

# Growing In God's Love

Cell Notes for Autumn 2017

Session 1: Who are you becoming?



## WELCOME

How do you think you have changed as a person in the last 5 years?

## WORSHIP

Put on some quiet worship music - perhaps something with a theme of transformation like "Jesus you are changing me". Take a piece of play dough and mould it into a shape or shapes representing your life and personality now. Think about how you'd like your life and character to develop/ change in the next 5 years and, without speaking, remould your piece of dough to represent that change. One of the group should say a prayer offering your thoughts about change to God.

## WORD

Watch the Video of John Mark Comer at New Wine 2017 Session 1

All of us change and are formed as we grow older - the question is what sort of person we are changing into and what is causing our formation. Sometimes we realise we don't like who we are becoming but we can do something about that.

The diagram shows some of the factors which influence how we change. We are going to be looking at the different factors over the next few cell sessions and in the September sermons.

Can you identify how you have changed as a person by any of these factors

- a) the stories you believe
- b) your environment (including culture)
- c) your relationships
- d) your habits



Read **Luke 6.39-40**

Jesus told them this parable,  
"Can the blind lead the blind? Will they not both fall into a pit? The apprentice is not above his master, but everyone who is fully trained will be like their master."

In the Israel of Jesus' day, rabbis (masters) called disciples (a good translation would be apprentice) to follow them. The point of this apprenticeship was to become like the rabbi - to do what they did, to teach as they taught, to share in their character.

The same idea is found in **2 Corinthians 3.18**

"All of us have had the veil removed so that we can be mirrors that brightly reflect the glory of the Lord. And as the Spirit of the Lord works within us we are transformed to become more and more like him and reflect his glory even more."

1. Do you ever despair of becoming more like your rabbi Jesus?
2. John Mark Comer points out that many Christians don't experience this transformation. He says "Transformation is possible but it is not inevitable." Do you agree?
3. What has helped or hindered you from being "transformed to become more and more like Jesus"?
4. Can you begin to discern how the 4 factors in the diagram might look for someone who was becoming more like Jesus? Share your ideas.



### **WITNESS/ WORK IT OUT**

Share and Pray for

1. Areas where you feel you want to become more like Jesus
2. Other needs for prayer e.g. among your family/friends
3. An outreach activity you are participating in/ planning as a cell

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**Session 2: Intentional counter formation!  
The stories we trust**



## WELCOME

Share an experience where you have gone against the flow of other people's expectations. What did it feel like?

## WORD

Last week we looked at how everybody is changed/ spatially formed throughout life by their environment. the stories they believe, the relationships they engage with and their habitual actions and thoughts



We could call this unintentional spiritual formation. It is a natural process which happens to everyone - but we have a choice as to choosing the things which form us - we can choose things for ourselves and our children which run counter to our culture. The stories we trust to shape our thinking and attitudes as Christians include Christian teachings such as:-

CREATION: all is made by God, humans are made in God's image,

FALL - we all have bad as well as good

REDEMPTION: being deeply loved and precious to God, so that Jesus died for us and we can be forgiven

RESURRECTION: We believe in Death before Life

SANCTIFICATION: By his Holy Spirit - God can transform our lives - we can work with God on this

JUDGEMENT: God will one day put all things to rights. Justice and love will win.

Focus on one of these major doctrines.

How is it contradicted by a secular world-view?

What other teachings would another religion have?

What difference would it make to your own attitudes and actions if you believed the secular or other world view story?

**Read Romans 12.1-8**

**Share your favourite verses from this passage and explore what it means.**

**WORSHIP**

**Praise God for one of the “Stories we Trust” the Christian doctrines which shape our thinking**

**WITNESS/ WORK IT OUT**

Share and Pray for

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2. Other needs for prayer e.g. among your family/friends
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Session 3: Relationships which help us to grow



## WELCOME

Give an example of a relationship which has had a negative impact - "a bad influence" - you may wish to avoid using names or things which would identify people.

## WORSHIP

Listen to the song: "When the room was hushed and still"

Then read John.15.12-17

Pray out of this reading

- Thanking Jesus for the love which caused him to lay down his life (v.13)
- Praying for strength and grace to love the members of God's family with this kind of love (v.12)
- Thanking God for any fruit you see in the life of your Christian community

## WORD

RECAP: All of us change and are formed as we grow older - the question is what sort of person we are changing into and what is causing our formation. Sometimes we realise we don't like who we are becoming but we can do something about that.

The diagram shows some of the factors which influence how we change.

We are going to be looking at the different factors over the next few cell sessions and in the September sermons.

Last time we looked a bit at how the stories we believe affect the sort of person we grow into.

Today, we're going to think about relationships



## **Read Hebrews 10.19-25**

1. What can stop us from worshipping God?
2. What reasons for confidence in drawing near to God do you find in this passage? Can you think of any others?
3. Verse 24 says “Let us consider how we may spur one another on towards love and good deeds.” Consider this now - How can you and others do this a) for your cell b) for members of a Sunday congregation. Make a list!
4. Why do you think “the habit of meeting together” (verse 25) is so important?

## **WITNESS/ WORK IT OUT**

Share and Pray for

1. Areas where you feel you want to grow in your love/care for fellow Christians
2. Other needs for prayer e.g. among your family/friends
3. An outreach activity you are participating in/ planning as a cell - e.g. cafe church
4. Look at the booklet “Growing through a vacancy” together - Is there anything that your cell could do to help in the vacancy time when Sally leaves?



