

Building Faith - **Changing** Lives - Sharing Christ  
Week #3

## Overview

Romans 12:1-3 and this week's sermon emphasizes that we are called to worship God wholly by presenting our bodies as a living sacrifice. Therefore, we are not to be conformed to the world but be transformed by the renewing of our minds, so that we can discern what is the will of God.

2 Corinthians 5:17 gives us the wisdom that if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come. If we can learn to abide in Christ, we will be able to bear fruit but only if grafted onto the vine of Christ. Apart from him, we can do nothing.

Our challenge is to live in the world but be molded by the Holy Spirit into new persons in Christ.

## Worship Theme

The truth is that we all need to change, yet we cannot do it on our own. A modern expression of change is, "You cannot make an omelet unless you break some eggs."

As you look at your reaction to change, do you tend to focus on the broken eggs, the new omelet, or both? What insight does this give you into your receptivity towards the changes that God wants to make in you?

In your group, read Psalm 51 aloud as a group or individually in silence. Afterwards, reflect, write, and pray on your own as you answer the questions following Psalm 51. You may share any response if you wish.

1. What do you think God would like to really change in you?
2. What will you relinquish to make room for the change?
3. What decision or action will you make at this moment to invite God to initiate the change?

## Small Group Discussion

How often have you gone along, doing your own thing, and then in a sudden emergency, called on the Lord to save you? Remember the times when you have been helped in such



a way or have been given another chance to live more fully for God. Relive one such experience in your mind right now. How did you grow from that experience? How did you resolve to change your life? What lasting effects has it had?

Luke 15:11-32, known as the story of the prodigal son, describes the rich story of the man with two very different sons.

1. Who has been changed in this story? For good? For worse?
1. What are some ways that you have seen God bring about change in others?
2. What are some ways we can recognize that change needs to happen within us?
3. Read 1 Corinthians 13 as an example of the change that God wants to bring about in us. Are there other examples you can find in scripture of the kind of person into which God wants to change you? This congregation? In what specific ways do you think God wants to change us to be more loving?

### *Time for Changing...*

Use Psalm 51 as part of your small group's closing prayer.

