 1 Cor. 9:24-27). Which of these disciplines/practices might God want us to engage with in this present season of our group life / individual life?

To be a disciple of Jesus literally means to be a “*learner of Jesus*” – what are the 3 ways we learn in a holistic sense? (1. Classroom/lecture 2. Apprenticeship 3. Immersion). Discuss these 3 ‘levels of learning’ – how might we integrate all 3 into our time together as a group this year?

To fulfill our mission as a church – ‘to be a transforming community committed to Jesus Christ’ - we need *transforming communities* (i.e. small groups) committed to Jesus Christ, where all four ingredients of spiritual transformation are taking place. Discuss.

Some things can only be achieved in circles (i.e. groups), not rows (i.e. worship service) – what are some of these things?

While the small groups of TBC have different flavors and focuses, they share a common purpose: *sharing life together in the way of Jesus*. In what specific ways might God be calling us to outwork this purpose in the year ahead?

All small groups of TBC are open to “*making room for one more*” – though how this is done requires sensitivity at times. Discuss as a group how you would practically “make room” for a new person/couple who was looking for place to belong and grow.

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Our heart as a church is for every person to be connected, supported, serving and growing in Christ (Eph. 4:15-16). How can we as a group help to achieve this goal? May this include opening