

Sample Essay

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Be Transformed Group C
March 2006

"What lesson changed or impacted you the most?"

I would have to say that lesson two, titled, "Understanding the Good News", has had the greatest impact on me thus far. This lesson focused on our misconceptions of the Bible, the Lord and the Good News. Two of the main focal points of this chapter were that we are unconditionally loved and forgiven, and that the eternal life Jesus Christ granted believers starts now.

What really made an impression on me while completing the second session was the fact that I had an inaccurate picture of God. For as long as I can remember, I have always thought of God as a judgmental father. I've always believed that He was angered when I sinned, so much so that there was a short period after I committed the offence that He didn't want to hear from me. This has always caused me to ask for forgiveness with an attitude of deep shame. In fact, that shame has often times caused me to not want to approach His throne at all!

I then read this lesson and learned that God's love was unconditional. But this was not when I really learned the lesson. I really learned the lesson when I completed the homework from lesson 2, day 2. The second question instructed me to read the well known story of the Prodigal son. Now I have been walking with the Lord for 5 years and have heard this story countless times, but this time was different. We all know of the man with two sons: one faithful; one who ran away. The son that ran away returned after experiencing a rough time apart from his family, and the father welcomed him home. And there we have a story about forgiveness. At least that's as far as I've ever read into it. Never before have I likened the father in this story to God. And never have I likened that rebellious son to myself after I've sinned.

You see, we all know that God forgives us and that we are to come back to the church if we have-gone astray. I just missed the part where the father is HAPPY when the son returns. So happy that he wraps him in the finest linens and throws a celebration for him. I learned that there is never a time frame, no matter how soon after the sin, that God doesn't want to hear from me. He actually delights in me coming to him for forgiveness. He actually can't wait to wrap me in his love once again. He actually wants to restore our relationship as soon as possible.

Knowing this fact has not shown itself in any aspect of my life more than in my prayers. I now feel at ease coming to God knowing that he always wants to hear from me. Even when I sin, I feel a comfort knowing that he not only welcomes me to repent, but he also forgives me immediately. I love knowing that God wants to forgive me more than he wants to judge me.

Walking with The Lord and being heavily involved in ministry can make it hard sometimes to learn something new or life changing about God. So when those times occur, it stands out. That is what happened during Lesson 2 of "Be Transformed".