

Now What? - WEEK 5

LESSON OUTLINE // In Progress

BIG IDEA

God isn't finished with you, and that's good news!

BIBLE

2 Corinthians 5:17; Philippians 1:6; Romans 12:1-2

ABOUT THIS WEEK

You don't have to be perfect to belong to Jesus. Sanctification is the life-long process of becoming more like Him, and it happens one step at a time. This week is about embracing growth, celebrating how far God has brought you, and committing to keep moving forward—even when change feels slow or messy.

WHAT? What are we talking about today?

HOOK – Home Makeover

- Have you ever watched one of those home makeover shows or seen a transformation on TikTok or YouTube?
 - There's always a "before" shot, then the dramatic "after".
 - Consider finding some examples of before and afters to show the audience
 - Sometimes, these transformations leave us speechless and wondering how something goes from looking so terrible to being beautiful!
- But you know what you usually don't see?
 - In home renovation...
 - you don't see all of the miserable days when everything is covered in dust, and the owners are arguing with the contractors.
 - ...You don't see all of the nights spent in a hotel because the house isn't fit to live in.
 - Or think about a body transformation
 - It's crazy to see someone who's lost hundreds of pounds, but while we were at home, probably still asleep, those people were waking up early. Putting themselves through crazy pain at the gym to achieve their goals.
 - While we were begging mom or dad to hit a drive through, they were eating plain chicken and broccoli 4 times a week.
- We all love a dramatic transformation, but we often forget the work it takes to get there.
- While this is certainly true for houses and our bodies, it's especially true for our spiritual lives and our walk with God as well.
- We love the idea of being transformed... but we often struggle with the in-between—the "now what?" of following Jesus after we've said yes to Him.

SO WHAT? Why does it matter to God and to us?

- Something astounding happens when we say yes to following Jesus!

READ 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

- According to this verse, because of Jesus' sacrifice for us, he doesn't just "clean us up". He makes us new!
 - This is the reason why Jesus compares our new life in Him to being "born again". It's like we're a new human entirely.
 - But just like those home renovations, the old thing has to be torn down and we have to be built back up.
 - And just like those transformations, that takes time. In fact, it is a lifelong process.

- This was something clearly understood by some of Jesus' earliest followers. It's what they prayed and hope for for the members of the Church.
- For example, Paul, when writing a letter to some of his closest friends in the city of Philippi, he said this:

READ Philippians 1:6

- **ILLUSTRATION:** Did any of your parents ever ask you to stand next to a wall so they could measure you growing up? Do you remember the way you felt? Back pressed up against the wall, giddy to turn around and see how much you've grown?
 - That's what it's like growing up in Christ.
 - Sometimes you don't notice the difference until you look back at your life or you have someone else point it out to you.
 - But in those moments where we pause and reflect on all that God has done in our lives and how He's used those things to help us grow, we can get excited because it becomes evident that **God isn't finished with you, and that's Good News!**
 - He loves you and cares for you so deeply that He is committed to sticking with you and slowly, patiently guiding you as you become the man or woman he's designed you to be.
- **But how does this transformation happen?**

READ ROMANS 12:1-2

- These verses give us the blueprint. We have to allow God to change the way that we think.
 - It means holding everything that we believe to be true up to God and asking, "What do you want me to do with this?"
 - What do you want me to do with _____?
 - My life?
 - My thoughts?
 - My actions?
 - ETC.
 - And then we give Him room to speak, and we make room to listen.

NOW WHAT? What does God want us to do about it?

- So even though God is the one who transforms us, is there anything we can do to help the process along? YES!
 1. **Rely on the Holy Spirit**
 - You're not in this alone. The Spirit helps you grow, convicts, and encourages.
 2. **Pick One Area to Grow In**
 - Sometimes it's helpful to focus on one area and focus on that. Don't overwhelm yourself by trying to tackle everything all at once. Remember, this is a lifelong process. In the grand scheme of things, it's ok to spend years even focused on one thing if it's the one thing God wants you to focus on.
 - Examples could be: Patience, honesty, prayer, generosity, or how you treat your family.
 3. **Celebrate progress, not perfection**
 - Every step matters. Don't overlook the seemingly small things God is doing in your life.
 4. **Ask for Accountability**
 - Like your parents measuring your height, sometimes it's difficult to see the growth yourself. You need others to help point it out to you. And to help you identify areas of growth.
 5. **Pray**
 - Ask God to shape your heart and mind.
 6. **Keep Showing Up**
 - Even when it's hard, even when you feel stuck – God is still working behind the scenes. Trust Him in that.

PRAYER:

- Invite students to be honest with God about an area of life where they need God to help them grow into spiritual maturity.