

**Reflect on the Talk** – What did God say to you during the talk? What did you find helpful or interesting?

## BECOMING LIKE JESUS

Who are you? Who or what do you want to be? Who do you want to be like?

These are some of the most fundamental questions we can ask ourselves (and each other), but they can also be questions that we don't often talk about (or subconsciously even avoid!). But personal and spiritual formation is a reality that happens – and is continuously happening – in each of us. Over the past two weeks we have explored what it means and what it looks like to 'be with Jesus', but that is not the end in itself. In this study we consider how being with Jesus also means we become like Jesus.

### Ice-breaker

1. When you were growing up, what did you want to be? Has that become reality? What are some reasons why it has / has not?

### Unintentional spiritual formation

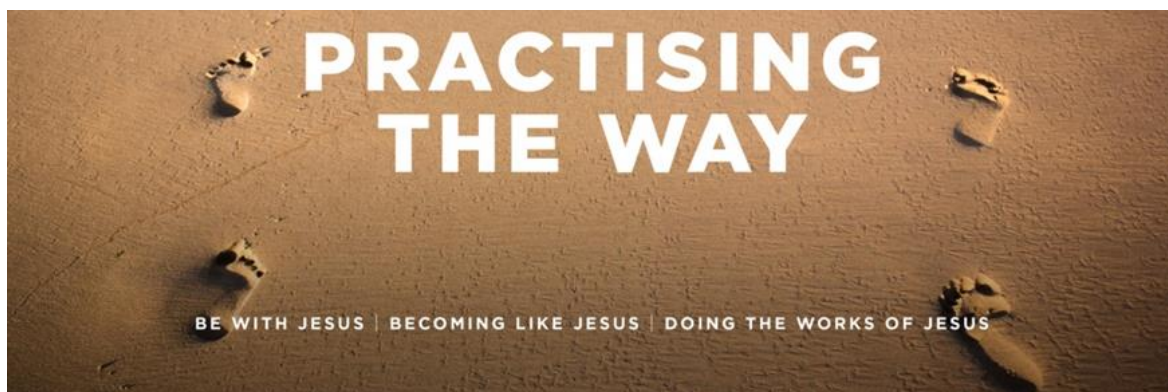
2. The talk discussed this alternative formation pyramid →. Share with one another examples of how your life has been shaped by:
  - a. your environment (including your physical and phone/virtual environment);
  - b. the stories you believe (about you and the world around you);
  - c. your habits; and
  - d. your relationships.



3. Why is this pattern of personal/spiritual formation “unintentional”? What is the problem with this (see Romans 12:2, 1 John 2:15-17, Matthew 6:19-34 ... or even skim Ecclesiastes 1-2!)?
4. How do you feel you are going in your walk with Jesus and your experience of the easy yoke and light burden (Matthew 11:28-30) or the life the full (John 10:10) that Jesus promises? If it isn't what you would like it to be, what would you like it to be instead?

### The promise of transformation – 2 Corinthians 3:12-18

5. Read 2 Corinthians 3:12-18. (At the same time it might help to skim Exodus 32-34, especially 34:29-35.) The talk discussed how the situation in Exodus differs from what is on offer to us today. Compare and contrast the difference between Exodus 32-34 and our reality today in relation to:
  - a. how we can draw near to God / how we are 'saved' (Exodus 34:10-11 vs 2 Corinthians 3:14 and Ephesians 2:8-9);



- b. what kind of access we have to God’s presence (Exodus 33:7-11 vs what we have learnt about ‘being with Jesus’);
- c. the “veil covering their hearts” (2 Corinthians 3:15 – what does that mean? vs e.g. Romans 8:1);
- d. how ‘free’ we are (Romans 6:17-23 vs 2 Corinthians 3:17) – what is the “freedom” verse 17 mentions?
- e. what this means for how we grow and change (Israel’s history vs 2 Corinthians 3:18).

### What does ‘becoming like Jesus’ look like, and how does it happen?

- 6. When you think of ‘becoming like Jesus’ or being transformed to be like Jesus, what comes to mind? What do we know of Jesus’ life, but also what don’t we know?
- 7. Why are the words “are being transformed” (2 Corinthians 3:18) important in terms of how and when that transformation occurs in us?
- 8. From John 14:23-26 and 15:9-17, and Galatians 5:22-26, what does ‘becoming like Jesus’ look like? But also from these verses, and 2 Corinthians 3:18, how is this transformation brought about?
- 9. How is this promise of transformation to become like Jesus encouraging to you? (See also Philippians 1:3-6).

### Rhythms and practices that can also aid our transformation to become like Jesus

- 10. We will learn next week about how the work of transformation is by the Holy Spirit, but it also involves our intentional training and effort! We will be focussing on the following in our next series of workshops – which ones are you interested in and how do you think these are rhythms and practices that can aid our transformation?
  - a. Discovering your identity and purpose
  - b. Forgiven as we have been forgiven
  - c. Simplicity
  - d. Community
  - e. Embracing grieving and loss

### And finally, to go deeper ...

This model of being with Jesus and becoming like Jesus is mentioned throughout the New Testament. In your own time, you may like to study passages like Romans 8:1-17, Ephesians 4:21-24, Colossians 3:1-14. How do these passages reflect what we have talked about so far in this series about being apprentices to Jesus, being with Jesus and becoming like Jesus?

