

# TRANSFORMING LIVES

WEEK  
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## Week of October 29: Personal Transformation

*This week you will pray and reflect about how you have been changed by Jesus. At the core of this change is that you love God and you love others. God uses you to make a difference in the lives of others. Personal transformation starts with you and then it goes through you out into the world around you.*

**Day ONE: Blessed to Be a Blessing**  
**Genesis 12:1-3; Acts 20:32-35**

Jesus blesses you so you can pass the blessing on to others. What are the blessings (gifts and resources) you have received? How have you been a blessing to someone in the last seven days? Who is around you that needs the blessing you can give?

**Day TWO: Saved to Do Good Works**  
**Ephesians 2:8-10**

This is a life-changing truth. God has good things for you to do. You have been created and saved to do those good works. Life should be full of good works that you do. What good things did you do last week for others? What can you do this week for others?

**Day THREE: Salt and Light**  
**Matthew 5:13-16**

Salt preserves, seasons, and adds flavor. You are spiritual salt. You are the light of the world, the light of Jesus to the world. As salt and light, you bring life, truth, forgiveness, hope, and so much more to those in need. It is a great privilege to do this. Right where you live and work is where you are to be salt and light.

**For Personal Reflection and Group Discussion**

We believe the Bible is God's inspired, authoritative, normative, and always relevant Word of Life to us. Therefore, how do you read this WORD OF GOD? How do you let its TRUTH change your life? What personal transformation does Jesus want to make in your life right now?

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## Week of November 5: Community Transformation

*The most obvious place of impact is on the lives of those around you or in the community where you live--where we as a church are placed by God. As individuals and as a church community, we are here to make a difference.*

**Day ONE: Seek the Welfare of the City**  
**Jeremiah 29:4-7**

God's people are in exile, living in Babylon (a pagan and evil city). Instead of turning their back on the city and withdrawing into a safe place, God wants his people to FULLY ENGAGE the city. What are the specific instructions God gives? How do you SEEK the peace and prosperity of our community?

**Day TWO: Love the People Who God Loves**  
**Skim read through all of Jonah (focus on 4:1-4, 10-11)**

Jonah did not love Nineveh. He ran from God's missional plan to reach Nineveh. This book is about our unwillingness to reach our world and about God's great compassion. It is so easy to run from God's missional assignment. In what ways have you run from being a missional servant of God?

**Day THREE: Helping Others in Financial Need**  
**Skim read 2 Corinthians 8 & 9 (focus on 8:1-5)**

Paul's longest teaching on generosity has to do with an offering for others in need in another city. Paul's strongest encouragement about generosity is not to bless ourselves but to bless others. What verses speak to your heart? How generous are you in your giving to help those in need?

**For Personal Reflection and Group Discussion**

Do you love the people God loves or do you struggle with the Jonah Syndrome? Do you harbor anger and even hatred toward others who are not in your group? What is the heart of God? How do you/we get that heart? What will God do if you/we do not have his heart? Be sure to look at Romans 5:6-11.

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## Week November 12:

## World Transformation

*Living Word, from the beginning, said, "Here we are. Use us. Send us" (see Isaiah 6:8-9). We want to reach the world with the good news of Jesus, and we have been led by the Spirit to focus on particular groups around the world.*

**Day ONE: The Great Commission**  
**Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; Romans 10:10-15**

Go, teach, evangelize, baptize, make disciples of the nations. The Good News is for everyone. Strong, healthy, growing churches are committed to going to the unreached people of the world. We are responsible for doing our part in God's Global Plan. In what ways are you committed to helping Living Word reach the world?

**Day TWO: The Ministry of Reconciliation**  
**2 Corinthians 5:17-21**

Reconciliation is about a restored relationship with God, with our self, with others, and with the world. At the heart of all our missions work is to be reconciled with God through Jesus.

**Day THREE: Justice, Peace, and Flourishing**  
**Micah 6:8; Isaiah 19:23-25; 42:1-9**

Flourishing. God's plan is to shape a people who love and live those realities, and then for them to be ambassadors of those realities. Be sure to notice how outrageous Isaiah 19:23-25 would have been to those who heard it. It is just as outrageous for many of us today.

For Personal Reflection and Group Discussion  
Here are the signs of having God's heart for the world:

- I give to the Living Word missions program (or will start this year).
- I have a personal relationship with a Living Word missionary.
- I have been on a mission trip.
- I pray for our missionary team (if not, become a prayer partner).
- I pray for parts of the world that are in crisis.
- I attend the Mission Connect times to meet our missional partners.

How many are true for you? What will you begin to do?

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## Week of November 19: Transformed Lives

*Your devotions this week should be done in light of Genesis 12:1-3. You are blessed to be a blessing. You are transformed for the sake of others, for the purposes of God, and the healing and saving of the world. It starts with you, but it must go far beyond you.*

### Day ONE: You Will See Greater Things

**John 14:12; Matthew 19:26; Philippians 4:13**

The Bible tells us we will see and do great things. Great things are good things, the right things, the valuable things. Right now, God is working in your life to accomplish greater things. What are the greater things God is up to? What greater things are you looking for and joining in?

### Day TWO: More Than We Can Imagine!

**Ephesians 3:14-21**

Read this passage several times. Savor the beautiful truth in it. Believe the awesome transformation God wants to work in your life, and also in the life of the local church. Unimaginable! Are you experiencing this? Are you living with joy, love, and hope?

### Day THREE: The Fullness of God's Life and Love

**John 1:16, 4:11-13; Colossians 1:9-13**

While some people over-promise and under-deliver, God always delivers on what he promises. The Good News is that the promises of God for your well-being and complete transformation are what you long for. They all come through Jesus.

### For Personal Reflection and Group Discussion

Cardboard Sunday is a day of celebration and thanksgiving. This is the season of humility and gratitude. Does your life reflect ongoing celebration and joy? Take some time to count and share your blessings.

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## Week of November 26: Abundant Generosity

*Extravagant, lavish, abundant, overflowing generosity. That is the nature of our God. We are to become like our God in these virtues, and we know it is a struggle. This week, allow God to motivate and empower you for a life of greater generosity and financial giving. You are blessed to be a blessing.*

### Day ONE: Generosity for the Kingdom's Sake

**1 Chronicles 29**

This is a beautiful story of generosity--generosity on the part of those who are called to lead God's people, and then generosity by all of God's people. Together we make an enormous difference and God's purposes are advanced. Generosity leads to more blessing and to lasting joy. How generous can you be?

### Day TWO: The Overflow of Abundance Transforms Lives

**2 Corinthians 9:6-15 (skim read all of chapters 8 & 9)**

If you have the time, make a list of EVERY lesson on generous giving in these two chapters. It will be a long list, but be sure to do that for 9:6-15. What is Jesus saying to you about his will for your generosity?

### Day THREE: Your Treasure and Your Heart

**Matthew 5:19-24; Proverbs 4:23**

Your heart is your core--your values, priorities, loves, commitments, desires--and it guides everything else you do. Jesus tells us that what we do with our finances reveals and actually forms the heart. What insights does your giving provide about your heart?

### For Personal Reflection and Group Discussion

North American Christians struggle with faithful and generous giving. Why is that? What excuses do we have to avoid the clear teaching of scripture on this? What is God saying to you?