

Study Guide/Discussion for “Paradigm”-January 7,2024

Let’s Get Started

1. Spend a few minutes in prayer asking the Lord to reveal truth to you as you search the scripture.
2. Read Romans 12:1-2
3. Questions for group icebreaker or personal reflection:
 - What character trait do you feel you most picked up from your parents? Could be a physical or emotional trait.
 - Do you have a memory of an event in your life that still shapes how you see and respond to the world?
 - What is your favorite music and why?
 - What is one thing you would most like to see “transformed” in your life?

Let’s Dig In

1. Share or write down the one thought or line you heard in the sermon on Sunday that grabbed you and made you think differently.
2. Do you remember the two words that began with the letter “M” which encapsulate how we are transformed? (Hint-they are in Romans 12:1-2)
3. Our transformation begins with Mercy (Romans 12:1). Look up Romans 1:16-17. Then look up Romans 5:8. If you had to describe “Mercy” to another person from these verses, how would you do it?
4. Our transformation is completed in our Mind. Based upon this week’s sermon, how would you describe “Mind”?
5. Pastor Jack told us, “You can be saved and still be stupid”. How did that strike you? Why do you think it is important to understand?
6. Look up Romans 8:6-7-what are the two kinds of “mind” Paul describes? What are the characteristics of both?
7. We heard that people do not reject the gospel based upon intellect but upon emotion. What did you think of that statement? If you had to explain it to a friend, how would you do it?
8. Read Romans 1:18-32, Ephesians 4:17-24. In your own words, write or explain how a mind becomes depraved and how it is renewed based upon these passages.

9. Paul warned us, “do not be conformed to the pattern of this world”-we heard that is not a possibility, it is an everyday reality that the world seeks to “squeeze us into its mold”. How do you think we are pressured to conform by our culture?
10. Pastor Jack gave us three characteristics of a “renewed” mind. Can you remember what they were?
11. What is one truth or directive you have received from God’s word recently that you need to “put to the test and prove” in your life today?

Let’s Go Deeper

1. Here are some links to books you may want to read which will help you grow in your knowledge of the faith and your development of a Christian Worldview.
2. Mere Christianity by C.S. Lewis-<https://www.amazon.com/Mere-Christianity-C-S-Lewis/dp/0060652926>
3. How Shall We Then Live? By Francis Schaeffer-<https://www.amazon.com/Should-Then-Live-LAbri-Anniversary/dp/1581345364>
4. The Faith Once Delivered-By Doug Wilson
<https://www.amazon.com/Faith-Once-Delivered-Comments-Apostles/dp/B08B2V6YGZ>
5. Christianity 101 by Gilbert Bilzekian
<https://www.amazon.com/Christianity-101-Gilbert-Bilezikian/dp/0310577012>
6. Ruler of Kings by Joe Boot
<https://www.amazon.com/Ruler-Kings-Toward-Christian-Government/dp/1916121136>