



What did Jesus say or do to point us to live differently than the world is used to or wants us to?

Bottom Line: **Transformed people live transformed lives.**

The gospel is so radical that it changes our very world. This means that we do not only believe the gospel to be true but we believe that through the gospel we do find a new way of living.

We are transformed On the inside and that transformation will be evidenced in the way we live. As believers of the gospel, God calls to live with an understanding that we are made for another world for we are in the world but we are not of the world.

In the series we will be looking how Jesus challenges us to live differently. Jesus calls us to love Jesus in a radical way and love others in a radical way. Because we have been transformed by him then we will live as those who have been transformed. However, living transformed lives is not done in isolation but in community and it is not easy. It means turning away from our idols and seeking him to help us live like him.

We are called to live radical lives that impact our culture for Jesus. Christ transforming culture is when Christ is involved but transforms the culture into something more moral and redemptive. The church is an instrument God uses to impact culture.

Date	Passage	Being counter cultural is:
Sept 10-13	Matthew 20:20-28	Leading through service
Sept 17-20	Matthew 22:1-13	Showing hospitality to those who are not like us
Sept 24-27	Matthew 25:14-30	Demonstrating stewardship
Oct 1-4	Matthew 26:6-13	Giving extravagantly
Oct 8-11	Luke 5:1-11	Trusting Jesus when we have tried all we could
Oct 15-18	Luke 10:25-37	Loving our neighbors
Oct 22-25	Luke 11:37-54	Coming out of our hypocrisy
Oct 29-Nov 1	Luke 12:13-21	Watching out for greed
Nov 5-8	Luke 12:22-34	Trusting Jesus for provision
Nov 12-15	Luke 14:25-35	Carrying the cross daily
Nov 19-22	Luke 15:11-32	Seeing the lost as God does
Nov 26-29	Luke 18:1-8	Persisting in prayer

Sept 10-13

BEING COUNTER CULTURAL IS: Leading through service

Optional warm-up question: If you could have one super-power what would it be?

READ: Matthew 20:20-28

STUDY

1. Share what stood out to you in this passage.
2. How does the Mother of James and John demonstrate a difference between her actions and motives in verses 20 and 21?
3. Why were the other disciples indignant (vs 24)?
4. What does Jesus' answer teach us about what it means to serve one another?

APPLICATION:

5. What type of leadership do you see as dominant in the culture around you?
6. How have you seen people in a position of authority or leadership "lord it over" those beneath them, especially in the work place?
7. What gets in the way of us having an attitude of service towards the people in our workplace, our families, our friendships?
8. Share one way in which you can demonstrate the servant leadership that Jesus teaches in this passage this week.

PRAYER.

Sept 17-20

BEING COUNTER CULTURAL IS: Showing hospitality to those who are not like us

Optional warm-up question: If you could have dinner with one person (dead or alive) who would it be?

READ: Matthew 22:1-13

STUDY:

1. Share what stood out to you in this passage.
2. Jesus said that the kingdom of heaven is like the banquet described in this story. Who do you think the king in the story represents? Who is the son? Who would the servants represent? Who would the guests represent?
3. Who finally gets to come to the wedding? (v 8-10)
4. How are these people different from what you expect wedding guests to be?
5. If the wedding represents God's kingdom, what kind of people will be part of God's kingdom according to this story?

APPLICATION:

6. What type of hospitality do you see as dominant in the culture around you?
7. What can we do to be intentional in showing hospitality to this type of people as a church, as a group and as individuals?

PRAYER.

Sept 24-27

BEING COUNTER CULTURAL IS: Demonstrating stewardship

Optional warm up question: If you had \$1 Million that you had to spend in 24 hours what would you spend it on?

READ: Matthew 25:14-30

STUDY:

1. Share what stood out to you in this passage.
2. What do you notice about the master's expectations of his servants? (See especially vs15, 21, 23 and 27)
3. What do you notice about the master's reaction and "rewards" to the three servants (vs21, 23, and 26-30)?
4. Who do you think the third servant calls himself afraid (vs25), and yet the master calls him lazy (vs26)?

APPLICATION

5. What type of stewardship do you see demonstrated in the culture around you?
6. What do you think are some of your own God-given talents and abilities?
7. On a scale from 1 to 10 (10 being high), how do you feel like you have been using the resources God has given you?
8. Share one action (could be spending, investing or saving) that you can do this week that can demonstrate stewardship

PRAYER.

Oct 1-4

BEING COUNTER CULTURAL IS: Giving extravagantly

Optional warm-up question: What is the best gift you have ever received?

READ: Matthew 26:6-13

STUDY:

1. Share what stood out to you in this passage.
2. What motivated the woman to pour the perfume?
3. Why were the disciples indignant when the woman poured the perfume? (refer to John 12:5-6)
4. What is the contrast we see between the motivations of the disciples and the woman?
5. In Matthew 26:11 Jesus refers to Deuteronomy 15:10, this passage continues with "That is why I am commanding you to share freely with the poor and with other Israelites in need". How does this scripture influence our understanding of Jesus' message to the disciples?

APPLICATION:

6. What type of giving do you dominantly see in the culture around you?
7. Where do you see poor people receiving less-than the best gift?
8. How can we be a community who practice 'sharing freely' and giving extravagantly?

PRAYER.

Oct 8-11

BEING COUNTER CULTURAL: Trusting Jesus when we have tried all we could

Optional warm-up question: What is the hardest thing you've ever done?

READ: Luke 5:1-11

STUDY:

1. Share what stood out to you in this passage.
2. What do you imagine Simon was feeling when he responded to Jesus in vs 5? Why?
3. What suggests that Simon was humble in his obedience, even when he wasn't hopeful (vs5)? What does Simon's response to Jesus in vs 8 reveal?
4. What does this story teach us about obeying when we don't understand?

5. APPLICATION:

6. When someone have tried all they can what do you see as the dominant response in the culture around you?
7. Share one situation in which you feel you have tried all you can, trust it to God.

PRAYER.

Oct 15-18

BEING COUNTER CULTURAL IS: Loving our neighbors

Optional warm-up question: What is the kindest action you have been a recipient of?

READ: Luke 10:25-37

STUDY:

1. Share what stood out to you in this passage.
2. Look at the characters in the story: the priest, the Levite, the Samaritan, the man who was beaten. Who might these people be today?
3. How does Jesus define "neighbor"?

APPLICATION:

4. How do you see 'love you neighbour' being acted out around you?
5. Which of the acts that the Good Samaritan does is hardest for you? (Compassion, Physical Ministry, Time or Money)
6. How can we 'go and do the same'?

PRAYER.

Oct 22-25

BEING COUNTER CULTURAL IS: Coming out of our hypocrisy

Optional warm-up question: What would be some of the most annoying things about having yourself as a roommate?

READ: Luke 11:37-54

STUDY:

1. Share what stood out to you in this passage.
2. Why were the Pharisees astonished when Jesus didn't wash?
3. What are the characteristics of uncleanness that Jesus highlights?
4. What had the Pharisees made their priority in life? How had that affected the way they responded to God's Word?
5. How did it affect their heart (Matthew 15:8)? What caution does this give us about traditions?

APPLICATION:

6. Where do you see hypocrisy in the dominant in the culture around you?
7. What 'woes' would Jesus warn the church of today?
8. What do we need to do individually, as a community and as a church to come out of our hypocrisy?

PRAYER.

Oct 29-Nov 1

BEING COUNTER CULTURAL IS: Watching out for greed

Optional warm-up question: What would be your ideal way to spend the weekend?

READ: Luke 12:13-21

STUDY:

1. Share what stood out to you in this passage.
2. In vs 15 Jesus says to watch out for 'all types of greed'. List the different types of greed you can think of.
3. Why do you think Jesus responds to this man with this warning?
4. Why does God call the man in the story a 'fool'? If he were in our community, would we identify him as a 'fool'?

APPLICATION:

5. Where do you see greed taking hold in the dominant in the culture around you?
6. If you look back over the last weeks, months or years what would you say your life "consisted in"?
7. How as a group can you help each other identify, address and avoid greed in your lives?

PRAYER.

Nov 5-8

BEING COUNTER CULTURAL IS: Trusting Jesus for provision

Optional warm-up question:

READ: Luke 12:22-34

STUDY:

1. Share what stood out to you in this passage.
2. Three times in this passage, Jesus says, in essence: “Do not worry. Do not be afraid. Do not be anxious.” (12:22, 29, 32) Why do you think Jesus wanted to make this point?
3. What does it mean to seek God’s kingdom first? What is Jesus really promising here?
4. What does Jesus mean with the statement in vs 34: “Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also”?

APPLICATION:

5. What healthy and unhealthy patterns of trusting Jesus’ provision do you see around you?
6. What things do you find it hard to trust Jesus’ provision for?
7. How can we as individuals and as a community ‘seek first His kingdom’?

PRAYER.

Nov 12-15

BEING COUNTER CULTURAL IS: Carrying the cross daily

Optional warm-up question: What gives your life meaning?

READ: Luke 14:25-35

STUDY:

1. Share what stood out to you in this passage.
2. Underline the word, "disciple," in this passage. How many times does it appear? What would you conclude about discipleship from these passages?
3. What do the examples Jesus gives highlight about what it means to follow Him?
4. What does He mean by "hate?"

APPLICATION:

5. How do you see hardship being responded to in the dominant culture around you?
6. Would you say that your love for Christ is more significant than your love for everything and everyone else in your life? Why or why not?
7. What does 'bearing your own cross and coming after me' look like for you?

PRAYER.

Nov 19-22

BEING COUNTER CULTURAL IS: Seeing the lost as God does

Optional warm-up question: What food do you find disgusting?

READ: Luke 15:11-32

STUDY:

1. Share what stood out to you in this passage.
2. What is the context of this passage? (ie. Why do you think Jesus telling this Story? Who is the primary audience?)
3. Describe the younger son in this parable? What drives or motivates him?
4. Describe the older son? What drives or motivates him?
5. Describe the Father? What characteristics does he demonstrate?

APPLICATION:

6. How do you think the people around you understand the love of God? How do you see them acting out this belief?
7. Share a specific time when you felt far away from God. What happened that made you want to return? Did you believe that God wanted you to come back?
8. Would a deeper knowledge of God's love change how you live your daily life? How?

PRAYER.

Nov 26-29

BEING COUNTER CULTURAL IS: Persisting in prayer

Optional warm-up question: What can you not get right, no matter how many times you try?

READ: Luke 18:1-8

STUDY:

1. Share what stood out to you in this passage.
2. We are given insight into the lesson of this parable in verse 1. What is it? Why was this an important lesson for Jesus' audience?
3. What are the two characteristics of the judge? So what would this person be like?
4. What is the main action of the widow in this situation? Why would the widow go to such a man? Would the widow have any hope in constantly bothering such a man?

APPLICATION:

5. Are you persistent in prayer like the widow? Why or why not?
6. Share strategies you have found helpful in practicing persistent prayer.
7. What can you do as a Growth Group to help each other be persistent in prayer?

PRAYER.