



BECOMING MORE LIKE JESUS

Bishop Ed Smith

INTRODUCTION TO LESSON

Life Group Lesson Objective: *To understand how to become more like Jesus through our beliefs, thinking and actions.*

Life Group Leader Lesson Preparation:

To speak and see ourselves as God sees us.

- Matthew 5:13-14 – You are the salt of the earth; you are the light of the world.

The scriptures constantly teach and exhorts the body of Christ to conformation.

- Romans 12:1-2; I Thessalonians 5:23

Luke 9:23-24 (Amp)

And He was saying to them all, “If anyone wishes to follow Me [as My disciple], he must deny himself [set aside selfish interests] and take up his cross daily [expressing a willingness to endure whatever may come] and follow Me [believing in Me, conforming to My example in living and, if need be, suffering or perhaps dying because of faith in Me]. For whoever wishes to save his life [in this world] will [eventually] lose it [through death], but whoever loses his life [in this world] for My sake, he is the one who will save it [from the consequences of sin and separation from God].

That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lust of men but to the will of God. I Peter 4:2.

WEEK 1 – Cease from Sinful Thinking: 1 Peter 4:1-2

Discussion Question: Who do your actions say you belong to?

Christ died for the world that we might cease from sin. As you meditate on “Becoming more like Jesus”, this will require your thinking to be less of sin and more of righteousness. Becoming more conscious of God and his righteousness in you; than conscious of the “old man” or sin conscious.

The Word of God says: We “are the righteousness of God” in Christ Jesus. I must see myself how God see me.

- We have been justified (declared righteous) by His grace and redemption that is in Christ.
 - In other words, I am in “right standing with God”, I am no longer a sinner, but I am saved and made righteous. II Corinthians 5:21

Many Christians are held captive by Satan because they believe and see themselves as some lie the devil or someone else has told them. Bound by their own feelings because of past hurt, disappointments, harmful and /or damaging treatment that makes them feel they are unworthy of the blessing and approval of God.

- Do not allow the wrong think of others to stand in your way of becoming more like Jesus, who God created you to be.

WEEK 2 – His Divine Nature

Discussion Question: What does His Divine nature mean to you?

We have a new divine nature, sin no longer has dominion over us, we are more than conquerors, and we can resist ungodly temptations.

God told Joshua to meditate on His word day and night – Joshua 1:8. Meditate means to think deeply about, focus your thoughts on.

- 1 John 3:1 – The Father has bestowed his great love upon us, that we should be called the children of God.
- I John 3:9 – God’s seed remains in us, because we are born of Him.

Love Jesus and Love Others

Jesus said in John 13:34-35 that people would know us if we had the love of God and show it to others.

Have the right heart.

- Proverbs 4:23, “Above all things keep your heart for out of it are the issues of life.”
- Proverbs 3:5, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and rely not on your own understanding.”

When we think/meditate about what the Word of God says about us, we become more like Jesus. We are less likely to speak contrary to His Word. The Bible reminds us of who we are, what we have and what we can do.

It has been proven that our brain cells can change, therefore if we choose to agree with the Bible and say what it says we will begin to think differently and have what we say ... Jesus said in Mark 11:24, we can have what we say. Our mind starts conforming to the image of our words and we have what we say.

For example:

I AM A NEW CREATURE IN CHRIST JESUS

I AM BORN OF GOD, HIS SEED IS IN ME

Romans 12:2 – and be not conformed to this world but be **transformed** by the **renewing** of your mind.

Are you having difficulty with renewing your mind? Think on these things:

Finally, believers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable and worthy of respect whatever is right and confirmed by God’s word, whatever is pure and wholesome, whatever is lovely and brings peace, whatever is admirable and of good repute; if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think continually on these things [center your mind on them, and implant them in your heart].

Philippians 4:8 (Amp)

Discussion Question: How do we renew our minds so that we are becoming more like Jesus?

Numbers 30:19 – Make a choice to become more like Jesus.

WEEK 3 – Conforming to His Character

Discussion Question: Describe some of your character traits that reflect the character of Christ.

For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works which God prepared in advance for us to do Ephesians 2:10

OBEDIENCE

What we Say

For I have not spoken of myself, but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak. John 12:49

But speak the things which become sound doctrine. Titus 2:1

What we Do

“Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.

And he that sent me is with me: The Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him. John 8:29

PRAYER

He withdrew himself into the wilderness and prayed – Luke 5:16

And in the morning a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed. Mark 1:35

A temperament controlled by the Holy Spirit – but the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance. Galatians 5:22-23

Jesus said ... and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Matthew 11:29

Allow the Holy Spirit to mold your character:

- Moses killed an Egyptian, but later: **Numbers12:3** – “Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth.
- For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure. Philippians 2:13
- Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus ... Philippians 2:5

WEEK 4 – Walk in His Power and Authority

Discussion Question: Jesus always said who he was, he was never ashamed or held back who he was ...who do you say you are?

Jesus knew who he was! – Jesus said unto the, verily, verily, I say unto you, before Abraham was, I am. John 8:58

John the Baptist knew who he was!

Then said they unto him, Who art thou? That we may give an answer to them that sent us. What sayest thou of thyself? He said, I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet Esaias. And they which were sent were of the Pharisees. And they asked him and said unto him, why baptizest thou then, if thou be not that Christ, nor Elias, neither that prophet? John answered them saying, I baptize with water: but there standeth one among you, whom ye know not; He it is, who coming after me is preferred before me, whose shoe latchet I am not worthy to unloose. John 1:21-27

Jesus has God given power and authority.

These words spake Jesus, and lifted his eyes to heaven, and said, Father the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee: as thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him. John 17:1-2

We also have been given power and authority. Knowing and saying (agreeing with God's word) who we are with boldness and confidence helps us become more like Jesus.

Jesus said:

Speak to the mountain – Mark 11:22

Thou shalt decree a thing and it shall be established – Job 22:28

Mark 16:17-20 – We have power and authority to:

- Cast out devils.
- Lay hands on the sick and they will recover.
- Preach the gospel.
- Make disciples.

James 4:7 says, *“Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”*

Ephesians 6:10-12

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.