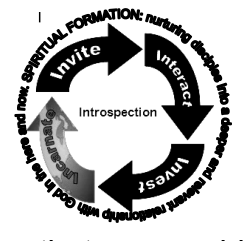


INVITATION TO THE NEW TESTAMENT

Week 2: Jesus Calls Us to a Transformed Life



→ Invite

- ✓ Greeting and Check In
Do you have any thoughts, reflections, or “ah-ha” moments from last week’s lesson that you would like to share?
- ✓ Prayer Requests:
- ✓ Opening Prayer:
O gracious and holy God, give us diligence to seek you, wisdom to perceive you, and patience to wait for you. Grant us, O God, a mind to meditate on you, eyes to behold you, ears to listen for your Word, a heart to love you, and a life to proclaim you, through the power of the spirit of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.
(prayer or Benedict of Nurnia, 6th century)

→ Interact

- ✓ Opening Question: What images or words come to mind when you think of transformation?
- ✓ Video: Session 2, Part 1
Listen for what it means to be a part of God’s kingdom through the direction of Jesus.

“There is a delicate pink flower called the Fire Flower, and as the story goes its chief joy is to spring into life in the places that have been burned to blackened ash with nothing left to remind of grasses that were once green and shrubs... To spring into life with color and freshness where fire has burned and heat has laid to waste—this is the quality and the grace of the fire flower.”
Meditations of the Heart by Howard Thurman

Video Notes:

- ✓ Group Discussion
 - How does the Sermon on the Mount describe a life in community with God and with others?
 - “For Matthew, Jesus is the new Moses.” What does this statement suggest about how Jesus’ followers are to view and respond to his teachings?

→ Invest

- ✓ Pair Share:
 - Pair 1: Matthew 5-7
In these scripture verses, what are behaviors of an untransformed life and behaviors of a transformed life?

- Pair 2: James 1-5
In these scripture verses, what are behaviors of an untransformed life and behaviors of a transformed life?

- Pair 3: Romans 1-8
In these scripture verses, what are behaviors of an untransformed life and behaviors of a transformed life?

✓ Group Discussion:

- Share pair-share discussions with the group.

- Group Question: Read Matthew 5:21-48 aloud. How does the Law function for followers of Jesus?

✓ Video: Session 2, Part 2

Listen for the role that faith and works play in righteous living.

Video Notes:

✓ Group Discussion

- What do Jesus, Paul and James say about the relationship between faith and works?

- What characterizes a life of faith?

- What impact do works have (or should have) on one's faith?

→ **Incarnate**

✓ Pair Share

- Which of the week's scriptural perspectives—Jesus' (Matthew), James', or Paul's—most challenges your way of life?

"The Wesleyan way of evangelism is relational and for others to hear your testimony it is necessary to have some form of relationship with them...People are willing to listen if they feel you care."
Transforming Evangelism by Henry H. Knight III and F. Douglas Powe, Jr.

- What aspect of living a transformed life do you find most difficult?

- How would you explain to others on their journey of faith that doing what God wants brings freedom, not limits, to life?

- What areas in your life do you tend to resist the thought of God asking you to change?

✓ Group Discussion: Pair Share, Last Thoughts, Reflections, Insights?

✓ Closing Prayer

→ **Introspect** (*on your own time*)

✓ Take time to reflect. Journal your thoughts from today's lesson.

- What is something new you learned?
- In what way(s) were you challenged by this study?
- Were there any "ah-ha!" moments for you?
- Is there anything from this week's lesson you would like to explore more?
- Read the reflection questions you answered before coming to class on page 32. Are there any of these questions you would answer differently after today's discussions?
- How are you going to put into practice what we learned and discussed?

"Today the text we are to study is the book of our own experience. You must therefore turn your attention inwards, each one must take note of his [or her] own particular awareness of the things [we] are about to discuss..."
Bernard of Clairvaux, Song of Songs—Sermon 3

✓ Prepare for Week 3. Read and answer the questions on pages 33-42.

✓ This week as you read your daily scripture readings, read various translations. You might be surprised by the different language, vocabulary and intonations that vary from version to version.