

SCC SMALL GROUP FOR CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT SERIES
MAKING HARD CHANGES Part 1 of 8
Sunday Message - September 11, 2022

Getting Started:

What are you looking forward to as you begin this fall series?

Can you give an example of an “inside change” you’ve had to deal with? What made it hard for you?

Ask someone to read 2 Corinthians 3:18. How has the Lord made you more and more like Him when it comes to a personal change you’ve made? Did you welcome this change?

Searching the Scriptures:

I. HOW THE SPIRIT MAKES INNER CHANGE HAPPEN

- A. Pastor Scott shared that real change begins with better thinking as the Spirit renews our thoughts and attitudes (Ephesians 4:23). Romans 12:2 and Ephesians 4:17-19 describe several “values and opinions of this world”. What is something that comes to mind that you may need to move away from if you are going to be able to think in a “right and true way”?
- B. Ephesians 4:14-15 says that the key to avoid being tossed about by lies is by “speaking the truth in love and growing in every way more and more like Christ”. Can you give an example of this principle in action from your own experience?

- C. Pastor Scott mentioned that in order to clean the house of our hearts and minds, we need to throw off our old sinful nature and former way of life (Ephesians 4:22). We do this by identifying deception, then confessing it, releasing it and moving forward. Have you ever worked through this process with a specific area of your life you were hoping would change?
- D. Ephesians 4:25 says that others help us to live out the truth. Look at the SCC small group relational basics in the message outline. Which of these four points are most important to you?
- E. The goal of Ephesians 4:13 is that we become mature and unified in our faith. It is a life-long process. How does it make you feel that our completion in Christ happens in heaven?

Application of the Scriptures:

- A. Change is never easy. Think back and give thanks for one positive attitude change you've seen in your life in the past year.
- B. This study may have brought a significant struggle, or roadblock of fear to mind. Don't try to solve it yourself. Ask the group to pray for you specifically, write it down and check back in coming weeks for answers and solutions you can all note and celebrate.

For additional encouragement on this topic, check out the four day study plan "New Normal – How Jesus Changes Everything" in the YouVersion Bible app: <https://www.bible.com/reading-plans/27266>