

Renewed: Thinking Like Jesus

Recognizing the Battlefield

Icebreaker Question: *Influences Today: If you had to identify one thing that most influences people's thinking today, what would it be?*

HEAD (Truth – What does God's Word say?)

1. Read Romans 12:1-2. Paul contrasts being conformed to the world with being transformed through the renewing of our minds. What is the difference between these two processes? Why does that distinction matter for followers of Jesus?
 2. Read Ephesians 6:10-12 and 1 Peter 5:8-9. What do these passages teach us about the reality of spiritual warfare? Why is it important to recognize that our ultimate battle is not against people?
 3. Read 2 Corinthians 10:3-5. What does Paul teach about the relationship between our thoughts and spiritual warfare? What does it mean to take every thought captive and make it obedient to Christ?
-

HEART (Reflection – What is God revealing to you?)

1. The sermon emphasized that “every day we are being influenced and formed by something.” When you consider your daily routines, relationships, entertainment, and information sources, what do you think is having the greatest influence on your thinking?
 2. One of the enemy's primary tactics is deception—distorting God's truth. What are some common lies or worldly beliefs that Christians can unknowingly embrace? Have you ever recognized a belief in your own life that needed to be corrected by Scripture?
 3. Philippians 4:7 reminds us that God's peace guards our hearts and minds. What tends to rob you of peace or dominate your thoughts? How does knowing that God promises to guard our hearts and minds encourage you?
-

HANDS (Application – What will you do?)

1. The sermon introduced three daily responses: Remember, Recognize, Refocus. How could you intentionally practice these when faced with anxiety, temptation, conflict, or discouragement?
2. Identify one area of your thinking that needs to be brought into greater alignment with God's Word. What specific step could you take this week to begin replacing worldly thinking with biblical truth?
3. God uses His Word, His Spirit, and His people to transform us. How can your homegroup help you grow in spiritual awareness, biblical thinking, and faithfulness to Christ?

BASIC GROUP GUIDELINES

Though we call these Basic Group Guidelines, these are also essential in all relationships and environments. These should be observed whether in 1-on-1 conversation or in a group discussion.

- Guidelines give boundaries for people to operate within.
- They help with the flow and pace of the discussions.
- They help us value one another.
- They help people to be more comfortable sharing deep and meaningful things.

Safe Group – This is a safe group. Confidentiality is key, what is said in the group stays in the group. Be aware how you are affecting the environment: words, actions, non-verbal communication. This needs to be a place where people feel comfortable opening up and sharing.

No Crosstalk – Be considerate of others as they are sharing. No side conversations, checking phone, responding to text or email, etc.

Listen – Let's value one another by listening to what is being shared. Allow a pause after someone has shares to allow them to finish and others to consider what was said. Eye contact and body posture play key roles in creating a positive or negative group environment.

No Rescuing or Fixing – We are not here to fix each other; Jesus does that part. Avoid the tendency to rescue when someone is struggling to get the words out or share struggles or conviction.

Use "I" Statements – It's easy to talk about the issues of others or respond with "we", "us", "the church". But for us to grow as disciples, and build relationship, we want to use "I" statements.

Don't Overtalk – We want to create time for all members of the group to participate in the discussion. Be careful not to always be the first responder or regularly give long responses.

Fight for Relationship – It's not 'if' conflict or hurt feeling will happen, but 'when'. We commit to fight for relationship with each other. Go to that person and share your struggle or seek wise advice if you are not sure how to handle the conflict.

