

## Village Guide

**Current Series:** Boundless

**Texts:** Acts of the Apostles 16.22-39 and 2 Corinthians 3.17-18 (see below)

**Core Value Focus:** Transformation: Knowing and following Jesus makes us more human.

**Big Ideas from the Message:**

- “The Lord is the Spirit, and where the Lord’s Spirit is, there is freedom. All of us are looking with unveiled faces at the glory of the Lord as if we were looking in a mirror. We are being transformed into that same image from one degree of glory to the next degree of glory. This comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.” (2 Corinthians 3.17-18, Common English Bible)
  - We recover the glory of the image of God, that Jesus perfectly embodied, as we are transformed by him from one degree to the next.
- Disciple → A follower of a life teacher. Basically, an apprentice of Jesus.
  - To be a disciple, one is in relationship with the teacher. You can’t be a disciple and only follow a philosophy or set of ethics (although this is a GREAT place to start for many). A disciple is someone who learns from being with the teacher. We transform by being with Jesus.
- Disciples of Jesus: #1 Love God; #2 Love Neighbors; #3 Love Enemies
  - These three ideas are the fruit of following Jesus. They are what make a disciple of Jesus unique.
- Paul and Silas were energized by their love for God, boundless by their love for each other, and ready to love their enemy. (Based on Acts of the Apostles: 16:22-39)
- Transforming as a disciple involves:
  - Increase our capacity to know and follow Jesus.
  - Increase our capacity to be self-aware.
  - Increase our capacity to let others into our journey.
- Jesus desires that each of us become the kind of humans that the world needs.

**CONNECT** (5 min)

- Question chosen for open group discussion or someone pre-invited to share their story.

**HEAR** (5 min)

- Spend some time in your group sharing what you recall from Sunday’s message. Give a loose theme or subject of the sermon to jumpstart everyone’s thoughts and recollections. (Example: “On Sunday, Kurt continued our series, Boundless, and talked about our value: Transformation. Who was there on Sunday? Could you recap the content for us?” What struck you, and what questions did it leave you with?)
- Read Acts 16.22-39. What did Kurt say that these passages reveal about God? About us? Do you see anything differently or that wasn’t mentioned in this particular sermon?

**TALK (20 min)**

*Note: This format is intentionally less linear in an effort to generate discussion. It is not meant to be followed left-to-right, nor do all the questions need to be asked. As a facilitator, stewarding good discussion means modeling **true listening**, which also means a conversation without an agenda. Use your discernment to see what your group needs to talk about.*

<i>Conceptual</i>	<i>Practical Implications</i>	<i>Spiritual Formation</i>
<b>Transformation in Scripture</b>	<b>Transformation and regular life</b>	<b>Transformation as Disciples</b>
<p>What does transformation mean according to the Scriptures?</p> <p><i>Just as God is reclaiming the cosmos (last week's message), God is transforming humans to become "more human." What does it mean to become more human? How was Jesus truly and fully human?</i></p> <p>Based on what you remember from the New Testament, can you think of examples of someone who was clearly being transformed by God in the Bible? (<b>LEADER NOTE: Peter, Mary Magdalene, Paul, etc.</b>) How can you tell? What did you think of their humanness in relation to godly transformation? What do you think now after Kurt's sermon?</p>	<p>Do you think it is important to affirm the innate goodness of being human (however fractured)? What are the implications of de-emphasizing this?</p> <p><i>Transformation is both the starting point and the goal that all of our other values point toward. What does transformation actually look like in real life? Do you know someone who models maturity in this process (flaws and all) of living as a disciple of Jesus? How does this person inspire you to follow Christ?</i></p> <p><i>Some of us grew up with the expectation that being a disciple had to follow a prescribed formula. Perhaps this was believing the right list of ideas or performing certain patterns of bible study (or many other expectations). How do formulas and expectations differ from intentionality?</i></p>	<p><i>Take a few minutes of silence to think of what your current experience of life these past couple weeks have been like. (Give a few minutes for reflection before asking the question).</i></p> <p>If you were to imagine a sort of "idealized self" five years from now, with a deep relationship to the Teacher, what would your life look like? What would it take to become a person like this?</p> <p><i>We are all in different places in our spiritual journey. Kurt mentioned God awareness is often stunted by a lack of self awareness. Share about something that you've learned about yourself that has helped you connect with God in recent years.</i></p> <p>Is there a spiritual formation practice that might help shape your soul as a disciple of Jesus? Do you sense Jesus inviting you to focus on God awareness, self awareness, or both?</p>

(Space for your own questions or notes)

**LIVE (20 min)**

- How might this conversation impact you this next week? What are you taking with you?
- How might we pray for each other based on this conversation and other highs/lows in life?