

HOST TIP: IF YOUR GROUP IS UNABLE TO WORK THROUGH THE ENTIRE CURRICULUM, WE HAVE RECOMMENDED ONE QUESTION OR ACTIVITY WITH AN ASTERISK (*) IN EACH SECTION OF THE STUDY.

God's ultimate goal for your life on earth is not comfort, but character development. He wants you to grow up spiritually and become like Christ.

Rick Warren, *The Purpose Driven Life* (page 173)



Connect 10 Minutes

- *1. Who did you want to be like when you were a kid?

- 2. Break into groups of two or three people and share one thing you have learned so far in this series and one thing you feel God is leading you to do.



Grow 45 Minutes

Memory Verse

Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus . . .

Philippians 2:5 (NIV)



Watch the video lesson now and follow along in your outline.

¹² . . . continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose. (Philippians 2:12–13 NIV)

- “Working out” is _____ part.
- “Working in” is _____ part.

I. Three Tools God Uses to Make You Like Jesus

1. The first tool God uses to make you like Jesus is the _____ .

¹⁶The whole Bible was given to us by inspiration from God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives; it straightens us out and helps us do what is right. ¹⁷It is God's way of making us well prepared at every point . . . (2 Timothy 3:16–17 LB)

Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God. (Romans 10:17 NKJV)

God's will is always _____ in God's Word.

God's will never _____ God's Word.

2. The second tool God uses to make you like Jesus is the power of his _____ .

God's divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness. (2 Peter 1:3a GWT)

. . . as the Spirit of the Lord works within us, we become more and more like him. (2 Corinthians 3:18 LB)

3. The third tool God uses to make you like Jesus is _____ .

²⁸We know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them. ²⁹For God chose them to become like his Son . . . (Romans 8:28–29 NLT)

II. Three Choices That Will Help You Become More Like Jesus

1. You can choose _____.

Be careful how you think; your life is shaped by your thoughts. (Proverbs 4:23 TEV)

There must be a spiritual renewal of your thoughts and attitudes.
(Ephesians 4:23 NLT)

"How can a young man keep his ways pure? By living according to your word. "I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. "I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.
(Psalm 119:9–11 NIV)

2. You can choose to _____ on God's Spirit moment by moment.

"Take care to live in me and let me live in you. For a branch can't produce fruit when severed from the vine. Nor can you be fruitful apart from me . . . "I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever lives in me and I in him shall produce a large crop of fruit. (John 15:4–5 LB)

3. You can choose to _____ to circumstances the way Jesus would.

"When all kinds of trials crowd into your lives don't resent them as intruders but welcome them as friends. "Realize that they come to test your faith and produce in you the quality of endurance. "But let the process go on until that endurance is fully developed and you become people of mature character, people of integrity, with no weak spots. (James 1:2–4 PH)

Discussion Questions

1. Some people have thought Paul's reference in Philippians 2:12 to working out our salvation means that we have to earn our salvation. What does Ephesians 2:8–9 have to say about this?
2. "Working out" your salvation can be compared to a physical workout. Your workout is to develop what you already possess. In what ways is discipleship like a physical workout?
3. Read 2 Timothy 3:16–17. Paul says the Bible is "useful." In what ways have you found the Bible "useful" in your life? What keeps the Bible from being more useful in your life?
- *4. Read Romans 8:28 and James 1:2–4. How has God used circumstances and trials in your life to bring growth and Christlikeness?

HOST TIP: DEPENDING ON THE SIZE OF YOUR GROUP, TIME AVAILABILITY, OR STAGE OF MATURITY, ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS ARE PROVIDED AT THE END OF THIS SESSION FOR YOUR GROUP TO STUDY. YOU MAY WANT TO USE THESE QUESTIONS AS SUGGESTED HOMEWORK EACH WEEK OR TURN THERE RIGHT NOW FOR EXTENDED DISCUSSION.



Serve 10 Minutes

*1. How can your personal circumstances and life experiences be opportunities for you to serve God and others?

2. Pair up with a spiritual partner and turn to the *Purpose Driven Health Plan* on page 72 in the *Small Group Resources* section. Select one purpose in which you need to grow and write down one action step that you could take this week to grow in that purpose.



Share 15 Minutes

*1. How is God using the Bible, the power of the Holy Spirit, and circumstances in your life to help you reach out to your friends and family for Christ?



Worship 15 Minutes

HOST TIP: TO MAXIMIZE PRAYER TIME AND ALLOW GREATER OPPORTUNITY FOR PERSONAL SHARING, BREAK INTO SUBGROUPS OF THREE OR FOUR PEOPLE. THIS IS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT IF YOUR GROUP HAS MORE THAN EIGHT MEMBERS.

*1. Take some time as a group to thank and praise God for his provision of salvation and his work in transforming us to be like Jesus Christ. Use short, one-sentence prayers to give everyone a chance to praise the Lord. You may pray several times, but keep your prayers short. You can begin by saying, "Father, I thank you for . . ." or, "Jesus, you have given us . . ."

2. In today's session we learned that your prayer life is an indicator of whether or not you are depending on God. What are you holding on to that you need to turn over to God and trust him to handle? Spend some time praying for each other about these issues.

Additional Study

God created us to become like Christ. He has given us his Word, his Holy Spirit, and custom-made circumstances to help us grow. Let's look further at some verses that confirm the truths of this session and challenge us to take responsibility for our part in this process.

*1. What truths do we learn about our responsibility in the process of spiritual growth in Ephesians 4:22-24?

SESSION FOUR: DISCIPLESHIP

2. According to Romans 10:17, how is our faith affected by the Word of God?

3. What encouragement does Romans 8:11 give us in our spiritual growth?

4. What good news do we see in 2 Corinthians 3:18 regarding God's work in us?

Preparation for Next Time

- *1. Continue to follow the *Daily Reading Plan* on page 76 and read a chapter each day from Days 22–28.
2. Read John 13:1–17. What lessons about servanthood can you learn from this moving example from the life of Jesus?
3. Read, reflect, and meditate on Philippians 2:3–4 this week.
4. Read Luke 17:7–10. What does this passage reveal about our relationship to the master?