

Icebreaker:

Share one funny story or highlight from summer 2018.

Read scripture and discuss:

1. Read Exodus 34:29-35 to better understand Moses's literal veil. What do you think the word veil originally meant? What are things that metaphorically serve as a veil that keep us from seeing God?
2. The phrase "being transformed into his image" is in the passive tense. This implies we are not the primary agents of the transformation. Why is this important? Who does the transforming?
3. The NIV translation of verse 18 reads "And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed..." What do you think it means to "contemplate" in this context?
4. Looking more like Jesus is a process (see verses 16-18). What changes in your life do you notice since you "turned to the Lord" (v. 16)? How have you noticed ways in which you have already been transformed?
5. When it comes to your own journey of faith, what would you say is the goal? If you had to quickly say why the church exists, what would you say?
6. Christopher Ben Simpson said, "authenticity is a lie. You are mutable. Don't be yourself – become Christ." Do you resonate with this quote or not? Why or why not? Does this quote challenge you?
7. This fall sermon series is called "Being Shaped Like Jesus." If you had to describe Jesus, how would you do it?

Prayer:

As you pray for one another, please pray for the needs in our church family:

prayer requests

- > We celebrate with Ryan, Emily, Lucas, and Conner Elmore in the birth of Graham Walter; with Cassie, Kyle, and Wren Decker in the birth of Harvey Thomas; and with Elizabeth Coats (and grandparents Ted and Kathy Coats) in the birth of Elijah Jordon Hoyle.
- > Prayers of comfort for the Byrum family in the death of Noamie Byrum and for Janet Cripe in the death of her mother.

[The following are from ZPC's prayer calendar, which is available at the Welcome Center or at zpc.org/prayer.]

- > Pray for MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) to be equipped, encouraged, and nurtured as this ministry meets from 9:30-11:30 am two Fridays a month.
- > Pray for Steve and Amie Parlato. May their efforts to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ in Thailand be fruitful and well received.

Welcome back leaders! We are praying for your meeting times and leadership.

This sermon series and home group series is not based on a specific book of the Bible, but instead is titled "Being shaped like Jesus." One scholar said that as Christians, we are "little Christs," followers of Jesus. Jesus, both human and divine, is the perfect example for us. More than being Presbyterians or ZPCers, we are Christians. Let's study and wrestle this fall with being shaped more like Jesus.

1. The Old Testament veil was an actual veil that Moses wore when talking to the Israelites. They were afraid of him after he talked to God because his face was shining. We talk about being light – Moses was actually shiny! Paul uses the term veil to say that early Christians had a veil that covered their hearts and kept them from seeing God clearly. Some things that might keep us from seeing God clearly are sadness, timidity, hiding, separation, and sin.

2. Being transformed is not active but passive tense. This is important because in our culture we think if we don't do it, it won't get done. Ultimately it is the Holy Spirit working in us and through us to be more like Jesus.

3. To "contemplate" in this context can mean think about, meditate, read scripture, or pray. When we contemplate or meditate or read scripture or pray and see the Lord's glory, we can be transformed by the Holy Spirit and look more and more like Jesus.

4. Being shaped more like Jesus includes turning to the Lord, accepting the help of the Holy Spirit, and seeing God with "unveiled" faces. If you've been a believer for a while, what's different about your life? Are things still changing in your faith and life? Are you more patient, kind, prayerful, more service oriented, less of something bad?

5. The Westminster Shorter Catechism Question #1 and answer is: "What is the chief end of man? The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever." So what is your own answer about your journey of faith? The church is not a building or a business but a group of believers. Why does the church exist?

6. This quote will make people think and maybe disagree – especially the first sentence about authenticity. Authenticity meaning integrity or honesty is good. If a person says "I have to be true to myself" while going against God's will, then that is wrong. Share freely what you think about this quote. What does it mean to become Christ?

7. To describe Jesus, you might think about the most memorable things you know about Jesus in the gospels. Another good place to look to describe Jesus is Philippians 2:5-11.