

# TRANSFORMED

BEING EVERYTHING GOD WANTS ME TO BE

## **"Understanding Transformation"**

January 15-23, 2012

### **PRAYER:**

Think of a season in your life when you felt that you were really growing spiritually. What were some of the ingredients that you felt prompted this growth?

The Bible describes the goal of our lives in various ways: to be transformed into Christ's likeness or to be complete in Christ

**Read:** 2 Corinthians 3:18, Romans 12:2; 2 Corinthians 5:17

If that's the goal, what's the process by which we get there?

**Read:** Hebrews 12:1-3

**Discuss:** In this passage, what qualities do a race and the Christian life have in common?

*Salvation is a free gift from God through Jesus Christ. You don't have to earn it; you just believe. Yet a race involves effort.*

*How do you fit together these two truths – salvation as a gift and the Christian life as a race?*

Greek athletes stripped down to nothing for a race so that nothing would hinder them as they ran. (Fortunately today we have spandex!) So in Hebrews when verse 1 says, "throw off everything," it means everything that could potentially hinder us.

Within your life, whether at school or at work, what are some of the sins that can entangle us and keep us from running the race of Christ well? What does "fixing" your eyes on Jesus mean and why would it be so essential? (verse 2)

Jesus focused on "the joy set before him." He looked forward to the joy of returning to His Father and the joy of seeing us freed and restored to our Father. We endure the race because of the great reward that is ahead of us – the joy of the Father's embrace.

What joy is set before you when you finish your race?

### **Plan for Action:**

We're not meant to run the race alone. Hebrews 12 encourages believers to endure hardships and keep running the Christian life. Runners would agree that a cheering crowd, the right equipment, and a clear goal help them press through the pain and cross the finish! It's always more motivating to run with a pack of other runners. We need the support, encouragement, and accountability of fellow runners.

We grow in our walk with God when we experience life together with another Christian friend or in a small group.

If you've never spent daily time with God, this is an easy way to begin. Would you consider taking on this habit for the duration of six weeks? If you're already consistent in daily devotions, consider acquiring the habit of Scripture memory. Would you consider accepting the challenge to memorize one verse per week and hide God's Word in your heart?

(If this is something you would like to do...see you small group leader for helps, or call or stop by the church office to receive these.)

How can this group pray for you this week?

*To view the complete teaching from the Sunday services go to [CentralCommunity.org/media](http://CentralCommunity.org/media)*

### **central community church**

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