

**60-Day New Testament Journey**  
***Transformers!***  
**February 9/10, 2013**

**Memorize**

*Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. – Romans 12:2, NIV*

**Connect With Others** *(choose one)*

- 1. Discuss a time when you tried to force something into a molded space, like a square peg into a round hole. Or in Pastor Rick's case, parking his 1970 Plymouth Fury into a tight spot. How did it work out for you?**

Just like the world tries to squeeze us into its mold, we have attempted to squeeze something into a space that was either too tight or not big enough to fit. Playing off Pastor Rick's example, have some fun sharing similar stories.

- 2. Name some popular advertising slogans in our society today. Then one at a time, as a group, try to guess the slogan.**

Use these to get the ball rolling if you need to:

- "Just do it" (Nike)
- "I'm loving it." (McDonalds)
- "Can you hear me now?" (Verizon Wireless)
- "Eat Fresh" (Subway)
- "It's everywhere you want to be" (VISA)
- "Betcha can't just eat one" (Lays Potato Chips)
- "It gives you Wings" (Red Bull)
- "It melts in your mouth, not in your hands " (M&Ms)

**Commit to Growth**

***Read Romans 12:1-2***

- 1. What does it mean, "to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God"(v.1)? What motivation does Paul give for us to do so? How does that reason motivate you?**

Under the Old Covenant, God accepted animal sacrifices for the forgiveness of sins, but under the New Covenant, the OT sacrifices are no longer of any effect. So for those in Christ, the only acceptable worship is to offer oneself completely! The gracious, extravagant mercy of God is our reason to offer ourselves up to him, which Paul had just expounded upon in Romans 1-11.

- 2. Paul warns us not to conform to the “pattern of this world.” What are some of the pressures we face to conform to the patterns of this world? In what areas do you think we as Christians are conforming?**

Some popular molds that Pastor Rick talked about are: 1) Tolerance - to each his own; 2) Pessimism - it will never work; 3) Hedonism - go for the gusto; 4) Egoism- I did it my way. Share some other “isms” in your group as well.

- 3. What does it mean to be transformed? Why is the renewal of our mind essential to a transformed life? How can our minds be renewed?**

To be transformed means to literally “change form” or to be “radically changed from the inside out” much like the metamorphosis of a caterpillar to a butterfly. Paul shares that this sort of transformation can only occur as the Holy Spirit changes our thinking through the study and meditation of God’s Word.

- 4. Why are we better able to know and do the will of God if we go through the metamorphosis of not conforming to the world and being transformed by the renewing of our minds?**

Since the renewed mind is saturated by the Word of God, it able to discern the ways of God. If we truly love God with all of our heart, mind, soul and strength, than His ways will be our ways.

- 5. In what current situations do you need to know God’s “good, pleasing and perfect will”? Based on today’s study, what will you do to find it?**

Whatever it is, help the members to remember that the discovery of God’s will can be found as they spend time hearing from Him through the study and meditation of His Word, for that is where is will is explicitly expressed.

- 6. In considering our “spiritual act of worship,” what are some “living sacrifices” you need to make as a Christ follower?**

Use the answers to this question, as the springboard to pray for one another.

**Pray**