

Small Group Questions Continued

4. As we take on more of the character of Christ, we will be able to respond to the circumstances of life in ways that are good and right, the same way Jesus would. However, our level of change is determined by our level of surrender.

How will you honor your commitment to throw off the old nature and put on the new nature this coming week? What steps will you put in place to help create life change?

Action Step

Fill in the blanks below for this upcoming week.

My action steps are _____

I'm accountable for _____, and their action steps are

My memory verse is _____

This coming week, I'm praying for:

Outreach: Groups in Action

OUR CHURCH

Summer volunteers are needed in the Children's Ministry. This short-term commitment will impact the lives of families who attend our weekend worship services. Learn more by contacting Courtney Salyers at csalyers@eclife.org.

OUR COMMUNITY

The Refuge needs shampoo for their clients. Consider collecting through your family, friends and coworkers, and bringing them to group with you next week (take a picture and post it to the Small Groups Facebook page). One group member can deliver it to The Refuge (317-889-7338).

OUR WORLD

The Colombia mission team is collecting quality garage sale items to raise money for the upcoming trip. Consider donating any clothing, household items, yard or household tools, toys, and furniture to help this cause. Drop off your items June 6-8. Contact Kerry Jones for the address and any questions at kjones@eclife.org.

CELEBRATE



For Group Discussion

Answer these questions prior to your Small Group meeting this week.

Check-in

LAST WEEK'S ACTION STEP

From the information we discussed the last time we met, what did you apply to your life in a practical way?

Introduction

Jesus came into this world to change our lives. He came so that we might taste real life – life the way He meant it to be. When a person comes to faith in Christ, their sins are forgiven. However, it takes work, effort, skill, and discipline to realize the new life Jesus desires. As Dallas Willard said, “Spiritual formation is not a passive process.” Baptism is a picture of the commitment to this process. Going under the water represents our willingness to put our old sinful nature to death, and coming out of the water represents our rebirth – that is, our commitment to a new way of life. That's a reason to celebrate!

Discussion Questions

1. Read Luke 15:11-32. The prodigal son looked for satisfaction and happiness in what the world had to offer. When have you done the same? Where did you look?

Jesus recognized that people have a deep desire for satisfaction and happiness. Read John 6:35. What point was Jesus trying to make in this passage?

2. Read Ephesians 4:21-22. Baptism is a symbol of our commitment to throw off our old sinful nature and former way of life in order to find our satisfaction in Him. What are some specific things you have thrown off as a result of your new life in Christ? How is life different when the old nature and former ways are destroyed?

3. Read Ephesians 4:23-24. Baptism doesn't “kill the old nature” and “put on the new nature” for you. It is a symbol that you are willing to step into the spiritual growth process, and begin the necessary training to take on the character of Christ. Share the spiritual disciplines you are using to train your new nature. Why are these things important to you, and how have they helped you develop the character of Christ?