



WEST HIGHLAND

BAPTIST CHURCH

Facilitators' Guide for Community Groups

The Transformed Life
Colossians 3:12-17

April 14

1. Welcome (an ice-breaker discussion to get everyone comfortable with sharing):

Share a personal accomplishment you're proud of, big or small. It could also be a 'team' or family accomplishment.

2. Worship (to draw our hearts to the Lord and invite Him into our discussion):

"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." (Col. 3:17) Give thanks to God together for His goodness! Sing "Goodness of God" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-AwLTeMyq20>

Dozens of other worship songs are also available at www.westhighland.org/smallgroupsongs.

3. Word (to consider how the sermon applies to our lives, and to live out the "one anothers"):

Read together: Colossians 3:12-17

Sermon Summary

"What specifically characterizes life in Christ? How do we make the indicative of being dead to this age and alive to Christ into the imperative of day to day life and action? Part of the answer for Paul is a list of vices to be avoided (vs. 5-9) and virtues to be pursued (vs. 12-17)" (Peter Davids, Colossians).

Sermon Questions

Getting Started:

Many Christians struggle to live the virtues of the Christian life because they are trying to make virtues happen (reformation) instead of yielding to the virtuous nature (transformation) they already have in Christ. Perhaps the problem is a result of misunderstanding the real nature of the new creation reality of salvation. Discuss the difference between transform and reform. (See Rom. 12:1,2).

Digging Deeper:

1. According to this text, discuss who you are as a believer and how each of the descriptions contributes to your success in living the transformed life (3:12a).
2. Discuss what it is that the believer has, to become what the text commands us to be (3:12b-14) "You can't command a maple tree to bear oranges—why not?"

3. What virtue do you struggle most to manifest and why do you think that is? What do people struggle most to do/be? Is forgiveness a challenge for you? Why?
4. Aside from willingly yielding to the actions commanded in this text, how can you measure your overall progress in the transformed life? What does the healthy community of faith live like? How might your Community Group participate more intentionally in each other's transformation?
5. How should I approach the Lord so that this transformed lifestyle becomes me?

4. Witness (joining Jesus in his mission):

It is our desire as a church that each community group have regular social or service events that they invite unchurched people to. Talk about your last event and how it went. What will your next event be? Do you have a date set? Spend some time thanking God for past successes and ask Him to help with your next event.