

Study Guide

Monday, May 24. Read Galatians 6:15. From the very beginning, the movement of Jesus has been about change. It is not incidental that the central figure of the first century personified the radical change that would define this new movement. He would change the course of history, but first everything in his life would change. Being a Christ follower is about you and your life. You cannot help others change unless you are willing to change. The world desperately needs the power of your life fully lived. You have no greater responsibility than to live the life God created you to live. To live your life at your highest level empowers you to give your life for the greatest good. For you to make your greatest contribution, you must dream, discover and adapt. You must be willing to change, and the greater your ability to change, the greater your ability to bring change. Are you ready to count? Are you ready to be changed in order that you might lead others to change?

Tuesday, May 25 – Read 1 Corinthians 9:19-21. While our dreams may be different, and each of us has a unique path to walk, if Jesus Christ guides your life – your life can never simply be about you. It can't be about your goals, your ambitions, your dreams, or your life. Paul was determined to become whatever he needed to become to help as many people as possible find the life-transforming relationship that comes in Jesus Christ. Read the passage again. Paul adapts for the sake of others. For Paul, Jesus didn't come to only save him, but so that he could join with Jesus in saving others. To adapt is not always easy. Sometimes it takes all your strength and energy to do so. It will take courage. It is often easier to stay the same, refuse to change and insist the world adapt to you. Which path will you take? The easier one or the courageous one?

Wednesday, May 26 – Read 2 Corinthians 5:17. A metamorphosis takes place. You are changed forever. The Bible is all about change. Those words you have heard describing what God does in us – they're all a form of change. *Transformation* means change. *Conversion* means change. *Repentance* means change. *Sanctification* means change. All the words that describe your spiritual journey, what happens to you, they're all about change. And if you're going to be a follower of Christ, get ready for change, because who you are today is not who you will be tomorrow. You are changing.

Thursday, May 27 – Read Daniel 1. Daniel is in the midst of a crisis. He is in another country. Another language and now another name. He is a slave. But Daniel overcame the challenges he was forced to face by adapting to them. He was fueled by an insatiable curiosity and determination to learn whatever he needed to thrive in this hostile environment. All his previous training and learning was obsolete. He would have to learn the wisdom and ways of the Babylonians themselves, even though they conflicted with his own. He not only did so, but he excelled even about the Babylonians themselves. He had surpassed his captors' achievement and understanding. He simply became the best. All 4 men mentioned in chapter 1 were voracious learners. They didn't ignore their new world. And they didn't put aside their faith in God. They held on to the one true God and at the same time made a great impact on their captors. Could it be possible to change without changing? Think that one over.

Friday, May 28 – Read Galatians 6:14. What is at the core of your faith? Is it doing good things? Is it being at a certain place once a week? Is it one thing? Is it many things? The cross was at the core of Paul's faith. Without the cross, Christianity is just another religion where we follow rules and hope that something good happens to us here on earth or at the very least something awesome awaits us after death. When you are feeling challenged in your own faith, always look to the Cross. The place where the ultimate sacrifice was made – a sacrifice for each one of us. The price was paid for our sin on that cross. Cross was where it started but the empty grace gives us hope for a better tomorrow, a hope for an eternal future. What do you believe?

Saturday, May 29. Life is not a color-within-the-lines project; life is a work of art. You have to keep mixing colors, creating new blends, and seeing things in fresh ways. You must be willing to get paint all over you. Life is about growth. Growth demands changes. Change requires humility. Sometimes you need to bring change; sometimes you need to be changed.