

### **Warm Up Activity or Question**

Choose one and pursue it as a group

**Activity:** Watch this video summarizing [2 Corinthians by The Bible Project](#) as a reminder of the history of the church in Corinth and the intent of this letter to them.

**Question 1:** Think of a time in your life where you were transformed by an event, by new knowledge, by a person, or by something else. In two minutes or less, share with the group what happened and how it changed you.

**Question 2:** An electrical transformer changes an incoming voltage to either a higher or a lower outgoing voltage suitable for the downstream electrical circuit (e.g., providing 120 volts AC to your home or providing 400 volts AC for a guitar amplifier). We have many transformers in our area; see the photo to the right. Discuss as a group as an analogy for Christ's transformation in a believer's life.



### **Read and Discuss God's Word**

1. Read aloud this week's scripture: 2 Corinthians 2:14 – 3:18.
2. Acts of the Apostles (Acts 7-9) tells of the transformation of the Pharisee Saul of Tarsus into Paul "an apostle of Christ Jesus" (2 Cor 1:1).
  - a. How did Saul react to the new Christian church?
  - b. How did God transform Saul into Paul?
3. Paul wrote that Christ leads believers "in triumphal procession." This procession refers to the Roman tradition where a victorious general displayed the treasures and captives gained from war amid a celebration with incense, music, and the scattering of flowers.
  - a. Why do you think Paul used this analogy?
  - b. In the Roman procession, would the aroma of incense be welcomed by everyone in attendance? If not, why?
4. Consider the analogy of "aroma" and "fragrance":
  - a. Why would the "aroma" of Christ attract some but repel others?
  - b. In what ways do you see this happening today?
5. Early in Chapter 3, Paul defended his ministry. What proof does Paul provide that he is a true minister of the gospel of Jesus?

6. You have heard the idiom “take something to heart.”
  - a. What does this mean to you?
  - b. Read aloud Jeremiah 31:33.
  - c. How did God state that ‘writing his law on their hearts’ would transform the house of Israel?
7. Later in 2 Corinthians Chapter 3, Paul compared the glory of the Old Testament law to the glory of the New Covenant:
  - a. Why do you think Paul stated that the New Covenant is more glorious than the law?
  - b. Why can’t the Old Testament law change people’s lives?
  - c. What do we need to transform our lives?

### **Live it Out**

*“And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.” 2 Cor 3:18 (ESV)*

**Remember:** On a particular Friday over two-thousand years ago, Christ’s death tore the veil that separated the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place in the temple (see Matt. 27:51) and God’s chosen people were offered freedom from the condemnation of Moses’ law through righteousness in Jesus Christ.

As a believer, you have chosen to be transformed by Jesus’ righteousness. What are some ways that you can let the Holy Spirit shine that righteousness in the things that you think, say, and do?

### **Closing**

Listen to [Emmanuel by Scripture Lullabies](#) on YouTube. While the song is playing, silently:

1. Thank God for the areas in your life that he has already transformed.
2. Pray to God to transform those areas in you or in a loved one that need his healing power.
3. Pray for perseverance to never give up on being transformed!