

Truths for Modern Disciples

1. How God Transforms Our Thinking

ROMANS 12:1-2; PHILIPPIANS 4:8-9

LESSON OVERVIEW (FOR THE LEADER)

This lesson serves as an introduction to the Timeless Truths for Modern Disciples series. The goal is to help group members understand that every disciple is being shaped by something. We can either be unintentionally formed by the world around us or intentionally transformed by the Holy Spirit through God's truth.

The main point of the lesson is that God wants to transform the way we think.

1. Romans 12 teaches that Christians need a renewed mind.
2. Philippians 4 teaches how that renewal happens.

The lesson emphasized two important ideas:

- **Separation** from worldly influences and ways of thinking.
- **Saturation** in godly influences and biblical truth.

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP NOTES

If children are present, involve them intentionally throughout the group.

Before beginning, assign one child to be the "Kid Reporter." Let them know their job is to listen carefully because at the end of the gathering they will share the most important thing they learned.

Provide children with a Listening Sheet and encourage them to complete it during the teaching and discussion. They may write, draw, or do both depending on their age.

Also encourage children to draw a picture that illustrates the main lesson. At the end of the gathering, give them an opportunity to show and explain their drawing to the group.

Ice Breaker

"What is something you believed when you were younger that you later discovered was completely wrong?"

TRANSITION:

"Sometimes we realize we've been thinking about something incorrectly. This lesson explores how God transforms the way we think so we can see life from His perspective."

READ ROMANS 12:1-2, THEN PHILIPPIANS 4:8-9

Discussion Questions

1. What are some influences in our culture that shape the way people think?
2. Why do you think God places such an emphasis on renewing our minds?
3. The lesson talked about separation and saturation. Which of those comes more naturally to you, and which is more challenging?
4. In Philippians 4:8–9, which of the qualities listed in verse 8 do you think our culture values the least right now?
5. Paul says to “**think about these things**” and “**practice these things.**” Why do you think both are necessary for spiritual growth?
6. What is one practical step you could take this week to create more godly saturation in your life?

KIDS' QUESTION

1. What are some things that help you think about Jesus and remember what is true?

Prayer Time

LEADER INSTRUCTIONS

- Leader, as you begin the prayer time, explain to the group that tonight we want to slow down and genuinely seek the Lord together, not just rush through a closing prayer.
- On the next page is a list of prayer prompts based on this lesson. If you want, you can cut these out into individual strips of paper with one prayer prompt on each, and put those prayers in a basket.
- Pass the basket of prayer prompts around the circle and invite anyone who is willing to pray to take one.
- Let everyone know there is no pressure to pray out loud, and children are welcome to participate too.
- Encourage people to quietly read their prompt and begin thinking about how they want to pray when the time comes.
- Begin the prayer time yourself by leading a short opening prayer that helps the group focus on God, become calm and attentive, and invites the Holy Spirit to guide the time.
- Then leave space for others to pray one at a time using their prompts.
- Don't be afraid of a little silence between prayers.
- When it feels like the prayer time is naturally slowing down, close by thanking God for hearing His people, praying for the needs that were shared, and asking God to deepen our love for Him and strengthen our faith in Him throughout the week.

Before dismissing, invite the Kid Reporter to share the most important thing they learned. Then allow any children who would like to do so to show their drawings and briefly explain them to the group.

PRAYER PROMPTS

Pray that God would renew our minds so that we think more like Jesus and less like the world.

Pray for those who work in worldly environments, that God would help them stay strong in their thinking and actions.

Pray for the students in our church who are bombarded by the philosophies and ungodly worldviews that permeate the education system.

Pray for the young people who are vulnerable to peer pressure, that they would be renewed in their minds and strong to resist temptation.

Pray for the culture of our church to be godly and not worldly, making transformation easier on one another.

Pray for our pastor, that he would walk in the Spirit and think with the mind of Christ as he leads us.

Pray for parents, that they would intentionally teach their children God's truth and model a Christ-centered life.

Pray for marriages in our church, that husbands and wives would encourage one another toward spiritual growth and holiness.

Pray for those who are struggling with anxiety, fear, or discouragement, that God's truth would guard their minds and hearts.

Pray for believers who feel isolated in their faith, that God would strengthen and encourage them.

Pray for those who are new to the faith, that they would develop godly habits and a hunger for God's Word.

Pray for our church leaders, teachers, and group leaders, that they would faithfully handle God's Word and lead with wisdom.

Pray for people who are heavily influenced by social media, entertainment, and news, that they would learn to filter everything through a biblical worldview.

Pray for Christians who are facing temptation, that they would stand firm and walk in obedience to Christ.

Pray for those who are struggling with sinful habits, that God would bring conviction, repentance, and lasting transformation.

Pray that God would help us think about whatever is true, honorable, just, pure, lovely, and commendable.

Pray for wisdom to recognize false teaching, deception, and worldly philosophies that compete with God's truth.

Pray for the children of our church, that they would grow up loving God's Word and trusting His truth.

Pray for our nation, that people would turn from worldly thinking and seek God's wisdom and truth.

Pray for schools, teachers, and administrators, that truth, integrity, and righteousness would be honored.

Pray for missionaries and Christians serving in difficult places, that they would remain faithful and courageous.

Pray for opportunities to encourage one another toward spiritual growth and Christlikeness.

Pray that God would help us not only hear His truth but also practice it in everyday life.

Pray that the Holy Spirit would reveal areas of our thinking that need to be transformed.

Pray that God's presence would be evident in our lives as we think on His truth and practice His ways.

Kids' Listening Sheet

Name: _____

Date: _____

TODAY'S BIBLE PASSAGE(S):

THE MOST IMPORTANT THING I LEARNED:

A WORD I HEARD TODAY:

Word: _____

What does it mean?

SOMETHING I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND:

DRAW A PICTURE OF WHAT YOU LEARNED (ON THE BACK):