



Week Three | Small Group Guide



Transform Our Trust

Review:

If, last week, you identified an aspect or situation you'd like transformed, did you see God at work in that area? Or where did you see Him?

Where would you like to see Him at work?

Week 3

Opening:

1. Why did you select the names you did for your children, pet(s), cars, or other things over the years?
2. Have you ever made a pretty big decision rather quickly? What was the decision?

Overview: This week, in section one, we look at the faith of Abraham and Sarah. They did not trust God perfectly in their trust journey, but the promises of God were fulfilled through them. In section two, we dig into Psalm 37, which delightfully describes our trust relationships with the Lord God and the benefits which come from trusting Him more and more.

TRANSFORMER Fans:

Who does Optimus Prime enlist to help him bring peace to the world?

Which Autobot(s) do you think is most trustworthy to Optimus Prime?

Which Transformer names describe their role or abilities the most clearly?

The Trustworthy God

It is true that people lived longer in Abraham's day but, to use a modern western concept, let's just say they were both at an age when paying for college was behind them and they were starting to think about retirement. But sending a child off to college was not part of their story. Sarah was barren and was past the age of having children. So, they are thinking about settling down for retirement, and they have accepted they won't have children.

Read Genesis 12:1-3

"I want you to leave everything you know, leave the security of your home and your family, go to the place I will show you. At that place, I will bless you, and you will have a child, who will have children, who will have children. A great nation will come from you, and all the families of the world will be blessed through you." (NLT).

When God first came to Abram and said, "Go!" Abram obeyed and went, and he and his family's trust transformation journey began. Every journey of trust transformation begins with obedience. God cannot transform our trust if we do not first obey. Over the next 25 years, Abram, whose name will be changed to Abraham, and Sarai, to Sarah, will learn to trust the LORD God in new and deeper ways. They learned that waiting is often part of the process of transforming trust. They certainly asked, "How will God fulfill His promise to make a great nation through us?"

On Abraham's and Sarah's trust transformation journey, God didn't lay out all the details of His plan at the beginning. When God teaches us to trust Him more, He often will give us a "go" vision, with few details. Then on the journey, He says, "My child, trust Me," as little by little He unfolds His plan before our eyes.

As God revealed the plan to Abraham and Sarah, they were not always perfect in their trust. Both laughed at God's "impossible promise" when told they would finally have a child of their own 25 years after the promise. The LORD God specializes in the impossible, and on their journey, they learned to keep their focus on the One that made the promise.

Hebrews 11:11 says Sarah received physical power to conceive because they "considered God Who had given the promise to be reliable and trustworthy and true to His word." (Amplified Bible, Classic Edition). Our God is reliable and trustworthy and true.

Section 1 - Discussion Questions

1. Do you see any similarities or differences between the "go" vision of Abraham and Sarah to the pioneer days in our country?
2. The gospel of Matthew opens with the statement, "This is a record of the ancestors of Jesus the Messiah, a descendant of David and of Abraham:" (1:1 NIV) Jesus, our Savior, was born in the line of Abraham. Talk about how God has or is fulfilling the promise given to


Renaming

When God changed a person's name and gave him or her a new name, it was usually to establish a new identity.

God changed Abram's name, which meant "high father" to "Abraham" meaning "father of a multitude" (Genesis 17:5) and his wife's name from "Sarai," "my princess," to "Sarah," "mother of nations" (Genesis 17:15-16).

What word or name would have described you before you became a Christian?

What word or name would describe you now?



Abraham around 2100 BC, in the world and in your life, “all of the families on the earth will be blessed through you (Abraham).”

3. Have the reasons for making decisions changed since following Jesus? What is different now than then?
4. When have you questioned (like Abraham and Sarah did) if He is always reliable, trustworthy and true?
5. WRCC worship pastors Philip Strickland and Stephen Gute wrote our Transform theme song entitled “Something New” (Isaiah 43). The lyrics are worth understanding and digesting as they express the Transform series ideals. Use them as meditation and a prayer.

Verse 1

Can you feel it?
Do you hear it?
This time has come to pass
Let's leave the wilderness

Transforming who you are
I'm revealing who you're meant
to be
My masterpiece, come rest in me
And see what I see

Bring anger, pain, bring every
failure made
It all can be redeemed
I bring streams of Life
I restore my design

Verse 2

For the walking
Or the fallen
Come find your worth in me,
Replace your fear with peace
My call to everyone

Verse 3

Are you ready? To go with me
Come drink from spring
Release all you bring
I've come to everyone

Truth will no longer hide
You're my masterpiece
Come thrive in me
See what I see?

Chorus

I'm doing something new
Inside of you


Bridge

Bring fear bring doubt
bring any amount
My love meets all your needs

By Philip Strickland and Stephen Gute Jan 28 ©2020

Trust Transformed

When we pray, “God, transform my trust,” we should understand what we are praying. God will always take us at our word. To transform our trust, He will give us the opportunity to trust Him. His instrument of trust transformation, as we saw in week one, is to use the circumstances of life. Before we pray this prayer, we must first be convinced and decide in our hearts and minds that our God is reliable, trustworthy, and true. The journey of trust transformation is a difficult one, and we must not doubt the One we trust in. The people and things of the world may fail us,



but He never fails. He may not always answer every prayer the exact way we pray it, but He always gives Himself, and He is always more than enough.

Regardless of where we are in our trust transformation journey, we can be confident of our security in the Lord as we trust in Him. The wisdom of Psalm 37 is a guide for our thoughts to help us keep our focus on the Lord in the journey, even when our eyes are telling us a different story. Take some time this week to read Psalm 37 and apply it to our own trust transformation journey. Below are several promises we can claim as we seek the Lord to transform our trust.

Read Psalm 37:3-7

3 Trust in the Lord and do good.

Then you will live safely in the land and prosper.

4 Take delight in the Lord,

and he will give you your heart's desires.

5 Commit everything you do to the Lord.

Trust him, and he will help you.

6 He will make your innocence radiate like the dawn,

and the justice of your cause will shine like the noonday sun.

7 Be still in the presence of the Lord,

and wait patiently for him to act.

*Don't worry about evil people who prosper
or fret about their wicked schemes. (NLT).*

Compare translations. The New Living Translation spells Lord — capital L and lower case ord. Other translations use LORD — usually with small caps.

Does it make a difference?
You be the judge...

<https://www.ancient-hebrew.org/god-yhwh/difference-between-lord-Lord-and-LORD.htm>

Trust leads to doing good. When we trust in God, He gives us His power to do good. In fact, trust itself motivates a desire to obey. The Father, in turn, urges us on. Like a baby learning to walk, we trust the hands held out to catch us and that motivates us to move towards God.

A footnote in the New American Standard Bible (NASB) adds this idea to “prosper” in verse 3: To prosper is “to feed on His faithfulness.” Trust cultivates faithfulness. This has less to do with financial prosperity and more to do with the depth of our relationship to the LORD God. There is a dual meaning here. Those that trust in the LORD are fed by Him, and the promise is as we live our lives (Dwell in the land), we grow in faithfulness to the LORD and to His work.

The LORD gives us new desires and He blesses us in these desires. God's trust transformation goes against our common sense. We say, “I have a desire for something more, so I need to trust God more.” But God's way is, “first learn to trust Me, so that I might place My desires for your life in your heart and do more through you.” As we give our hearts to the LORD (Delight yourself in the LORD) and trust the LORD, He fills our hearts with His desires. On the journey of trust transformation, as we commit our way to Him, we watch as these new desires unfold in beautiful and miraculous ways (He will do it).

Trust in the Lord teaches us to be still (vs. 7), and He gives us rest. The world runs to and fro after all the things the world says are important. God says, “Be still, trust Me, rest in Me. I will provide everything you need, and I will be everything you need.”

Trust unlocks our lives and our hearts so that Jesus “your righteousness” shines through us. On our journey of trust transformation, as we trust in God more and more, we no longer think about appearances, properness and political correctness. In its place, God shines the light of Jesus in and through us to a world that desperately needs Him.

Section 2 - Discussion Questions

1. Whom do you trust? Whom don't you trust? Why?
2. The Transform series and messages address the use of our resources — time, money and abilities. How did your upbringing create a tight-fisted or open-fisted approach to giving away your resources?
3. Think about how you spend your time and money. What one or two ways you spend your time and money causes you to pause and wonder if that's a good investment? List a couple of these areas ... What does this tell you?

Money i.e. daily Starbucks or Time playing video games	Want	Need	Waste
			x

4. How has this week's study or sermon helped you think about trust as a journey?

Please fill out the [Week 3 Survey](#) about Beliefs, Practices and Values on the WRCC app or website. These surveys will provide valuable information for future group studies.

Printed copies are available.

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