



Transformed  
*into God's image*  
WOMEN'S MINISTRIES **2017**



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This resource package has been prepared for your use  
by the

Canada and Bermuda Territorial Headquarters

Women's Ministries Department

to compliment the Women's Ministries theme for 2017

***Transformed Into God's Image***

We express grateful thanks to all who contributed in  
making this a rich resource.





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*Office of the Territorial President of Women's Ministries*

January 16, 2017

#### TRANSFORMED INTO GOD'S IMAGE – 2017

This year, 2017, promises to be a very exciting one for The Salvation Army in our territory. Women are certainly going to be an important part of whatever God has in store for us. Here are only a few of the things that are coming up:

Bermuda will be closing off its 120<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year. It began early in 2016 and will culminate with a special weekend February 17-20. There will be a division-wide women's event on the Friday evening to commemorate this milestone. Remember, the first officer sent to Bermuda to consolidate The Salvation Army's work there was a woman: Ensign Lutie Desbrisay. She would later become the first woman Colonel in The Salvation Army.



The World Day of Prayer will be held on the first Friday in March, as it is every year. This year's program has been written by the women of the Philippines, and the theme is "Am I Being Unfair to You?" Please join with women all around the world as we consider this important topic and pray for each other.



The 1<sup>st</sup> of July weekend we will have a Congress in Newfoundland (Mount Pearl), with General André Cox and Commissioner Sylvia Cox. They will be accompanied by the Chief of the Staff and the World Secretary for Women's Ministries, Commissioners Brian and Rosalie Peddle. There will also be a special Women's event at the Congress.

September 7-12 will see Pine Lake Camp, Alberta, hosting Canada 150 – The Aboriginal Roundtable. This will be a significant event, solidifying our commitment to the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Women will play a significant role in helping us to shape our ongoing plans. Please pray for these events and for others as they are announced.

This year, 2017, the International Theme for Women's Ministries will be *Transformed into God's Image*. We are pleased to once again provide you with materials to help you develop this theme in your Women's Ministries programs. As a special treat, the Bible studies are also available in video format as well as in the attached materials.

This theme speaks to women in particular. We are often concerned about our image and we worry over our weight, our hairstyle, our beauty regimen. But the most important thing is to be transformed into the image of God.

2 Corinthians 3:18 (NIV) reads: "And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit."

As Christian women, this is the image we want to project to the world. So that other women will ask: "what's your beauty secret?" We can respond humbly: "The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is upon me, for the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to comfort the broken-hearted and to proclaim that captives will be released and prisoners will be freed." (Isaiah 61:1 NLT)  
May this be your experience in 2017. God bless all of our wonderful women!

**William and Catherine Booth**  
Founders

**André Cox**  
General

**Susan McMillan**  
Territorial President of Women's Ministries

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan McMillan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Susan" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "McMillan".

Susan McMillan  
Commissioner  
**TERRITORIAL PRESIDENT OF WOMEN'S MINISTRIES**

TRANSFORMED BY THE WORD  
*Sermon Material*



Transformed  
*into God's image*  
WOMEN'S MINISTRIES 2017

## SERMON OUTLINE

TITLE: **TRANSFORMED**

Provided by Major Linda Watts

Maritime Division

### Introduction

A few years ago there was a toy called Transformers. I do not know much about them other than you could move some buttons and the one toy would turn into something else. I know they were very popular one year when I was doing Family Services because we had many requests for them. As I was looking at the title for Women's Ministry, I thought of this toy and was reminded that we too are transformed when we allow Jesus into our lives.

I would like for a few moments to share with you three people in the Bible whose lives were transformed because of Christ.

#### Saul- Acts 9:1-10

- ◆ Hated Christians
- ◆ Was at every stoning of Christians
- ◆ God met him on the road
- ◆ Life was changed
- ◆ Preached for Christ
- ◆ Life was changed

#### Zaccheus- John 19:1-10

- ◆ Tax collector
- ◆ Not liked by many because he took more than he should
- ◆ Filled his own pockets
- ◆ Heard about Jesus but just wanted to see Him and not get too close
- ◆ Had two problems going to the place where Jesus would pass by
- ◆ Many of the people that he collected taxes from would be there and was afraid of what might happen
- ◆ Short could not see over the crowd
- ◆ Jesus comes to him
- ◆ Life is changed

The Woman at the Well-John 4:1-19,25-30,39

- ◆ Not a popular woman with the other women of the town
- ◆ Had to come to the well in the heat of the day
- ◆ Met a Jew who spoke to her
- ◆ Told her all she had done
- ◆ Was given a new life
- ◆ Many believed because of her testimony

YOU AND ME

those who have given their lives to Christ have been transformed

Old things are in the pass behold all things become new.

My question this day is HAVE YOU BEEN TRANSFORMED BY THE BLOOD OF JESUS?

Suggested Songs

417(608)-Have you been to Jesus

487(832)-Have Thine own way

442(86)-O for a closer

501(692)-Kneeling before Thee

Suggested Choruses

Jesus I long to be like You

To be like Jesus

O what a change what a difference



## Transformed into God's Image

Sermon material provided by  
Major Phyllis Blundell Colbourne-Grand Bank

I am not sure if you will recall a television program that aired back in 2004 called "Style by Jury". In this show, contestants were given an opportunity for a complete makeover.

At the beginning of the show, we would see individuals who lacked confidence, who did not really take care of themselves, and were poorly dressed. It would be explained that these people were having problems in their workplace or in their personal lives, or they were going through difficult circumstances and were not coping very well.

Throughout the course of the next half hour, we would watch how women and men alike, would be given opportunity to completely transform their physical appearance, as well as receive help to better their circumstances. These people would receive everything from a hair -cut and color, to veneers for their teeth, to one-on-one counseling or coaching, whichever they needed.

The end result would be a completely transformed person! By the end of the show, their lives would be completely turned around.

While I didn't watch the program faithfully, on the odd occasion that I did, I was always amazed at how someone could be so transformed, that they were hardly recognizable!

In a spiritual context, that is exactly what Jesus does for us. He changes us completely!

Well today, I wish I could tell you as women that I have booked a complete makeover for all of you! ... Unfortunately I cannot. However, for our time together we will be discussing a far more important transformation...one that has nothing to do with our physical appearance but one that is eternal A transformation that will not only affect *us*, but will also affect everyone *around us*.

Our theme for this Women's Ministries Sunday is "Transformed into God's Image". For the next few moments we will be looking at the difference that Jesus makes in our lives as we become more and more like Him. The more we become like Him, the less we will resemble those in the world who do not know Him

I want to suggest to you that there are **two results** that will be seen in the life of the woman who is "Transformed in His Image."

The first result of the woman who has been transformed, is that she will...

### 1. See As Jesus Sees

As we become more and more like Him, we see the world through His eyes... The ability to see as Jesus sees will only be cultivated in our lives, when we spend time in Bible study and prayer. His thoughts will become our thoughts, when we learn to intentionally see things through the eyes of Jesus. The only way we can begin to view things as Jesus did is if we study His life, search the scriptures, and seek His face in prayer.

Throughout His ministry, one of the many things that stand out about Jesus is the way He always saw the best in people. He never looked at them as they *were*, but as they *could be* if only they would follow Him and learn from Him. Furthermore, Jesus always saw past the surface, and looked into the heart.



Throughout the scriptures we read story after story of people's lives changed by Jesus. These changes took place because Jesus continually looked past the outward facade, and saw things for what they really were.

Take for example the woman who was caught in the act of adultery. John 8:1-11.

On the surface, she was a sinful woman, who by the law, deserved to be stoned. To the teachers of the law and Pharisees she was a pawn, a means of trapping Jesus. While Jesus would have recognized these two aspects about her, He looked at her and saw so much more... He saw a broken, helpless woman, who was humiliated, ... a woman who thought she would be sentenced to death because of her sin. Jesus not only *saw* what she did, He understood *why* she did it. As a result, He challenges the Pharisees and says that only the one who has never sinned is able to throw the first stone at her. Then He begins writing in the sand. Commentators suggest that He was writing down the sins of those who stood around, those who were condemning her. One by one, they all walked away, until all that was left, is the woman and Jesus. I can picture His eyes filled with love, as He smiles at her and asks in John 8:10, "*Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?*" What a sense of relief and joy must have washed over her when she heard Jesus say in John 8:11b, "*Then neither do I condemn you... Go now and leave your life of sin.*" What a contrast in how the Pharisees treated her and what Jesus did for her. When we have the eyes of Jesus we too will look at people with compassion and grace. What a beautiful gift Jesus gave her, not only in offering her salvation, but an opportunity to begin again, to start afresh. We can give people the exact same opportunity, but only if we see through the eyes of Jesus...only if we see through the eyes of grace.

The Woman at the well in John 4:1-29, was also changed because of the way Jesus saw her. Scripture tells us that she had come to the well at noon, the hottest time of day. She had gone at that time to avoid all the other women who would daily come to draw water from the well. Throughout her conversation with Jesus, we find out that she has been married five times, and is now living common law. Perhaps to the town folk, she was an easy target for gossip. She may have been seen as a woman who "didn't know *who* she wanted". Furthermore, they may have seen her as a threat to their relationships and may have seen her as flirtatious or a trouble maker. Jesus didn't see her that way. When He looked at her He looked beneath the surface. Perhaps she was attracted to the wrong type of man...maybe the problem was with them.... maybe with her...Something may have happened in her past, and she was unable to carry on a healthy relationship with anyone. Nonetheless, when Jesus looked at her...

\*He saw a woman who had five times attempted to find true love, only to have her heart broken...

\*He saw a woman who had five times promised to love someone forever, only to have it fall apart....

\*He saw a woman who believed, after every marriage...this time... she would finally get it right... This man would be different...this marriage would work.

Jesus truly saw *her* and wanted to help her. He saw her shame...He saw her desperate need for love and acceptance. He saw her broken heart, and her sense of hopelessness.

The love that she had been searching for, He could give her. The self-worth that she longed for, He could provide. And so... He did.

The story ends with the woman running back into the village to tell everyone that she has met Jesus and that nothing will ever be the same. The people she was so desperately trying to avoid, she is running toward. It no longer matters what they think about her. Having met Jesus, her shame is gone. She has discovered that she *is* loved and that her sins are forgiven. She is so excited about her new found life, her new found hope, she can't keep it in.... We see the result in John 4:39. Here we read, "Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony".

A life made new all because Jesus took the time to look beneath the surface. I wonder how many lives we would reach, if we learned to see people through the eyes of Jesus?

***When we are transformed in His Image, when we are able to see what Jesus sees, God gives us opportunities to witness for Him, and uses us to share His love and grace with those who do not know Him.***

While I have experienced this truth many times in my own life, there is one time in particular that stands out to me. It was a couple of years ago on Christmas Eve and I was doing some last minute shopping. I had gone to the Jewellery counter of a certain store, hoping to purchase a new watch for my husband. He had broken his, a day or two before, and I thought I would surprise him with a new watch in his stocking. The line up was somewhat long so I began looking at the other jewellery on display. I noted that the clerk behind the counter appeared distracted and while she wore a smile, it was clearly a fake one. I asked the Lord to help me see *her* through *His* eyes and waited my turn in line. By the time I got to the cash, everyone else had left and we were the only two people left there. After I had made my purchase, I attempted a conversation with her and asked if she had made any plans for Christmas. When she responded, I commented that she looked a little sad and asked if there was anything I could do for her. She started to cry and explained that her husband had gotten laid off a few weeks earlier and that her job would only last through the Christmas rush. She admitted that they were struggling financially and were uncertain of what the New Year would bring. I had a wonderful opportunity to share God's love with her and even had a prayer with her there in the store. I then gave her the contact name for The Salvation Army Officer in her town and assured her that we would do everything we could to help her. She expressed her appreciation for my help and suggested that God must be watching over her. As I walked away, I noted that this time... her smile was genuine. Had I dismissed this lady as someone who was working for minimum wage and simply biding her time, I would have missed the real issue. However, when I prayed to see her through Jesus' eyes, I received a blessing, the woman received encouragement and practical help for her problem and God received the glory.

Who has God been putting in your path in these days? Who do you need to see through the eyes of Jesus? Perhaps the quiet lady at work who often sits alone, is waiting for someone to invite her to coffee. Maybe the homeless lady who you pass on your way home from work, would love for someone to notice her and have a chat. Could it be that the elderly lady at church, whose children live far away, would love it if you would visit her and share a cup of tea? What about the person who works on cash at your local grocery store who needs a friend? Attempt to go out of your way to speak to the family who live across the street, bake cookies or invite them in for dinner.

What about the people closest to you? Your teenage son or daughter may be going through a difficult time. Ask God to provide an opportunity where you can talk to him/her one on one. The possibilities of ministry are endless when we are able to see through the eyes of Jesus. And this is only possible when we allow ourselves to be “transformed in His image” and become more and more like Him.

Brandon Heath, a Christian Artist wrote a song entitled “Give me your eyes”. This song ties in nicely with what we have been discussing. In this song he prays for the eyes of Jesus so that he can see past the surface, and truly see the person. As women who are being transformed in His Image, may our prayer also be....

*Give me Your eyes for just one second  
Give me Your eyes so I can see  
Everything that I keep missing  
Give me Your love for humanity  
Give me Your arms for the broken-hearted  
The ones that are far beyond my reach  
Give me Your heart for the ones forgotten  
Give me Your eyes so I can see*

*Step out on a busy street  
See a girl and our eyes meet  
Does her best to smile at me  
To hide what's underneath  
There's a man just to her right  
Black suit and a bright red tie  
Too ashamed to tell his wife  
He's out of work, he's buyin' time*

*Give me Your eyes for just one second  
Give me Your eyes so I can see  
Everything that I keep missing  
Give me Your love for humanity  
Give me Your arms for the broken-hearted  
The ones that are far beyond my reach  
Give me Your heart for the ones forgotten  
Give me Your eyes so I can see.*

Not only do women who are “Transformed in His Image”, **See As Jesus Sees**, but they also

## **2. Live As Jesus Lived**

There are various scriptures that we could look to, that would give us great insight into the way Jesus lived, the way He acted and reacted toward people. Everything we learn from Him teaches us to act differently than the culture around us suggests.

For example, how did Jesus respond when He was faced with hurt and betrayal? How did He react to Peter who would deny Him, or Judas who would betray Him? We find our answer in John 13:1-17, one of the most beautiful and sacred scenes in all of scripture... He washed their feet.

What was Jesus' reaction to those who were crucifying Him? ... He showed them love and forgiveness. In the midst of the soldiers gambling for His clothes, and the crowd insulting Him, Luke records Jesus as saying, In Luke 23:34 <sup>34</sup> *"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."* We too must show love and forgiveness to others.

Paul reminds us in Ephesians 4:30-32 that when we act in an unloving manner, we grieve the Holy Spirit. The ERV translation puts it this way....

*<sup>30</sup> And don't make the Holy Spirit sad. God gave you his Spirit as proof that you belong to him and that he will keep you safe until the day he makes you free. <sup>31</sup> Never be bitter, angry, or mad. Never shout angrily or say things to hurt others. Never do anything evil. <sup>32</sup> Be kind and loving to each other. Forgive each other the same as God forgave you through Christ."*

The culture of Jesus' day and the one we live in today, would tell us to seek revenge on those who hurt us, to attempt to inflict as much pain on them, as they had inflicted on us. This is not the way Jesus lived His life and not the way we are to live ours. Jesus is very clear on how we ought to treat people. In fact Jesus tells us exactly how to treat those who wrong us in Matthew 5:43-48. He says,

*<sup>43</sup> You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor<sup>u</sup> and hate your enemy.' <sup>44</sup> But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, <sup>45</sup> that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. <sup>46</sup> If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? <sup>47</sup> And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? <sup>48</sup> Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect." (NIV)*

Not only does Jesus tell us to live this way, but He exemplified it in His own living. Everything Jesus did, everything He said, He did in love.

We must live our lives in the same way. The real test of a Christian character is not loving those who love us, but loving those who do not. If we only love those who love us and are kind to those who are kind to us we are no different than those who don't know God. As we become more like Jesus however, we learn to love as He loved and live as He lived.

Jesus reminds us in John 13:34-35 (NIV) that when we love others, they will know that we belong to Him. <sup>34</sup> *"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."*

*In other words, when we are “Transformed in His Image” we are able to live as Jesus lived and show others the unconditional love that He has shown to us. If we do this, other people will see Jesus in us and know that we serve Him.* This truth is best illustrated in a story that I found in an old Daily Bread....

A little lame boy was once hurrying to catch a train. In the press of the crowd he experienced real difficulty in manipulating his crutches, especially as he was carrying a basket full of fruit and candy.

As the passengers rushed along, one hit the basket by mistake, knocking oranges, apples, and candy bars in all directions. The man who caused the accident paused only long enough to scold the cripple for getting in his way.

Another gentleman, seeing the boy’s distress, went to his aid. Quickly he picked up the fruit and added a silver dollar to the collection, saying, ‘I’m sorry, sonny ! I hope this makes up a little!’

With a smile he was on his way. The young boy who had seldom been the recipient of such kindness called after the ‘good Samaritan’ in gratitude and awe, ‘Mister – please sir, are you Jesus?’ ‘No, I’m only one of His followers,’ replied his new-found friend” How humbled the man must have felt.

Who needs to see Jesus in you today? Perhaps you know of someone going through a difficult time, and you can show God’s love to them. Is there someone you need to forgive? Is there someone you need to serve? Perhaps there is a past grudge you need to let go of... once and for all. Is there a co-worker with whom you have shared unkind words? Ask for forgiveness. Think of someone you find difficult to love and make an intentional effort to show kindness to them. We all have family members outside the kingdom, ask God to give you words of grace to share with them. Wherever today takes you, may others see Jesus in you because you live the way Jesus lives.

By way of pulling everything together... This morning we have discussed two results of being Transformed in His Image? **1. We See as Jesus Sees** **2. We Live as Jesus lived.**

As we spend quiet time in prayer before God, Let’s sing the words of the following chorus as a prayer...

“Jesus I long to be like you, loving in every way. Jesus I need to be like you.

Please hear me as I pray.

You are my pattern for living.

Your way of life is my goal...

Patient and kind and forgiving, under the Spirit’s control.

Transform my life from within Lord.

Come and my heart refine. You are my pattern for living.

Give me a love like Thine.”



Transformed by  
Quiet Reflections in the Word  
Submitted by Major Judith Barrow  
Maritime Division



Transformed  
into God's image  
WOMEN'S MINISTRIES 2017

## DAY 1: TRANSFORMATION IS FOR EVERYONE!

**2 Corinthians 3:17&18:** *“BUT WE ALL, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.”*  
Chris Tomlin adds a chorus to the old classic, When I Survey the Wondrous Cross, that gives us insight into how the transformation referred to in the above verse happens:

O the wonderful cross, O the wonderful cross  
**Bids me come and die and find that I may truly live**  
O the wonderful cross, O the wonderful cross  
**All who gather here** by grace draw near and bless Your name

That’s it! God’s part and our response: We see the cross, understand by the moving of the Spirit in our lives what it means, commit ourselves to die to all that is you and me; and find new life in the resurrection power of Jesus.

**2 Corinthians 5:17** says: *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.*

The word ‘**anyone**’ assures us of the universality of the Gospel transformation message. There are no restrictions as to who can be recreated – not race, class, intelligence level, etc.

The most difficult prayer for us to say is, “Not my will, but Thine be done.” But according to the Word of God, it’s not an option. **Luke 9:23:** *“Then He [Jesus] said to them all: Whoever wants to be my disciple **must** deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.”* God uses our will and our choices to work out this amazing transformation from the inside out. At a meeting of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Bobby Richardson, former New York Yankee second baseman, offered up this prayer: “Dear God, Your will, nothing more, nothing less, nothing else. Amen.”

Charles Spurgeon said: *I know no language, I believe there is none, that can express a greater or more thorough and more radical renewal, than that which is expressed in the term, 'a new creature.' "Because Jesus wasn't restricted by death, but rose again, when we are born again by His Holy Spirit, we too inherit resurrection life.”*

The Christian life is not about us – it’s all about Christ... it’s about putting God’s will over our will... putting Christ first above everything else, no matter what it costs us... it’s the realization that we are in this together as the body of Christ, we are His servants, and our goal is to live for Him and glorify Him in everything we do. If we choose a nice, comfortable, life, over pursuing everything that God has planned for us, we will be cheating God, ourselves and the world. Don't settle for anything less than God's plan for you. Are you ready to let go of whatever stands between you and God? Count the cost. Take a deep breath. Only the brave will pray “Your will be done.” But those four words have the power to change your life and your world forever.

### Prayer

*Father, I pray that this will be the day when I finally come to the end of self-rule. I confess that I want the approval of others, I want to be recognized and to prove I'm important and that I'm a good person. Today, I lay it all at Your feet and pray to die to all the plans I have for myself. From now on in my life, it will be only Your way and plans that matter. I bow in submission to You and surrender my own agenda; as I pray that You will work through my life as a member of Your body, the church, to grow me for Your glory and honor. Dear God, Your will, nothing more, nothing less, nothing else. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

## DAY 2: TRANSFORMATION IS GENUINE

**2 Corinthians 3:17&18:** *“But we all, **WITH UNVEILED FACE**, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.”*

**Exodus 34** (selected verses): *“. . . When Moses came down from Mount Sinai carrying the two Tablets of The Testimony, he didn't know that the skin of his face glowed because he had been speaking with God. Aaron and all the Israelites . . . held back, afraid to get close to him. . . and Moses talked with them. When Moses finished speaking with them, he put a veil over his face, but when he went into the presence of God to speak with Him, he removed the veil until he came out. When he came out and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, they would see Moses' face, its skin glowing, and then he would again put the veil on his face until he went back in to speak with God.”*

Paul explains in **2 Corinthians 3:13**: *“Therefore since we have such hope, we use great boldness of speech – unlike Moses, who put a veil over his face so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the end of what was passing away.”* The Old Covenant based on the blood of animals for atonement in the Tabernacle and Temple, was passing away; to be replaced by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ's blood once and for all, for the sins of the whole world on Calvary. Now, today, under this New Covenant, we enter into the presence of God without a veil over our faces, and go out to minister boldly in His name with the constant presence of the Holy Spirit in our hearts.

*“God, who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ” (2 Corinthians 4:6).* Moses' face, after a time, lost the glow, **2 Corinthians 3:7**: *“Now if the ministry that brought death, which was engraved in letters on stone, came with glory, so that the Israelites could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of its glory, **transitory though it was.**”* But we who are now transformed from the inside out have the power to continually shine for Jesus. Our transformation happens when we take time to consciously and intentionally ‘behold’ the Lord. It's not referring to a quick glance, or a short time in His presence – but living in an attitude of meditation and worship every day as we move about in this world. It's intentionally living ‘in Christ’.

**Philippians 4:8** tells us where our focus should be: *“Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.”* And then **Colossians 3:1-2**: *“If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.”* Unfortunately our lives get so crazy busy that our focus turns to other things and we find it difficult to truly ‘behold’ and wait on the Lord. And without it, we can't know what real transformation is. The lines get blurred and the honesty, and integrity and genuineness of Christ is veiled to us and to others to whom God calls us as an example of Himself.

### PRAYER:

*Lord, remove the veil from my mind today, that through Scripture and by your freeing Spirit, I might see your glory, and be empowered to share Your good news genuinely and effectively with those around me.*

*Amen.*



### DAY 3: TRANSFORMATION IS REVEALING

**2 Corinthians 3:17&18:** *“But we all, with unveiled face, **BEHOLDING AS IN A MIRROR THE GLORY OF THE LORD**, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.”*

When we're getting ready to go out somewhere, we make sure that our hair is combed right, we're dressed appropriately, and we look our best. Conventional mirrors work by blocking the passage of light (or sound, or water, or radio waves), and so they have no choice but to reflect. The reflection is never perfect, with some energy being absorbed by the material, or scattered in different directions. Mirrors also reverse right and left. But for our purposes, checking our hair, or makeup, or how a new outfit fits, it doesn't matter. They are 'perfect enough' to serve our purposes.

When we're away from the mirror, we might forget what we look like, but the truth becomes clear when we actually look. Sometimes our lives are a pretense. We try to live and act like someone we're not. We put on airs to be accepted and esteemed. But in the presence of Jesus, all is stripped away and we stand before Him as we are – honest, true, warts and all.

**Exodus 33:11** says: *The Lord would speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend.*” When someone you trust speaks to you face to face, you are inclined to listen intently, and then it's likely that the words they say will mean more and be clearer. It was even more so as God spoke to Moses. In **Numbers 12:8**, God Himself explains the clarity of His conversations with Moses: *“With him I speak face to face, clearly and not in riddles; he sees the form of the LORD.”* Moses had special insight into the words of the Lord.

There is a discernment of the Spirit that God gives to those who enter into friendship with Him, so that we see ourselves, and then see the will and way of the Lord in a truer sense. In **Ephesians 1:18** from The Living Translation Paul makes this prayer: *“I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the confident hope he has given to those he called--his holy people who are his rich and glorious inheritance.”*

But we have to know that even with this light, we are still inhibited by our human, fallen nature. This means that our knowledge of the things of God is not yet perfect and complete. Even with the wonderful revelations Paul received and understood, in **1 Corinthians 13:12** he says this: *“For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.”* Some glorious day we will literally see our Lord – not just like a poor reflection in a mirror. We will stand in His presence.

We might go through times of darkness and confusion now, because our knowledge is so limited, and our view is distorted. But the closer we get to the Lord – the deeper and more intense our communion is with Him, the more our earthbound selves are wrenched from our worldly anchors. The more our thoughts turn toward the reality of Heaven; the more these words become true in our experience: ‘The things of earth, that cause our hearts to tremble; remembered there will only bring a smile.’ All the things we now know in part, we will then know completely; we'll have a clear view of the things that now are cloudy and dim. We'll know the answers to all the questions our hearts long for. Then we will know in the same way as God knows us now. How awesome is that!

#### **PRAYER:**

*O God of Heaven, I honor You today as the all wise, ever present, and all powerful Lord of my life. Your works and ways go far beyond my human wisdom. Thank You for stooping to my need and changing my life. Help me to truly see myself as you reveal Yourself to me. Forgive the times I have ignored Your glory. I commit myself to You today to turn the thoughts and intentions of my heart to Your way. May others see Your reflection through me. In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.*

## DAY 4: TRANSFORMATION IS CONTINUOUS

**2 Corinthians 3:17&18:** *“But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, ARE BEING TRANSFORMED into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.”*

I would venture to say that it would be hard to find someone who didn't have a longing in their heart for change. Deep inside us, a voice tells us we're not what we should be. A lot of us have been changed by Jesus. But we need to remind ourselves that though our salvation happens right away when we confess our sins and put our trust in Christ, our total transformation is a process.

We see ourselves in a clearer light because we've allowed His Holy Spirit to cleanse our hearts and reveal that we need to be conformed to His image. He's showed up things we would naturally overlook in ourselves – bad habits, anger, fear, bitterness, failures in relationships. We have a new understanding of ourselves, a new sense of our life's purpose – we know God better, and we are learning to love Him more. The wonder of the Spirit's work in us is that we can be ever moving to new heights of glory – growing up in Him, experiencing new courage, new patience, new direction. Where once we would hide our face in the presence of God because of the guilt of our sin – now by His grace we are free to come boldly to Him! *“Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.” (2 Corinthians 3:17)*

So we have been transformed. But we're told that we are **'being'** transformed. And yet, the truth is, we're still human and every day we face the problems of life, as well as our tendency to stray from God's way. It's because there's still inside of us a tendency to sin—a sin principle—that remains even when we're redeemed. There's a wonderful verse in **Psalms 103** that reminds us that God knows exactly what we're like. *“For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust.”* (ESV). God knows what we're made of and what makes us tick; what we think and feel and how often we fail. That's why Paul describes our ongoing relationship with Christ as 'being transformed'. There's no need to be stuck in a rut, to feel hopeless or discouraged. We're transformed and as we continue to commit our lives totally to Him we are constantly transforming by the living Christ! There's only one source of lasting change, and it's not you or me – it's God alone: **Philippians 2:13:** *“for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.”*

God never stops conforming us to the image of his Son (that's *sanctification!*). He has determined to complete His work, and will meet all our needs. **Philippians 4:19:** *“And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”* Wow! That's such a powerful truth; and accepting the truth of it from God by faith is life-changing.

Paul says in **Galatians 2:20 (ESV):** *“I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”* Before his born-again experience Paul lived by faith in what he could do for God. He was a leading Pharisee, who followed all the rules and laws, and though he was right. But when he met Jesus on the Damascus Road, he realized he had it all wrong. It wasn't his good works or following the rules that made him right with God; it was all about what Jesus did for him. After that, he lived a new life, by faith in Jesus alone, no longer trusting himself, but trusting the power of God to work through Him and make His life meaningful and productive for the Kingdom. God can and will do it again, for you!

**Prayer:** *Dear Heavenly Father, I thank and praise You that You are my living Lord and loving Savior. Thank You for my salvation in Christ and for the freedom I have in Him. Give me Your peace that passes all understanding in my heart... which alone can set me free from the worries and anxieties of life. Jesus, break even more of the chains of my insecurity and self-doubt. Help me throw off the grave-clothes of shame and feelings of incompetency, about important things in life. Heal my heart wounds, and free me from any roots of bitterness, so I can truly reflect Your glory. Praise you, Lord, that You have promised to continue to transform my life! In Your holy name I pray. Amen.*

## DAY 5: TRANSFORMATION CHANGES EVERYTHING

**2 Corinthians 3:17&18:** *“But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed INTO THE SAME IMAGE from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.”*

**Psalm 8:4-6** summarizes what “image of God” means: *“What is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You visit him? For You have made him a little lower than the angels, and You have crowned him with glory and honor. You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet.”*

"What is man?" Evolution answers that man is a meaningless, purposeless, biological accident. But in **Genesis 1:26-27** God says: *“Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish, birds, cattle, wild animals, creeping things”* (NRSV). This is God’s plan for man. The word ‘image’ in Greek is ‘eikon’, the same word we get our word ‘icon’ from. The definition of icon that we’re probably most familiar with now is: “a small picture or symbol on a computer screen that represents a function that the computer can perform.” How appropriate this meaning is for comparing how we are to be when we’re transformed by the power of the Lord. We are living icons of what God’s power can do – living examples of Christlikeness – showing the world what Jesus is like! When people ‘click on us’ or get to know us, they find we’re all about Jesus. We lead them to Him – to experience all that He can do for them.

So, man was created in the image of God. But in **Genesis 3** we see that man sinned; and the image of God in him was marred. Paul tells us in **Romans 5** that this marred image or sinful nature was passed on to every person born since Adam. These verses tell us that we have a corrupt nature: **Romans 3:23:** *“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”*; **1 John 1:8:** *“If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.”*; **Jeremiah 17:9:** *“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?”* Jesus said in **John 3:7:** *“Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’”* That’s why, when Paul was explaining to the Ephesians what their condition was before they accepted Jesus, he says in **Ephesians 2:12:** *“...at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.”*

Then at exactly the right time, God sent His Son Jesus, fulfilling His plan to restore and transform His image through Him. **Hebrews 1:3:** *“The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven”*; **Colossians 1:15:** *“The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.”* But the only way the image of God can be restored in us is if we agree with the way God views our sinful condition, and accept Jesus Christ and His work on Calvary as our atoning sacrifice for sin. Paul tells us in **Colossians 3:10** that because we have been born again by the Spirit of God through Jesus Christ, that we have: *“put on the new man, who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the one who created him.”* This teaching is not always accepted in our world, but we still need to be sure of what the Bible says and remain uncompromising when it comes to the truth. So God gives us power to outwardly express His true character by the way we live and act. To present ourselves to the world as an icon of Him. What a wonderful, powerful, and transforming truth that is! As Francis of Assisi once famously said: ‘Preach the gospel all the time, use words if you have to.’

## **PRAYER**

Dear Lord God, Thank you for accepting my brokenness and recreating me in Your image. May others see the reflection of Your beauty in my life. Thank You for every reminder of the power that is mine in You to live out the calling you have placed on me. I pray that your likeness will be reflected in all that I am, and all that I do. In the name of Jesus. Amen.



## DAY 6: TRANSFORMATION IS GLORIOUS

**2 Corinthians 3:17&18:** *“But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image **FROM GLORY TO GLORY**, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.”*

One meaning of the word, “glory” from the Hebrew, is “to be heavy” or “to weigh upon.” When we hear God’s Word and are taught by His Spirit, we sense the weight of His holy presence and glory.

The weight of glory that we’re called to is "eternal. Paul encourages us with these words in **2 Corinthians 4:17:** *“For this slight momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison”*. Anything we go through in this life cannot compare with the glory God has prepared for us in Heaven. But God’s desire for us is to experience His glory continually here on earth and so He gives us revelations of it even in the difficulties of life. It was true for Moses.

God called Moses to lead the whole nation of Israel through the wilderness, but it wasn’t easy going. The whole way there were moanings and grumblings among them. Plus the enemy nations around them wanted to kill them all. In **Exodus 33:12-13** we read: *“Moses said to the LORD, ‘You have been telling me, ‘Lead these people,’ but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. You have said, ‘I know you by name and you have found favor with me.’ If you are pleased with me, teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favor with you. Remember that this nation is your people.”* God’s answer to Moses’ cry for help in **verse 14** was: *“My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.”* That wonderful promise is ours too. If we walk by faith, His presence is always with us. We can go from glory to glory.

In **Exodus 33:15-17** we see that Moses had a deep conviction that if he wasn’t surrounded by the glory of God, there was no use doing anything. He says: *“If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here. How will anyone know that you are pleased with me and with your people unless you go with us? What else will distinguish me and your people from all the other people on the face of the earth?”* In **verse 17** God says to Moses: *“I will do the very thing you have asked, because I am pleased with you and I know you by name.”* The God of Glory wants to know us by name – to know us by **HIS** name – as people who crave to know His presence and show His glory by testifying with our lives to others. And He will say the same thing He said to Moses when we’re serious about experiencing His glory.

Moses went on to ask God to show him His glory, and we see in **Exodus 34:6-7:** *“And He passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, ‘The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, show to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet He does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation.”*

Moses received a total revelation of the nature of God – His love, mercy, faithfulness along with His complete righteousness and judgment! To move from glory to glory in our experience with the Lord requires a revelation of Who He is. Just to assume Who God really is leads to confusion and wrong thinking. There are resources that can help us in our walk with the Lord, but there’s no substitute for face to face encounters with Him in the quiet place, sincerely and humbly seeking and placing all our hope in His glory. It’s there that His Holy Spirit transforms us from the inside out *“from one degree of glory to another;”* opening our eyes to more of his nature and character, revealing to us how He wants to be known! Only then can we truly show the world His glory.

**PRAYER:** Father, there is nothing in heaven nor on earth that can compare with the amazing glory and grace. Teach me Lord to seek You with all my heart so that I might know you, learn to love you more, and become like you. Thank you for the riches you have laid up for me in Heaven. May those around me see Your glory in me and be drawn to love and serve you. Amen

## DAY 7: TRANSFORMATION IS FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT

**2 Corinthians 3:17&18:** *“But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, **JUST AS FROM THE LORD, THE SPIRIT.**”*

The transformation we experience in Christ is a work of the Holy Spirit and will show in our lives only by His power: *“Just as from the Lord, the Spirit”*: **Philippians 2:13:** *“for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.”*

Paul tells us in **Romans 8:29:** *For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.”*

The word "conformed" here means having a similar form, nature, or style. Salvation instantly brought us into a holy relationship with God through the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, and by the Holy Spirit He works in us to make us more and more like Him. **Hebrews 10:14:** *“For by one sacrifice He has made perfect forever those who are **being made holy.**”*

This is sanctification. We are *“being made holy”* as the Spirit works out our transformation day by day and moment by moment. Only by the power of the Holy Spirit can we obey what Paul tells us in **Galatians 5:16, 22-23** is required of us as God’s people: *“Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh . . . The fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.”*

Jesus wants to turn us into His likeness, which will make us more ‘us’ than we’ve ever been – more complete, more fulfilled, more fruitful! He wants to infuse us with His life and power, more and more every day. Jesus Himself makes it plain in **John 10:10:** *“I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”*

C.S. Lewis writes: *“If we’re willing, He will make the feeblest and filthiest of us into a dazzling, radiant, immortal creature, pulsating all through with such energy, joy and wisdom and love as we cannot now imagine – a bright, stainless mirror, which reflects back to God perfectly His own boundless power, delight and goodness.”*

So many miss out on this total transformation because they think it’s too good to be true, or Satan has planted a little voice in our heads that says we’ll never be good enough or somehow has convinced us to settle for less than God intends for us. But just as God seems too good to be true; too true to be real; too much of an answer for our crippled lives to be believed – and yet He absolutely is all this and more – so this transforming power by His Holy spirit is ours today.

Anne Graham Lotz said: *“The One who spoke all things into existence, the One who transformed earth from a formless blob, to a beautiful place that reflected His own image—is the same person who has power today to transform your life.”*

If we’ve already believed, we can trust Him to complete His work in us. If we have not submitted ourselves to God’s control we can reach out in faith for His transforming salvation as the first step of the journey. Then, the Holy Spirit will take us on a rocky ride through this life. He’ll lead us into situations and experiences where we’ll even wonder at times if we’ll survive. And it will cost us – everything we are and have. But the path where He leads is already strewn with grace. God will be there. He will pick us up when we fall – give us words of love and encouragement through His Word – and be with us all the way.

**PRAYER:** *Gracious Lord, give me a vision of the transforming power available to me now. Breathe into me afresh the power of Your Holy Spirit. I submit myself fully to You and trust you to finish your work in me until that glorious day when I stand complete in Your Holy presence. Thank You because Your ways are perfect.*

*Amen.*



Transformed Into God's Image  
Through the Spiritual Seasons of  
Life  
Submitted by Major Donna Bond  
Ontario



# *Transformed into God's Image Through the Spiritual Seasons of Life*

Bible Study Material





**Transformed into God's Image  
Through the Spiritual Season of Life  
Leaders Guide**

**Women's Bible Study #1 – The Season of Winter**

**Ice Breaker Discussion**

What do you like about living in Canada?

In this vast country there are various climate differences. If you lived on the west coast in British Columbia or in Bermuda, it is a normal occurrence for green grass to appear and some flowers to bloom even in the winter months. However if you live in most other provinces, the months of winter produce strong winds and white snow covers the green grass.

We sometimes think of the seasons in terms of chronological years; years of youth is **spring**, early adulthood is **summer**, middle age is **fall** and the 'golden years' are **winter**.

In the next four studies we will examine the seasons of life as it pertains to our spiritual life.

This study is based on the book *Spiritual Rhythm* by Mark Buchanan. In his book he indicates that we live in a world of rhythm. It is so important to have balance in life, balance in work and rest, and time to refrain from work. He says life is more about rhythm than balance.

Question: What are some aspects of life that have a rhythm to them?

(i.e. day /night, ocean's ebb and flow)

If you have taken a ride in a canoe you realize that you need balance to not only get in the boat but to enjoy the smooth ride. However, you need rhythm when you paddle. The balance flows out of the rhythm you experience. There is progress when the paddles have a rhythm and the movement is deliberate.

**Purpose of the Study:**

During these Bible Studies we will discover together how the rhythm of the seasons allows us to experience spiritual growth as we are transformed in His image.

It is important to realize that we don't experience these seasons in any specific order nor do they have a definite length of time. We may go from one season to another in a short period of time or we may stay in a particular season for longer. Everyone is unique in how they move from one season to another.

Now let us begin...

**Introduction:** This psalm is written by the sons of Korah. It is customary for these brothers to write psalms that are happy, upbeat, reasons for celebration. They are written for dancing, love songs, anthems. This psalm is not like any other that they have written. The Sons of Korah have experienced God in the light, but in this psalm it is as if they have never experienced any blessing from the hand of God.

### **Take time to read Psalm 88**

1<sup>st</sup> time – on your own, silently

2<sup>nd</sup> time – read the Psalm together

3<sup>rd</sup> time – one person (optional)

**Psalm 88** describes a person in winter of the soul.

### **Absence of Light**

Identify the verses from this psalm that illustrate the psalmist is experiencing dark times.-----

### **Absence of God**

It would seem that the psalmist knows about God and his character, but at this point it seems that God is hidden from him.

2. State the attributes of God that the psalmist mentions.

Has there been a time in your life when God seemed absent and hidden from you?

### **Absence of Friends**

Winter is friendless

List the various emotions that the psalmist is experiencing as a result of being friendless.

Is it possible to experience these emotions even in a crowd, at church, at Bible Study, at choir practice etc?

What is the psalmist accusing God of in verse 8, 18?

How might you experience a type of death during the winter of your soul? How might that show up in your life?

Can you recall a time when something brought winter to your soul? Eg. Moving, loss of relationship, a death of a loved one?

How can you link winter of the soul with Phil. 3:10-11?

### **Activities During winter**

As a young mom living in Winnipeg in the '70s, I remember the snow storms that kept us in doors for days. Narrow tracks in the snow covered streets allowed us to walk to the nearby convenience store for some essentials. During those storms we got the shovels out and started clearing the walkways and driveways. I have to admit it, I enjoyed the exercise.

There's work to do in winter, it requires some exercise though.

### **Prayer**

4. Has there been a time in your life when you found it difficult to pray?

During the winter of your soul, what spurs you on to prayer?

The psalmist seems to push himself beyond his circumstances and cries out to God for help.

### **Think about this:**

12. Who do you go to when you need someone to pray for you and with you?

Someone who has endured a long hard winter of the soul is someone who has a deep faith as a result of that dark experience.

### **Pruning**

This spring we pruned, cut back entirely the Virginia creeper on our pergola. It was growing uncontrollably. However, before long, new leaves, new growth started to appear despite our cutting back and despite our pruning. It survived...and in fact the leaves are even bigger and the vine looks healthier.

13. Look at 2 Corinthians 4. What does Paul say about the pruning process during winter?

When have you experienced pruning in your life? What was the fruit that was produced?

## Waiting

Another activity for winter is waiting.

15. If you are in the wintertime of your soul, is there something that you are waiting for?

Only during this season does your faith grow.

Quote from Mark Buchanan

*“Most of us have had our deepest encounters with Christ not on the mountaintops but in valley floors.”*  
Pg. 40

It sounds like the psalmist has been afflicted for a long time and has waited to see light again.

16. What verses in Psalm 88 speak of the psalmist’s suffering through his life.

## Time to Reflect

Can you describe a life lesson you learned after experiencing wintertime of your soul?

Do you think that the winter time of your soul is the season that the Lord draws closest to you?

## Time to Pray

Take time to prayer at the end of this study that the Lord will indeed **transform you to His image** during the events and experiences of the ‘stormy, cold, windy’ season of winter.

**Transformed Into God's Image  
Through the Spiritual Seasons of Life**

**Introduction to Four Seasons Bible Study**

**Purpose of this study:**

During these Bible Studies we will discover together how the seasons allow us to experience spiritual growth as we are **Transformed in His image** through the rhythm of the various seasons.

**Women's Bible #1 Study – The Season of Winter**

**Take time to read Psalm 88**

1st time – on your own, silently

2nd time – read the Psalm together

3rd time – one person (optional)

Psalm 88 describes a person in winter of the soul.

**Absence of Light**

Identify the verses from this psalm that illustrate the psalmist is experiencing dark times in his life.

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**Absence of God**

States the attributes of God that the psalmist mentions.

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Has there been a time in your life when God seemed absent and hidden from you?

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## **Absence of Friends**

List the various emotions that the psalmist is experiencing as a result of being friendless.

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Is it possible to experience these emotions even in a crowd, at church, at Bible Study, at choir practice etc. Discuss

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What is the psalmist accusing God of in verses 8 and 18?

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How might you experience a type of death during the winter of your soul? How might that show up in your life?

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Can you recall a time when something brought winter to your soul? Eg. Moving, loss of relationship, a death of a loved one.

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How can you link winter of the soul with Phil. 3:10-11?

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## **Winter Activities**

### **Prayer**

Has there been a time in your life when you found it difficult to pray?

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During the winter of your soul, what pushes you to pray?

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## Pruning

Look at 2 Corinthians 4. What does Paul say about the pruning process in winter?

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When have you experienced pruning in your life? What was the fruit that was produced?

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## Waiting

If you are in the wintertime of your soul, is there something that you are waiting for?

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What verses in Psalm 88 speak of the psalmist's suffering through his life?

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## Time to Reflect

Can you describe a life lesson you learned after experiencing wintertime of your soul?

Do you think that the winter time of your soul is the season that the Lord draws closest to you?

## Time to Pray

Take time to prayer at the end of this study that the Lord will indeed **transform you to His image** during the events and experiences of the 'stormy, cold, windy' season of winter.



**Transformed into God's Image  
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**Women's Bible Study #2– The Season of Spring**

**DISCUSS:**

When you think of the season of spring, what are some words or phrases that come to mind?

Spring is a season of **Renewal**. It comes out of a season of dryness and wilderness. Maybe you have experienced some loss, poor health, or a deep valley of depression. Maybe you have come through a season of conflict in your home, in the church, or in the neighbourhood. Whatever it was, your heart may have become bitter, like the frozen ground of winter and then one day suddenly, God broke the ground and renewal took place.

**DISCOVER:**

**Read** Isaiah 35

1<sup>st</sup> Reading – silently

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading – the leader will read while others close their eyes and try and imagine the scene that is being described.

**Emotional Renewal** – verses 1-4

Emotions that were dormant now experience a spring-like restoration to healing.

Look at verses 1-2 and discover some of the 'before and after' images during this season.

Look at verses 3-4 and discover another 'before and after' image.

What emotion comes to your mind when you read these verses?

Spring is a time of emotional renewal, there is JOY.

In other seasons you may experience hurts that have wounded your spirit, injured your character or ruined your reputation.



## **Physical Renewal**- verses 5-7

What are some of the obvious images of physical restoration that you see in these verses?

The Lord is a man for all seasons. He has experienced the winter, (Man of Sorrows). He knew suffering. He was close to the brokenhearted.

*“Jesus reserves his deepest intimacy for winter. But he displays his greatest handiwork in spring.”* Mark Buchanan- *Spiritual Rhythm*, pg 82

Most of us have our deepest encounters with Christ not on the mountain top but in the valley floors. We discovered this truth previously in discussing the season of winter.

## **Spiritual/Moral Renewal** – verses 8-10

I am sure you know about spring cleaning! In a spiritual sense God gives us a thorough cleaning – cleaning from top to bottom during this season. We all know the areas where we need the Lord to come in and scour the dirt and grime away. There might be areas where we have allowed a bitter root or some poisonous attitude to come in, or some dirty secret or habit to take hold.

Mark Buchanan talks about a springtime experience that he went through. It wasn't like he had 'wallowed' in sin, but he had 'wallowed' in self pity. He had lost the joy of his salvation and had a scar of cynicism on the wound. But then the Lord renewed him and cynicism gave way to hope, the joy of his salvation came back.

These verses have always provided a beautiful image.

Who are on this Holy Highway?

What words would you use to describe this road?

During the season of Spring in your spiritual life, you experience emotional renewal, physical renewal, and moral renewal. You are rejoicing on the highway that is leading you toward your eternal home.

What were some of the words that we mentioned at the beginning of this study that are connected to spring and that remind us of that time of year?

In our spiritual formation, it is important that we look after our soul, we call it Soul Care.

There is one spiritual discipline that is very meaningful whatever season you find your soul in. It is called EXAMEN. It is a form of personal inventory. It is a time when you stop and reflect on your spiritual season.

## **REFLECTION**

At this time take a few moments to reflect on your day.

- What have I done?
- Where have I gone?
- What has been my routine today?
- What disruptions have I encountered?
- What disappointments have I experienced?
- What discoveries have I made?

What conversations have I had?

In those areas ask yourself two questions:

1. When was I most alive, most joyful in the day?  
When was I most stressed, distracted today?

Another way of asking these questions could be:

1. When did I feel closest to God?  
When did I feel the farthest from God?

When you do this, maybe keep a journal where you can see your own spiritual portrait, your spiritual and emotional rhythm.

During this season we may experience a transformation into the image of Christ through a time of renewal. What a wonderful season it is!

Questions, comments...

## **Chorus:**

Therefore the Redeemed

## **Close with Prayer**

**Transformed in God's Image**  
**Through the Spiritual Season of Life**

**Women's Bible Study #2 – The Season of Spring**

**Let's 'spring' into Discussion**

When you think of the season of spring, what are some of the words or phrases that come to mind?

After a long, cold winter, what is the first spring flower that you watch for?

Spring is a season of **Renewal**.

**Let's 'spring' into Discovery**

**Read Isaiah 35**

**1st Reading** – silently

**2nd Reading** – leader will read while others close their eyes and try and imagine the scene that is being described.

**Emotional Renewal** – verses 1-4

Look at verses 1-2 and discover some of the 'before and after' images during this season.

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In verses 3-4 discover another 'before and after' image.

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What emotion comes to your mind when you read these verses?

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**Physical Renewal** – verses 5-7

What are some of the obvious images of physical restoration that we see in these verses?

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*“Jesus reserves his deepest intimacy for winter. But he displays his greatest handiwork in spring.”* Mark Buchanan, *Spiritual Rhythm* – pg. 82

### **Spiritual/Moral Renewal – verses 8-10**

These verses have always provided a beautiful image.

Who are on this Holy Highway?

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What words would you use to describe this road?

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What are some of the words that were mentioned at the beginning that are connected to spring and that remind us of that time of year?

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As we journey on the highway toward our eternal home, heaven, it is important that we take time for renewal and reflection. It is important that we practice looking after our soul. We call this practice, Soul Care.

There is one spiritual discipline that is very meaningful whatever season you find your soul in. It is called EXAMEN. It is a form of personal inventory. It is a time when you stop and reflect on your spiritual season.

#### **Let us Reflect:**

Take some time now to spend in prayer reflecting on your day.

What have I done?

Where have I gone?

What has been my routine?

What disruptions have I encountered?

What disappointment have I experienced?

What discoveries have I made?

What conversations have I had?

In those areas ask yourself two questions:

1. When was I most alive, most joyful in the day?

When was I most stressed, distracted today?

Another way of asking these questions could be:

1. When did I feel closest to God?

When did I feel the most distant from God?

### **Time of Prayer**

Chorus: Therefore the Redeemed

**Transformed Into God's Image  
Through the Spiritual Seasons of Life  
Leader's Guide**

**Women's Bible Study #3 – The Season of Summer**

**Let's Talk About It:**

Let your mind go back to your favourite summer vacation.

**You could say it was your 'died and gone to heaven' type of summer vacation.**

**What made it so special?**

Summer could be described as a foretaste of heaven, a rehearsal of paradise, a preview of the Promised Land.

**Let's Dig Deeper**

**Read: Revelation 22:1-5** which could be describing the heart of summer

Revelation 22:2b – "...on each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing 12 crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month." Endless summer

**Luke 21:29-31** – under the section, "Signs of the end of the Age"

Jesus definitely equates the kingdom of God with summer time. When you see leaves, blooming -you know summer is near.

**2. What do we associate with summer?**

Fruit, warmth, light, rest, play, reunions, holidays etc.

**3. What is the connection that Jesus makes in this parable between summer and the kingdom?**

There are lots of examples that Jesus gives about what the kingdom of the heaven is like, eg. It is a banquet, a joyful reunion, a festival, a homecoming...

In the soul season of summertime we experience all this, vitality, connectedness, rest, fruitfulness, warmth, shade.

So how do you know if you are experiencing the 'SUMMERTIME' of your soul -if you are in that season?

Things just seem to flow, **joy rises from your soul naturally**, light **shines** everywhere, and you have **energy to spare**. Most seasons will want something from us, some labour, some sacrifice, but summertime just wants to give and give.

We just want to nourish ourselves, refresh ourselves, we just drink it all in.

Some of you may be thinking, I have more summers behind me than in front of me. That is just reality. When the question was asked previously, 'your favourite summer memory,' you took a moment to look back.

We get very nostalgic. **Nostalgia is an inescapable part of summer.**

**Do you think that nostalgia could ever be an enemy of the summer of your soul?**

**5. Give some examples of how looking back could be an enemy in the church.**

Mark Buchanan in his book, "*Spiritual Rhythm*", mentions that it can be an enemy for example of seeing the **church grow**. Why can't we do it the way we did back in the good old days, the golden days!!!

Not only in the church do we **battle looking back**, but we face our own nostalgia...

I lost things I can't recover – as a young officer I looked back for a while on the things I once had and 'lost'.

We think of the former days when we might have experienced better health or more energy.

**Turn to Ezra 3:10-12**

This is during the rebuilding of the temple in Jerusalem, surely a spiritual summertime for Israel. The foundation for the new temple is laid and they are ready to have a worship service to celebrate this occasion.

**6. What do you notice happening in this passage?**

**7. What are the reactions to the building?**

Some are praising the Lord for this wonderful event, and others are thinking about their loss and back to the old temple, they were remembering when....v12. Both sounds were heard afar off, some were sounds of weeping and others were sounds of joy.

**"If any of them, old and young alike, knew what they really wanted—that they were 'looking forward to the city with foundations whose architect and builder is God' – then this current temple would have been nowhere near what they hoped and so much better than they remembered. *Anticipation would have replaced nostalgia.*"**

*Spiritual Rhythm*, by Mark Buchanan – pg. 121

## **Lets look at 3 Rhythms of Kingdom Living - modeled on summer living**

### **Kingdom Living is not HURRIED - Stillness**

*“Endless busyness is earwax against God’s voice and a blindfold to God’s presence.”*

Mark Buchanan, *Spiritual Rhythm* pg 125

### **What could you do in the summer to slow down and think about God’s goodness?**

Summer is typically active and restful together. We have a posture of ease and gratitude.

These are described as the lazy hazy crazy days of summer...try new adventures, take a different walk

When it is summer time in your soul, it is time to try new spiritual practices, new ways to pray, praying the Scripture in a new way.

### **Kingdom Living is not WORRIED- Joy**

As women, we seem to have this characteristic... it seems to come easy to us. Whether we worry about the future, worry about our health, worry about our children, grandchildren etc. The list goes on.

### **Is there something that you are worried about and you find your joy is slipping away?**

In the summer time of our soul we walk in the light, we bask in the light and warmth of God’s presence. **Joy is our birthright, Joy is the sign that the Lord’s presence is with us. Joy is the anticipation of heaven**, the joy of what is to come.

### **Kingdom Living Abounds in FRUIT - Abundance**

Kingdom life, like summer living, abounds in fruit. We bask in the sheer abundance of God’s provision.

If you have ever planted a garden, the crop is usually more than the average household can use. We have been the recipient of rhubarb tomatoes, squash etc because the crop was more than our neighbour could eat and use.

In the summertime of our soul, we realize that God does exceedingly abundantly more than we can ask or imagine, **Eph 3.20**.

When we are in the summertime of our soul, we seem to have insights into Bible passages, more than we did previously; we live in a state of discovery. It is an exciting time.



## Warnings and Work of Summer

### Beware of Dehydration

One of the hazards of summertime is drought.

Eg. Plants need lots of water in the summer. You can water the plants in the morning and by afternoon they can be wilting and needed more hydration. Living things parch quickly in the heat.

We need to soak things down.

In our spiritual summertime of the soul we need a continuous outpouring of the Holy Spirit and a deep saturation of the Word. Remember in the parable of the seed and sower? When the sun came the plants were scorched. Sure we have talked about resting and playing in the summer, but one thing we cannot neglect is water, the Spiritual Disciplines of prayer and the Word.

### Don't Mistake Leafiness for Fruitfulness

The story is told of a man who built a grape arbor and bought two tiny grape plants. He asked for the plant that would give him and his family the enjoyment of eating sweet grapes. The plants were tenderly planted and every year the branches got thicker and twined around the lattice of the arbor. Every year the crop produced dense clusters of grapes. The grower was excited to try the fruit from his two plants. But he was disappointed, they were plump, a dark purple in colour. He plucked one and put it in his mouth, it was like sucking lemons. It was hard and bitter. "*What was I doing wrong?*" he asked himself.

So he went to someone who had a green thumb. He discovered that he was not cutting back the leaves to let the sun shine on the grapes. But he liked those leaves; they provided shade in the hot sun. What he learned was that he was nurturing a mass of green leaves at the cost of a good crop.

He could either have much shade and little fruit, or he could have much fruit and **little** shade. He couldn't have both.

Back to the passage we began with from Luke 21:29-31. Jesus cursed a fig tree that had great leaves but the fruit was absent. The fruitfulness is what is important, leaves mean nothing. It is by our fruit that we are known.

What about us, we look at all those green leaves of busyness and think wow, look at the fruit being produced!! But busyness is not always fruitful.

We talked at the beginning of summer being like the coming of the kingdom, something to look forward to, anticipation rather than looking back. What are we anticipating?

Luke 21 describes the signs of the kingdom what will happen when the end is near.

## Let's Take Time To Reflect

Just as there are signs of the time when the Kingdom is drawing near, things that are unpleasant to experience, things mentioned in Luke 21, But what a wonderful day it will be when we see Christ. It will be summertime of our soul all year long. But for now we will experience those summer thunderstorms even in the warm season of summer. Don't be surprised, it is only for a short time as we anticipate the Lord's return.

What would it mean for you to experience the season of summer in your soul?

Do you spend a great deal of time looking back or do you look forward to the Promised Land?

During the season of summer we are **transformed in His image** by taking unhurried time to spend with the Lord and He will transform our worries and our lives will be fruitful for Him.

## Choruses

Heavenly Sunshine

*Heavenly Sunshine, heavenly sunshine*

*Flooding my soul with glory divine*

*Heavenly Sunshine, heavenly sunshine,*

*Hallelujah, Jesus is mine.*

It is summertime in My Heart

*It is summertime in my heart*

*It is summertime in my heart*

*Since Jesus saved me*

*New life he gave me*

*When it's winter time it's summer in my heart!*

**Transformed into God's image**  
**Through the Spiritual Seasons of Life**  
**Women's Bible Study #3 – Seasons of Summer**

**Let's Talk About It:**

Let your mind go back to your favourite summer vacation.

1. Why was it so special...you could say it was your 'died and gone to heaven' type of vacation?

What do we associate with the season of summer?

It has been said that summer is a foretaste of heaven a rehearsal of paradise, a preview of the Promised Land.

**Let's Discover - Selected Scriptures Passages**

**Read** - Revelation 22:1-5 – on your own

Second Reading – together

This could be described as an endless summer

**Read** – Luke 21:29-31

What is the connection that Jesus makes in this parable between summer and the kingdom?

When the question was asked at the beginning about your favourite summer vacation, you took a moment to look back. We get very nostalgic.

**Nostalgia is an inescapable part of summer.**

4. Do you think nostalgia could ever be an enemy of the summer of your soul?

5. Give some examples of how looking back could be an enemy in the church?

**Read**- Ezra 3:10-11

This is during the rebuilding of the temple in Jerusalem, surely a spiritual summertime for Israel.

7. What do you notice that is happening in these verses?

8. What are the reactions to the building?

### **3 Rhythms of Kingdom Living** – modeled on summer living

**Kingdom Living is not \_\_\_\_\_** (There is Stillness)

*“Endless busyness is earwax against God’s voice and a blindfold to God’s presence.”* Mark Buchanan

What could you do in the summer to slow down and think about God’s goodness?

**Kingdom Living is not \_\_\_\_\_** (There is Joy)

Is there something that you are worried about and you find your joy is slipping away?

**Kingdom Living Abounds in \_\_\_\_\_** (There is Abundance)

Read Ephesians 3:20

### **Warnings and Work of Summer**

**Beware of \_\_\_\_\_**

Living things parch quickly in the heat.

**Don’t Mistake \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_.**

### **Let’s take time to Reflect:**

What would it mean for you to experience the season of summer in your soul?

Do you spend a great deal of time looking back or do you look forward to the Promised Land?

During the season of summer we are transformed In His image by taking unhurried time to spend with the Lord and he will transform our worries and our lives will be fruitful for Him.

**Transformed into God's Image**  
**Through the Spiritual Seasons of Life**  
**Leader's Guide**

**Women's Bible Study #4 – The Season of Fall**

There is something exciting about the change of seasons. My favourite season is fall, although I enjoy the change in all the seasons.

As previously mentioned, I am basing this study on a book by a Canadian Christian author, Mark Buchanan, entitled, *Spiritual Rhythm*. Mark Buchanan stated that life is more about rhythm than balance. Our world is made up of rhythm. We get up, eat, work, play, eat, sleep, that is the rhythm of life. There is a rhythm to life and death, work and rest, night and day.

Today we will discover together something that will assist us when we are in the fall season of our lives. We want to discover something that will help us recognize the spiritual season that we are experiencing. I remind you that this has nothing to do with our chronological age. However, it does have to do with what we are experiencing at this moment in our spiritual lives. The person sitting beside you may be in a different season than you. So often we don't know what others are going through.

**Discussion:**

**1. What are some characteristics of the fall season?**

You may have mentioned the colours of fall. If you have lived in various locations in Canada, you will be aware that fall colours differ depending on the region you are talking about. The colours in the Maritimes and the Muskoka regions of northern Ontario are breathtaking. (other regions may also be named...Ottawa Valley, Quebec etc.)

In this study we will mainly be focusing on the season of FALL and discover how it relates to our spiritual formation.

**The Core of FALL – Harvest Time**

At the very centre of Fall is HARVEST TIME. Through scripture we read about the harvest time and it was a time of thanksgiving – thankful for God's faithfulness.

In the previous seasons of our soul, we discovered that there is **renewal in the spring**, seeds are planted, we see the blooms appear. In the **summer we take time in the stillness to reflect on past experiences**. **Winter winds blow and it may seem dark around us. God may seem absent, friends may seem far away.**

Your response to the other seasons in your life, will dictate how fruitful the harvest will be as we experience the fall season of our soul.

2. **What kind of seeds have we sown?** Everyone sows some kind of seed.

You may remember Chuck Colson who ended up in prison after a lifetime of sowing to the flesh. Amazing event happened to him while he was in prison. In the winter time of his life, he found the Lord. He no longer wanted to sow to the sinful nature and began sharing with others the joy that he found.

Each season has a dominant mood:

Winter = mournful

Spring = joy brings hope

Summer = joy brings satisfaction

Fall = the joy that brings fulfillment

So if we want the joy of fulfillment we must sow abundantly.

We must sow something. Think for a moment of the parable of the talents. It emphasizes more on money than agriculture, but the principle is still the same. We need to plant something.

### **Digging Deeper – Three Harvests**

#### **Harvest of Souls**

**Read:** John 4:35-36

Matthew 9:35-38

#### **What do these verses suggest about the harvest of souls?**

All we have to do is look around and we will see those who are ripe for hearing the Gospel. The trouble is there are more people ready to come into a loving saving transforming relationship with God than we have people ready to share.

#### **Can you relate an opportunity that you had to plant a seed of ‘good news’ to someone?**

Maybe you have been able to see the harvest after planting the seed. Maybe you were able to reap the harvest of someone else who had scattered the seed. You may have prayed a long time for a family member, a neighbour, a member of your church. Then one day you reap the soul harvest.

**Read:** Galatians 6:9

#### **How does Galatians 6:9 encourage you in the area of soul harvest?**

Look around, pray and then go. Watch what God will do when you are a willing labourer.

## **Harvest of Prosperity**

**Read:** 2 Corinthians 9:6-12

6. **Do you recall one lesson about money that you learned from your parents?**
7. **How does generosity affect righteousness in your life?**

**What has been the harvest for you when you have been generous to others?**

This is not a verse to encourage health and wealth gospel where God is filling your bank account, where you are adorned with diamonds as you drive down the street in your Porsche! He is simply saying generosity is good for the soul.

*“True prosperity is not measured by how much anyone has: it’s measured by how much you give.”*

Mark Buchanan – Spiritual Rhythm, pg. 165

**Do you agree with the above quote? Discuss**

## **C. A Harvest of Righteousness**

**Read:** Hebrews 12:11

10. Take a moment to think about the most difficult situation you are facing at this moment?
  11. Can you see how you are being transformed in His image during this time in your life?
- What two things are involved in this harvest of righteousness from this verse?

This harvest requires two things:

- ⇒ Submit to God’s discipline
- ⇒ Seek God’s peace

There are painful times we may be going through that we wish we did not have to endure.

Sometimes we would rather just run away from them. However, later on these painful times of discipline will produce a harvest; something wonderful will come as a result of the Lord’s discipline.

**Read:** James 3:18

**Do you need to seek peace and sow peace somewhere, in your home, your workplace, your church?**

The result will be a harvest of righteousness.

Fall is a season for reaping, (the harvest of our labours), and for storing, gathering the harvest for our needs in another season.

Fall is also for feasting and thanking.

For a spiritual healthy rhythm in the fall season of our lives, it is important that we have times of feasting and times of thanking. We know about feasting during Thanksgiving. We usually see so much wonderful produce in the stores during the fall season.

You could say that **autumn feasts are festivals of thanks**.

**Can you imagine coming to a thanksgiving feast and not being thankful to the host who prepared the wonderful feast and not saying a word of thanks?**

Not likely, you would want to express gratitude for the food, to those who had taken the time to prepare the feast. Unspoken praise is not praise at all. We need to speak our thanksgiving.

Spiritual feasting allows us the opportunity to prepare for the winter season of our souls. These are times when we feast on what we have stored up. We want to be well fed on the Word of God that will get us through the difficult dark days of the winter season of our soul.

### **Concluding Review:**

Whatever season you are in, it is important to identify that season and realize that you are being ‘transformed into His image.’

You may recognize that you are in the season of **Fall**; harvesting the seeds that have been sown over the years. Be ready, the season of **Winter** may be just around the corner when you will experience dark days when God seems far away. Maybe you are in the season of **Spring**; the season of hope when you are experiencing renewal and new birth, an awakening in your spiritual life. Or could it be that you are in the spiritual season of **Summer** when it is satisfying to see growth?

### **Time to Reflect:**

Whatever season you are in, it is important to identify it. In our own spiritual formation, there are always changes.

- Can you think of the changes that you have gone through over the past year in your own life?
- Have there been any surprises as you have done this study on the spiritual seasons?
- Have you been aware of the areas of your life that need transformation?

### **Prayer**

Conclude this session by taking time to thank God for the seasons you have experienced. Ask him to **transform you into His image** by the various experiences of those seasons.



**Transformed into God's Image  
Through the Spiritual Seasons of Life  
Women's Bible Study #4 – The Season of Fall**

**Let's Talk About It:**

- 1. What are some characteristics of the fall season?**

\_\_\_\_\_

The core of fall is \_\_\_\_\_

- 2. What kind of seeds have you sown?**

**Digging Deeper**

**Harvest of Souls**

**Read:** John 4:35-35 & Matthew 9:35-38

- 3. What do these verses suggest about the harvest of souls?**

\_\_\_\_\_

- 4. Can you relate an opportunity that you had to plant a seed of 'good news' to someone?**

\_\_\_\_\_

- 5. How does Galatians 6:9 encourage you in the area of soul harvest?**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Harvest of Prosperity**

**Read:** 2 Corinthians 9:6-12

- 6. Do you recall one lesson about money you learned from your**

**How does generosity affect righteousness in your life?**

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**What has been the harvest for you when you were generous to others?**

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“True prosperity is not measured by how much anyone has: it is measured by how much you give.” Mark Buchanan – Spiritual Rhythm, pg, 165

**Do you agree with the above quote? Discuss**

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**Harvest of Righteousness**

**Read:** Hebrews 12:11

**Take a moment to think about the most difficult situation you are facing at this moment. Discuss if you wish.**

---

**Can you see how you are being transformed in His image during this time in your life?**

---

**What two things are involved in this harvest of righteousness from the verse in Hebrews 12:11?**

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Read: James 3:18

**Do you need to seek peace and sow peace somewhere, in your home, your workplace, your church?**

### **Activities of Fall**

*Autumn feasts are festivals of thanks!*

**Can you imagine coming to a thanksgiving feast and not being thankful to the host who prepared the wonderful feast and not saying a word of thanks?**

### **Concluding Review:**

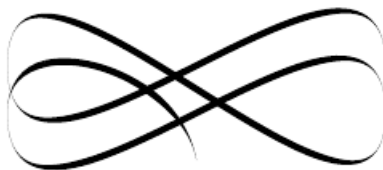
Whatever season you are in, it is important to identify it. In our spiritual formation, there are always changes.

- Can you think of the changes that you have gone through over the past year in your own life?
- Have there been any surprises as you have gone through this study on the spiritual seasons?

Have you been aware of the areas of your life that need transformation?

### **Prayer**

Conclude this session by taking time to pray thanking God for the seasons you have experienced. Trust God to bring about transformation in your life.



Transformed Through Times of  
Reflection  
Provided by Major Donna Senter  
Ontario Central East



Transformed  
into God's image  
WOMEN'S MINISTRIES 2017

!

## **Do I reflect God in my life?**

I love this picture of my grandchildren.

It's a pretty cool picture. As I looked at the picture and saw how it beautifully reflected my grandchildren jumping and playing in the water, it got me thinking, do I reflect God in my life?

John 13:35 says "This is how everyone will recognize that you are my disciples – when they see the love you have for each other."

This is challenging. When others see me, do they see Jesus? I know that I am flawed and can be selfish at times so how can I reflect God?

First of all, I am thankful that reflecting God isn't something I do on my own. It isn't something I conjure up or put on. I reflect God because the Holy Spirit lives in me.

Galatians 2:20 describes this so well when it says: "It is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. This life that I live now, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave his life for me."

I reflect God in my life only when I follow the leading of the Holy Spirit. Scripture tells us that when we give our lives to God we are a new creation and because we are God's followers, filled by His Spirit, we can reflect God.

Ephesians 4:24 says, "You must put on the new self, which is created in God's likeness and reveals itself in the true life that is upright and holy."

The next question is, what does it look like to reflect God? In Galatians, Paul gives us a great description of what our life should look like if we are reflecting God.

Galatians 5:22-23 "But the Spirit produces love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup>humility, and self-control."

The fruit of the spirit are God's list of His qualities. These are qualities that should be in our lives if we want to reflect God.

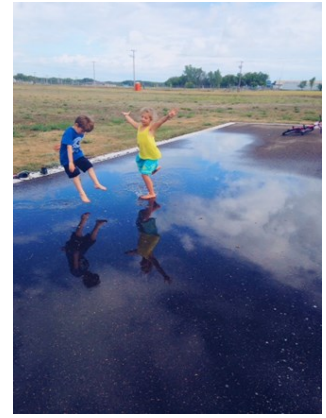
Love, joy, peace, patience and self-control are all qualities that are to be part of our lives. These qualities reflect God. Kindness, goodness and gentleness are qualities that we show to others. These qualities must be seen in our lives if we are to reflect God.

## **Kindness**

The dictionary describes kindness as "a kind deed, friendly regard shown to another"

Jesus showed compassion over and over again in Scripture. There are countless accounts of Jesus healing the sick and performing miracles, all from a heart of compassion. Matthew 12 records a time when Jesus showed his kind heart to a stranger on the street. The man's withered hand caught Jesus' attention and caused him to stop in his tracks. Even in the face of ridicule, Jesus healed the man on the Sabbath.

Do I show kindness to others? What about when it isn't convenient or it costs me something. Do I still reflect God by showing kindness?



## **Goodness**

We all want to be known as good people. But what does that mean in everyday life? The place to look for examples of “good” is, of course, to Jesus.

Jesus washing the feet of His disciples at the Last Supper is a perfect example of goodness. His mercy towards His followers is shown in the way that he lowered Himself to serve others.

I must ask myself do I seek to serve others. Do I put the needs of others ahead of myself?

## **Gentleness**

In John 8, Jesus saves the life of a woman caught in adultery. He rebukes the crowd and reaches out His hand to show forgiveness. Jesus shows such gentleness and love to this woman who was cast out and judged by society.

Do I show kindness to others or do I judge them?

Just as the picture of my grandchildren is a reflection of them playing, so my life should be a reflection of God.

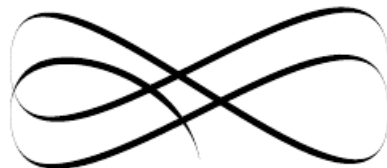
Paul Gilbert wrote a poem:

You are writing a Gospel,  
A chapter each day,  
By deeds that you do,  
By words that you say.

Men read what you write,  
Whether faithless or true;  
Say, what is the Gospel  
According to you?”

Am I showing Kindness, goodness and gentleness? Do I reflect God?

**Written by Major Donna Senter**



TRANSFORMED BY  
SINGING



Transformed  
*into God's image*  
WOMEN'S MINISTRIES 2017

KEY C

JESUS I LONG TO BE LIKE YOU  
LOVING IN EVERY WAY  
JESUS I NEED TO BE LIKE YOU PLEASE HEAR ME AS I PRAY.  
YOU ARE MY PATTERN FOR LIVING  
YOUR WAY OF LIFE IS MY GOAL  
PATIENT AND KIND AND FORGIVING  
UNDER THE SPIRIT'S CONTROL.  
TRANSFORM MY LIFE FROM WITHIN LORD  
COME AND MY HEART REFINE.  
YOU ARE MY PATTERN FOR LIVING  
GIVE ME A HEART LIKE THINE.

KEY G

TO BE LIKE JESUS,  
THIS HOPE POSSESS ME,  
IN EVERY THOUGHT AND DEED  
THIS IS MY AIM MY CREED,  
TO BE LIKE JESUS  
THIS HOPE POCESSSES ME  
HIS SPIRIT HELPING ME  
LIKE HIM I'LL BE.

KEY D

O WHAT A CHANGE, WHAT A DIFFERENCE, TO HAVE AN ENCOUNTER WITH GOD  
LIFE TAKES ON A NEW MEANING, TO HAVE AN ENCOUNTER WITH GOD.  
LIVING AND LOVING EACH OTHER, LIVING NAD LOVING OUR GOD,  
O WHAT A CHANGE, WHAT A DIFFERENCE  
TO HAVE AN ENCOUNTER WITH GOD.



Suggested songs and choruses

THEME: Transformation

Provided by Darlene Stoops



|                            |                     |  |
|----------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Thank You For the Cross    | CCLI Song # 5064108 | Brian Doerksen   Kathryn Scott             |
| Come Thou Fount            | CCLI Song # 4217396 | Robert Robinson   Steven V. Taylor         |
| The Power of Your Love     | CCLI Song # 917491  | Geoff Bullock                              |
| Speak O Lord               | CCLI Song # 4615235 | Keith Getty   Stuart Townend               |
| Create In Me a Clean Heart | CCLI Song # 96927   | Brown Bannister                            |
| Change My Heart, O God     | CCLI Song # 2281245 | Barry Crowe                                |
| Refiner's Fire             | CCLI Song # 426298  | Brian Doerksen                             |
| Holy Spirit, Rain Down     | CCLI Song # 2405227 | Russell Fragar                             |
| Potter's Hand              | CCLI Song # 2449771 | Darlene Zschech                            |
| Amazing Grace, My Chains   | CCLI Song # 4768151 | Chris Tomlin   John Newton   Louie Giglio  |
| Happy Day                  | CCLI Song # 4847027 | Ben Cantelon   Tim Hughes                  |
| Be Glorified               | CCLI Song # 2732646 | Chris Tomlin   Jesse Reeves   Louie Giglio |

TRANSFORMED  
BY  
SERVICE



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*into God's image*  
WOMEN'S MINISTRIES 2017



**First Day, Mom’s Pray**

Developed and Submitted by Captain Ashley Bungay/Gander, NL

First Day, Moms Pray was a prayer/fellowship event that I hosted on the first day of school, from 9-10am. I invited the other local churches to join us as we prayed for our children, teachers/schools and community. I ended up with a mix of ages and denominations. My hope is to continue to do this each year on the first day of school, and that it will grow! You can have a look through the attached resources and share a few, or all of it. Of course, everyone would add their own touches!

As a side note, we sent out "we prayed for you" cards to the 3 local schools to be placed in their teacher's lounge, and then during the Thanksgiving Assembly, the grade 4 students did a food drive for our food bank! This had not happened before, and I like to think that it's God working behind the scenes!

Also, while doing my research for this event I connected with an international group called "Moms In Prayer" and they were extremely helpful and supportive! They were praying for my event, and even connected me to a woman in Labrador who once led a weekly Moms In Prayer, prayer group. I'm sure they would only be glad to hear from others within our organization if the desire/need was there. They have wonderful resources on prayer.

.....

**Check this link for 52 ways to serve your community**

[trends.net/2014/01/06/52-ideas-for-your-church-in-2014/#.WIda0Mt0xMo](http://trends.net/2014/01/06/52-ideas-for-your-church-in-2014/#.WIda0Mt0xMo)

.....



***"THE STORY TABLE"***

**Source unknown**

Invite a small group to share a meal. Keep the amount to those who can comfortably sit around the table. Setting is important (Should be quiet enough to hear one another...and God's voice). \*Definitely doesn't have to be fancy. You are creating a place for sharing and relationship to grow.

A modest meal is served. Soup, sandwiches, BBQ...you decide what works best in your location. You eat, and "chatter"...these are ordinary moments...but what happens next is extraordinary. Each person (in their invitation) is instructed to share a story of

- 1) a life lesson God is teaching them
- 2) a personal burden or concern
- 3) a passion that they have for others or a particular ministry group.

They have 5 minutes or less... ( Less is fine, but no one can go over their 5 minutes).

Close with prayer that encompasses the needs and encourages those at the table. "The Story Table" can be repeated several times.

## *MANNA CAFÉ*

**Source David Harvey/Gananoque**

We offer a home cooked meal ranging from soup and sandwiches to a fully cooked turkey dinner with all the trimmings at no cost. The Town of Gananoque provided a grant of 13,000 to update the kitchen and café with new appliances and a complete make over. The café is opened to all from 1130 to 2:00 p.m. Monday, Wednesdays and Fridays. Guests of the café come from all types of life situations. This is a place where people can meet friends, share a meal and good conversation and always feel welcome.



## *WALK AEROBICS*

**Developed and Submitted by Major Dena Hepditch**



We began a walking program in Port Aux Basques 11 years. It quickly went from 3 mornings a week (at 10:00 a.m.), to 5 mornings a week, to 8 classes a week (5 morning plus 3 evening classes). It really went over well there. Since then, 7 or 8 other churches in that area have begun the same program with much success. There are Corps however, that have tried it and it did not work. I think publicity and advertising is the key! Word of mouth is always the best!

Don't get discouraged if it does not take off with a bang, I was told it would not work in PAB and we only and we only had a handful for the first couple of months (from 4 to 7 or 8), but we persisted and were excited about it, and it finally paid off! I also started it in St Catharines corps (Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings at 10 am) after we were there about a year and it is still going over very well there, with over 30 in each class! And now have it running in Sydney, for almost 2 years.

We use "Leslie Sansone's Walk Away the Pounds" videos. I begin each class with a short devotion from "Devotions for Dieters" then put the video on and we just work along with it. She has many videos that are all easy to follow. I suggest 2 mile or 30 minute workouts. I advertised in the Newspaper, on the Local Cable Station, in church bulletins (other denominations), to Women's' groups, put posters on bulletin boards around town (Apartment buildings, stores, doctors/dentist offices...) anything that works but be sure to GET THE WORD OUT THERE! This is much of the key to your success!

If you are going to purchase the DVD's, my suggestion would be to get the Leslie Sansone's -Walk the Walk (A Christian Inspired Workout that includes a 1 and a 2 mile walk, with Christian music playing in the background); A Closer Walk (also Christian); Walking Down your Blood Sugar; A Heart-Healthy Walk.... to name a few. You can order them online and also occasionally get some at Walmart, Giant tiger, Shoppers Drug Mart..

Each video begins with a warm up, then some upbeat walking, and ends with a cool down. These videos are easy to follow and should not intimidate anyone. (We had people in their 70's & 80's, and some very overweight ladies who enjoyed it). We usually stay with the 2 miles or 30 minute walks.

I try to stress the importance of caring for our bodies in a safe and supportive environment. (After all it is God's Temple and it's the only one we're going to get this side of heaven.... so we must care for it properly).

We do not charge for this program, but because we attract so many community people, they often want to contribute something. So, we place a container near the doorway, where they could drop in some change, if they so desired. (We have raised thousands this way). By not charging, you leave it open to those who cannot afford weight Watchers and gyms, and that is really what we ought to be about, ministering to the whole community.

Also, these people also are a great help to our Corps in collecting for Red Shield, Kettle Volunteers, serving at Corps dinners/function, etc., not to mention building lasting relationships with those outside our church.

## *BABY SONG (an exciting program for babies, toddlers and parents)*

Taken from Resource Book-THQ WM

Objective: Meeting people's needs-spiritually, socially and physically

### **INTERMEDIATE OBJECTIVES**

For children and families based on Matthew 18:4-5

Root the program in prayer

Make contact with people in the local community

Breakdown Barriers

Build up trust

Build relationships

Create an atmosphere that leads to conversations about life and God

Give opportunity for fellowship-adult to adult, adult to child and child to child

A link to the Corps

### **MUSICAL AND LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

Stimulate the child's linguistic, musical and motor skill development

Develop the child's concept of space and time

Stimulate positive contact between parent and child, especially the opportunity for singing together

Give the family a treasury of songs that contain traditional songs, contemporary songs, thymes and songs about God



Online resources for reaching out into your community to be that transforming influence in the communities of our world.

#### Resources

<http://www.communicatejesus.com/2009/05/30-ideas-for-community-outreach-part-1/>  
<https://chuckwarnockblog.wordpress.com/2008/11/24/101-outreach-ideas-for-small-churches/>  
[http://factsandtrends.net/2014/01/06/52-ideas-for-your-church-in-2014/#.Vh\\_Cd8tRGpo](http://factsandtrends.net/2014/01/06/52-ideas-for-your-church-in-2014/#.Vh_Cd8tRGpo)

<http://www.christianoutreachttools.com/outreach-ideas.html>

[www.VergeNetwork.org](http://www.VergeNetwork.org) (Check out the article called Simple Ways to be Missional)

[www.servantevangelism.com](http://www.servantevangelism.com)

Transformed Creations  
CRAFT IDEAS  
Repurposed items



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*into God's image*  
WOMEN'S MINISTRIES 2017

FEB 02  
2015 ROMANS 11:13

AND BE NOT

CONFORMED



TO THIS WORLD

but be ye  
transformed

BY THE  
RENEWING  
of your  
Mind

ROMANS 12:2 KJV

1228

<sup>13</sup> Now I am speaking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch as I am a Jew, I magnify my ministry in order that I may save some of them. <sup>14</sup> For if the kindness of God toward the world, what will their acceptance in me, if the dough offered as firstfruits is holy, so is the whole offering? <sup>15</sup> Are the branches

<sup>17</sup> But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being wild olive branches, were grafted in among them and now share in the life of the tree, <sup>18</sup> do not be arrogant toward the branches which have been broken off, but have a gracious attitude toward them, for they support the root and the tree. <sup>19</sup> For if you have been cut off, which is contrary to nature, you will not be grafted back in. <sup>20</sup> For if you do not understand, consider the olive tree, of which you are a branch, grafted contrary to nature into it. <sup>21</sup> For if God did not spare the natural branches, neither will he spare you, if you continue in unbelief. <sup>22</sup> For if God did not spare the natural branches, neither will he spare you, if you continue in unbelief. <sup>23</sup> And even they, if they do not continue in unbelief, will be grafted in, for God has the power to graft them in again. <sup>24</sup> For if you were cut off, contrary to nature, and grafted, contrary to nature, into a wild olive tree, and grafted, contrary to nature, into it, how much more will these, the natural branches

*The Mystery of Israel's Salvation*

<sup>25</sup> Lest you be wise in your own sight, I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers: a partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the full number of the Gentiles has come in. <sup>26</sup> And in this way all Israel will be saved.

<sup>27</sup> "The Deliverer will come from Zion, he will banish ungodliness from Jacob; and this will be my covenant when I take away their sins."

<sup>28</sup> As regards the gospel, they are enemies for your sake, but as regards election they are beloved for the sake of their forefathers. <sup>29</sup> For the gifts and the calling are irrevocable. <sup>30</sup> For just as you were at one time disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, so they also have now become disobedient, that they may receive mercy just as you also received mercy. <sup>31</sup> For God has consigned all to disobedience, that he may have mercy on all. <sup>32</sup> Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How inscrutable his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

<sup>34</sup> "For who has known the mind of the Lord, that he may counsel him, or who has been his counselor, that he may instruct him?"

<sup>35</sup> "Or who has given a gift to God, that he might be repaid?"

<sup>36</sup> For from him and through him and to him are all things. Amen.

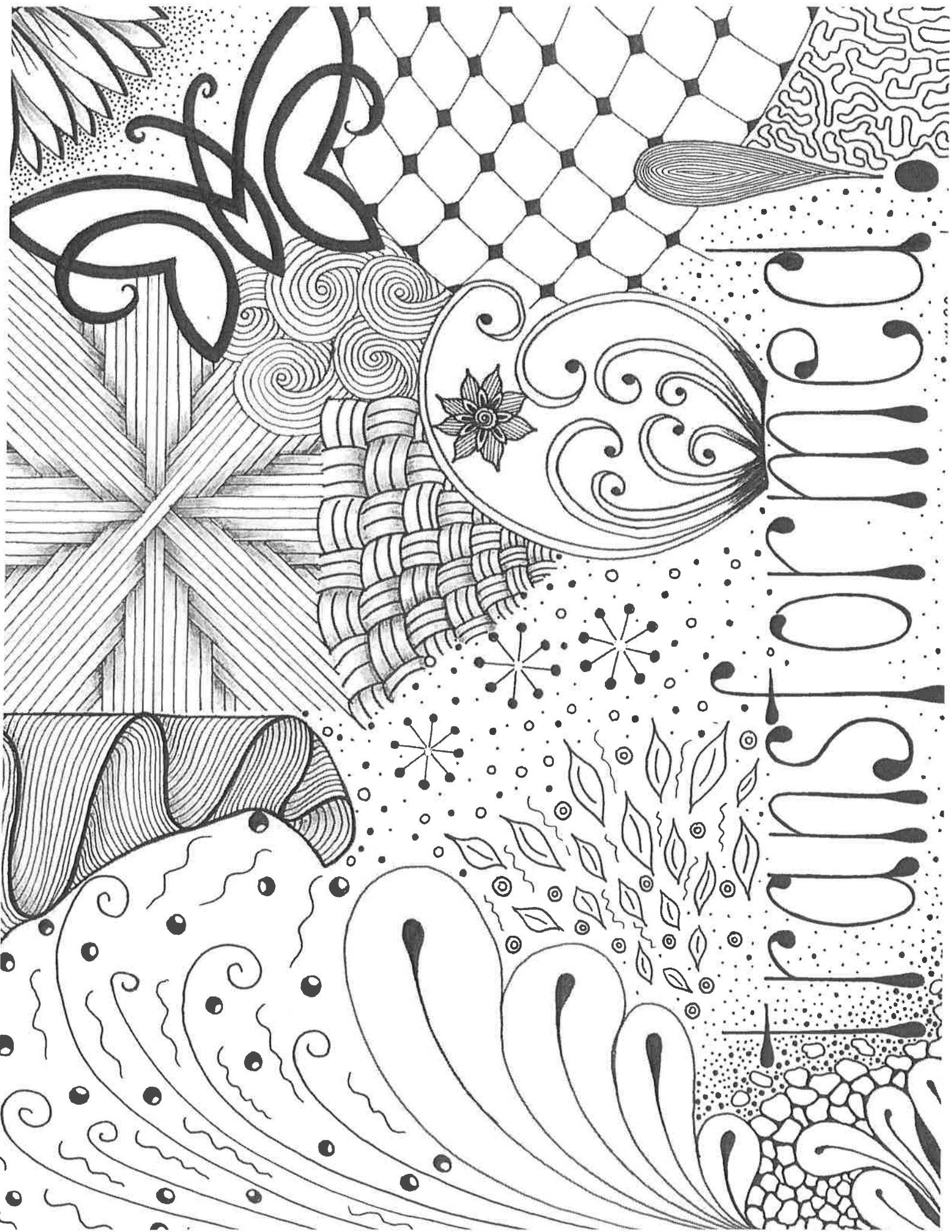
*A Living Sacrifice*

**12** I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. <sup>2</sup> Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

<sup>1</sup> Greek root of richness; some manuscripts richness. <sup>2</sup> Or brotherly love. <sup>3</sup> Or your rational service. <sup>4</sup> Greek age. <sup>5</sup> Or what is the good and acceptable will of God.







# Transformed by Prayer



Transformed  
*into God's image*  
WOMEN'S MINISTRIES 2017



**Prayer Focus**

**Prepared by**

**Majors Darryl & Cathyann Simms**

**Hamilton Mountain Citadel**

Originally prepared for & presented at the  
2016 Commissioning celebration in London, Ontario

**This copy has been adapted for use in your Women's Ministries  
May be used for a Prayer Breakfast Event OR any other prayer focus  
event.**

**PRELUDE:** Selected Worship Choruses

**WORDS OF WELCOME:**

**GRACE:**

**BREAKFAST**

**IN PRAYER WE LOOK UPWARD**

**Leader:** Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord. Let us shout aloud to the rock of our salvation!

**Congregation:** For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised!

**Leader:** Who is God besides the LORD? And who is the Rock except our God?

**Congregation:** There is no one holy like the LORD; there is no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God.

**Leader:** The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer;

**Congregation:** My rock, in whom I take refuge...my shield...my stronghold.

**All:** I will proclaim the name of the LORD. Oh, praise the greatness of our God!

**ANTHEM OF PRAISE: “How Great Is Our God (How Great Thou Art)”**

The splendor of a King, clothed in majesty  
Let all the earth rejoice, all the earth rejoice  
He wraps himself in Light, and darkness tries to hide  
And trembles at His voice, trembles at His voice

*How great is our God, sing with me  
How great is our God, and all will see  
How great, how great is our God*

Age to age He stands, and time is in His hands  
Beginning and the end, beginning and the end  
The Godhead Three in One: Father, Spirit, Son  
The Lion and the Lamb, the Lion and the Lamb

Name above all names  
You are worthy of all praise  
My heart will sing how great is our God

Then sings my soul my Savior God to Thee  
How great Thou art, how great Thou art

**SHOUTS OF PRAISE: Invite participants to share in audible expressions of praise**

**LEADER:** O Lord, this morning we lift our eyes to see your glory. We open our hearts to receive your love. We engage our minds to understand your truths. We offer our songs to praise your name.

**PSALM 96** (selected verses)

**Leader:**

Sing a new song to the Lord! Let the whole earth sing to the Lord!  
Sing to the Lord, praise his name.

**All:**

Proclaim the good news that he saves. Declare his glorious deeds among the nations. Tell everyone about the amazing things he does.

**Leader:**

Great is the Lord, and most worthy of praise! Honor and majesty surround him; strength and beauty fill his sanctuary.

**All:**

O nations of the world, recognize the Lord; give to the Lord the glory he deserves.

**Leader:**

Bring an offering before him. Worship the Lord in all his holy splendor.  
Let all the earth tremble before him.

**All:**

Let the Heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad  
Let the sea and everything in it shout his praise!  
Let the fields and their crops burst with joy!  
Let the trees rustle with praise, for He is coming!

**Leader:**

He is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with justice, and the nations with his truth.

**ANTHEM OF THANKSGIVING: “How Great Are You Lord”**

How great are You Lord, how great is Your mercy  
How great are the things that You have done for me.  
How great are You Lord, Your loving kindness  
Is filling my heart as I sing, how great are You Lord  
How great is Your love, it reaches to the heavens  
How great is the heart that sought and rescued me.

## **IN PRAYER WE REACH OUTWARD**

**LEADER:** “We do what we do in The Salvation Army because we love God and love people. Following God and expressing our faith in tangible ways through acts of service to others brings us great joy and fulfillment.”

(Commissioner Susan McMillan)

### **RESPONSIVE READING** (based on I John 4)

**Leader:** The priority of our lives is a relationship of love.

**All:** Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength and with all your mind.

**Leader:** God calls us to a ministry of love.

**All:** Beloved, let us love one another as we ourselves are loved.

**Leader:** Love is from God.

**All:** Everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

**Leader:** For God is the essence of love. Anyone who loves God must also love each other.

**All:** May we accept God’s call to this ministry of love. For whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.

**LEADER:** Out of love and concern for others, let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. (Heb. 4:16)

### **ANTHEM OF CONFIDENCE: “Faithful One”**

Faithful one, so unchanging  
Ageless one, you're my rock of peace  
Lord of all I depend on you  
I call out to you, again and again  
I call out to you, again and again

You are my rock in times of trouble  
You lift me up when I fall down  
All through the storm  
Your love is the anchor  
My hope is in You alone.

**Let us pray with confidence:** For escalating social ills: poverty, substance abuse, racism and discrimination, terrorism, human trafficking, Physician-assisted death, deterioration of the family unit...those things that adversely affect the quality of life for society. Pray for wisdom and compassion, for governing bodies who establish laws, pray for our nation.

**Let us pray with confidence:** For the hurting of our world: those living in poverty, the homeless, underprivileged, the marginalized, the destitute, the infirmed, those living with special needs, the widows and orphans, displaced people groups. Pray for provision, for adequate resources, for eyes to see the need and hearts to respond with practical love and care.

**Let us pray with confidence:** For a spiritual awakening in our nation, and across this great world! Pray for religious indifference and Christians suffering persecution for their faith. Pray for countries ravaged with war and for those who sacrifice themselves for the sake of peace. Pray that the love of God, personified in Jesus Christ, would prevail.

**Let us pray with confidence:** For our Army: That God would raise up a Spirit-filled Army, convinced of our calling, passionately serving in the power of the Holy Spirit.

*Invite Participants to pray around their tables or in smaller groups  
(music will play softly in the background as table groups pray for identified needs)*

**LEADER:** Into our chaos He speaks: “Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.”

**RESPONSE:** “The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.”  
*(Psalm 46:10, 11)*

**ANTHEM OF TRUST: “Still”**

Hide me now under Your wings  
Cover me within Your mighty hand

*When the oceans rise and thunders roar  
I will soar with You above the storm  
Father you are King over the flood  
I will be still and know You are God.*

Find rest my soul in Christ alone;  
Know His power in quietness and trust.



**DEVOTIONAL REFLECTION:**

(Optional)

**ANTHEM OF VICTORY: “Onward Christian Soldiers”**

Onward, Christian Soldiers, marching as to war,  
With the cross of Jesus going on before!  
Christ, the royal Master, leads against the foe;  
Forward into battle see his banners go.

*Onward, Christian soldiers,  
Marching as to war,  
With the cross of Jesus  
Going on before!*

Like a mighty army moves the Church of God;  
Brothers, we are treading where the saints have trod.  
We are not divided, all one body we,  
One in hope, in doctrine, one in charity.

Onward then, ye people! Join our happy throng,  
Blend with ours your voices in the triumph song.  
Glory, laud and honor unto Christ the King,  
This through countless ages men and angels sing.

**BENEDICTION:**

May the God of peace who raised Christ from the dead  
Strengthen your inner being for every good work,  
As together we move forward in His power.  
And may the blessing of God Almighty  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit  
Rest upon you and dwell within you  
This day and evermore. Amen.





Provided  
Captain  
Corinne  
Cameron

Kitchener Community Church

This idea is presented as a prayer walk around your church. The activity brings focus to many of the functions of the building and in particular the people who attend and the programs that take place.  
A grea way to start a new program year.

by

### Station One: The Front Porch

May God give blessing to our church.  
God bless our church from roof to floor,  
From wall to wall,  
From end to end,  
From its foundation and in its covering.

In the strong name of the triune God,  
All disturbance cease  
Captive spirits freed,  
God's Spirit alone  
Dwell within these walls.

Everyone:

We call upon the Sacred Three  
To save, shield, surround  
This church, this home,  
This day, this night.

Prayers for the Mission of \_\_\_\_\_(Your Ministry Unit)

Our Mission Statement:

The Salvation Army (Insert Your Mission Statement)

Our Vision Statement: Insert your vision statement

## **Station Two: The Foyer**

May all be welcomed here,  
Friend and stranger, from near and far.  
May each be blessed and honoured as they enter.

There is a friend's love  
In the gentle heart of the Saviour.  
For love of Jesus we offer friendship  
And welcome every guest.

### **Everyone:**

We call upon the Sacred Three  
To save, shield, surround  
This church, this home,  
This day, this night.

### Prayers for:

Our greeting ministry  
Our Life-Care committee  
Our Building committee  
Our Hospitality ministry

(from Psalm 40)

### Everyone:

We call upon the Sacred Three  
To save, shield, surround  
This church, this home,  
This day, this night.

### Station Three: The Library

Help us to tell the glad news of Love's way to all who will listen.

Help us to raise our voices with praise and acclamation.

Help us to tell of Love's saving grace within our hearts

Help us speak of Love's faithfulness and healing power.

We aspire to reveal your steadfast love

Through the witness of our lives.

(from Psalm 40)

Everyone:

We call upon the Sacred Three

To save, shield, surround

This church, this home,

This day, this night.

Please pray for:

Our Evangelism Committee

The ministry of this library

Those who escape for quiet in a busy day

### **Station Four: The Kitchen**

May we welcome the poor and honour them,  
May we welcome the sick and care for them,  
In the presence of angels,  
And we ask you, God, to bless and embrace us all.

Seeing a stranger approach,  
May we put food in the eating place,  
Drink in the drinking place,  
Music in the listening place,  
And look with joy for the blessing of God,  
Who often comes to our homes  
In the blessing of a stranger.

Everyone:  
We call upon the Sacred Three  
To save, shield, surround  
This church, this home,  
This day, this night.

Please pray for:  
List your ministry needs

### **Station Five: The Gym**

May all be welcomed here  
As the Christ child at the stable:  
In simplicity and joy,  
And as saints before us have welcomed the poor,  
May the smile of the Son of Peace  
Be found here  
Whenever our doors are opened:

Everyone:  
We call upon the Sacred Three  
To save, shield, surround  
This church, this home,  
This day, this night.

Please pray for:  
Community Outreach  
Youth Group

Station Six: The Nursery

They say that nothing is given birth without pain

And we find our secret joy in You, our God

You are our Parent,

And of Your tenderness, healing and patience

There is no end at all.

Bless the children of this room

May the joy and peace of heaven

Be with them.

Everyone:

We call upon the Sacred Three

To save, shield, surround

This church, this home,

This day, this night.

Please pray for:

List your needs for children's ministry

Station Seven: 1, 2, 3 Classroom

For the children and parents who gather in this room

May the joy of God be in your face,  
May the circle of God surround you,  
May the angels of God shield you.

Joy of night and day be yours;  
Joy of sun and moon be yours;  
May every season be happy for you;  
Every season be bright for you;  
Every season be glad for you;

May you discover the compass of the God of life;  
The compass of the Christ of love;  
The compass of the Spirit of grace;  
To befriend, guide and aid you.

Everyone:

We call upon the Sacred Three  
To save, shield, surround  
This church, this home,  
This day, this night.

Please pray for:  
Primary Sunday School  
Young Teen Sunday School  
Junior Church  
List other local needs



## Station Eight: The Sanctuary

May all who gather here Listen Well,  
To the inner promptings of the Spirit;  
May Silence enter our hearts so that we may hear!  
For within our hearts Love speaks:  
Not with words of deceit,  
But spiritual truths that guide us...

You are our hope, our strength, and our comfort;  
Our fears will not overwhelm us.  
You will guide us to the New Jerusalem,  
To the Mountain of Hope, the City of Light!

Yu will be an ever-living Presence  
To those who call upon Your Name,  
To all Who Open their Hearts to Love.  
(From Psalm 78)

Everyone:  
We call upon the Sacred Three  
To save, shield, surround  
This church, this home,  
This day, this night.

Please pray for:  
The Worship Committee  
The A/V ministries  
Our times of Worship  
Our times of Teaching  
Our Pastors

### **Station Nine: The Prayer Room**

There is a fiery power  
In the gentle heart of the Spirit.  
Our hearts are agreed  
As we kneel by our hearth,  
And call on the Sacred Three  
To cause prayer to be  
The furnace room of our church.

Everyone:  
We call upon the Sacred Three  
To save, shield, surround  
This church, this home,  
This day, this night.

Please pray for:  
The Prayer Group  
The War Room  
Individual spiritual and pastoral care

## **Station Ten: The Music Room**

Praise the Beloved!

Praises be to You in earth's sanctuary;

Praises be to You in the mighty firmament!

Praise the mighty works of Love;

Praise the glory and extol the greatness of Love Divine!

Give praise with trumpets;

Give praise with lute and harp!

Give praise with timbrel and dance;

Give praise with strings and reed!

Give praise with booming drums;

Give praise with crashing cymbals!

Let everything that breathes

Praise the Beloved with their lives!

May it be so now and forever!

Amen.

### **Everyone:**

We call upon the Sacred Three

To save, shield, surround

This church, this home,

This day, this night.

(from Psalm 150)

Please pray for:

The Youth Choir

The Youth Worship Team

The Worship Team

The Band

The Pianists

## Station Eleven: The Board Room

Lord,

Help us to unclutter our lives,  
To organize ourselves in the direction of simplicity.

Lord,

Teach us to listen to our hearts;  
Teach us to welcome change; instead of fearing it.

Lord,

We give to you the stirrings of our church.  
We give to you our discontent and restlessness.  
We give to you our doubt and despair.  
We give to you all the longings we hold inside.  
Help us to listen for signs of change, of growth;  
Help us to listen seriously and follow where they lead  
Through the breathtaking empty space of an open door.

Everyone:

We call upon the Sacred Three  
To save, shield, surround  
This church, this home,  
This day, this night.

Please pray for:

The Mission Board  
The Staff on their lunch break  
The Community meetings  
Alpha  
Adult Sunday School  
Community Care Ministries

## **Station Twelve: Fireside Room**

There is a friend's love  
In the gentle heart of the Saviour.  
For love of him we offer friendship  
And welcome every guest.  
Lord, kindle in our hearts  
A flame of love for one another,  
Our neighbour, our enemies, our friends, our kindred all,  
From the lowliest of things that liveth  
To the name that is highest of all.

Everyone:

We call upon the Sacred Three  
To save, shield, surround  
This church, this home,  
This day, this night.

Please pray for:

Older Teen Sunday School class  
Youth and Kids Alpha  
Living Room Bible Study  
Women's Ministries  
Men's Ministries  
Youth Workers committee

**Station Thirteen: The Office**

May God the Father be the guardian of this place  
And bring His peace,  
That fear will find no entry here.

May Christ be our chosen companion and friend.  
May the Spirit bring lightness and laughter,  
And be the comforter of tears.

May God the Father be guardian of this place  
And bring His peace.  
May God's love be shared here,  
May God's will be found here,  
And may there be peace  
Among all people who work here.

Everyone:

We call upon the Sacred Three  
To save, shield, surround  
This church, this home,  
This day, this night.

Please pray for:

The staff

All visitors who drop-in during the week

## Station Fourteen: The Garden

God of the Universe,  
You made the heavens and the earth,  
So we do not call our home merely 'planet earth.'  
We call it your creation, a divine mystery,  
A gift from your most blessed hand.  
The world itself is your miracle,  
Bread and vegetables from earth are thus also from heaven.  
Help us to see in our daily bread your presence.

Upon this garden  
May your stars rain down their blessed dust.  
May you send rain and sunshine upon our garden and us,

Everyone:  
We call upon the Sacred Three  
To save, shield, surround  
This church, this home,  
This day, this night.

**EVERYONE:**  
We call upon the Sacred Three  
To save, shield, surround  
This church, this home,  
This day, this night.

Please pray for:

## Bibliography:

Claiborne, Shane. *Common Prayer: A Liturgy For Ordinary Radicals*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2010.

Merrill, Nan C. *Psalms For Praying: An Invitation To Wholeness*. New York: Continuum, 2007.





**Creative Prayer Focus**  
**Theme: Transformed in His Image**

**Provided by Major Teresa Decker**

Items Needed:

2 – 6 Large Mirrors (depending on the size of congregation)

Crayola Window Markers

“We all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image.”

2 Corinthians 3:18

Place mirrors in front of sanctuary with window markers beside each mirror. During a time of reflection and prayer invite congregation members to come and write their name on the mirror, symbolizing that they want God to transform their lives into His very image.

(During this activity you may use any of following songs to play in the background or sing as a solo; Consuming Fire, I surrender all, This is my desire, etc...)

Note- This can be done as a prayer focus or a reflection time after the sermon.

**Prayer: That I may be more like Jesus**

Almighty God, how I thank and praise You for the everlasting life that You have given to me by Your amazing Grace and Love. May I grow day by day to be more like You, full of love and compassion and kindness. Saturate my heart with Your love so that I may love You more with every passing breath my Jesus.

Thank you, for Your Holy Spirit Who is making me to be more like YOU Lord Jesus. I want to reflect Your grace and Your beauty in thought, word and deed. I ask that I may devote my time and heart to reflect on all You are and all You have done for me –so that You are magnified more and more in my life – so that the beauty of my Lord may be seen and reflected in my life.

Amen



Transforming the communities  
of our world  
at home with



Transformed  
into God's image  
WOMEN'S MINISTRIES 2017



The Women's Ministries Department is pleased to announce a new program called JOYFULLY AT HOME WITH OTHERS, using products created by Salvation Army OTHERS workshops and community development programs in Moldova, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Kenya.

OTHERS is an international Salvation Army initiative that promotes hope. Each product contributes to the creation of fairly compensated work for people who would otherwise have limited opportunities.

OTHERS producers are women and men connected through The Salvation Army's community development programs. When we present OTHERS products, we communicate the story of transformation that happens with every purchase. All products are hand-made or include elements of craftsmanship.

Your purchase of an OTHERS product will directly impact the life of another individual living in Bangladesh, Kenya, Moldova or Pakistan.

CONTACT [others@can.salvationarmy.org](mailto:others@can.salvationarmy.org) for more information on how you can plan an others event in your ministry unit



**Transformed**  
*into God's image*  
WOMEN'S MINISTRIES 2017

Week of Activity

**MONDAY**

**TUESDAY**

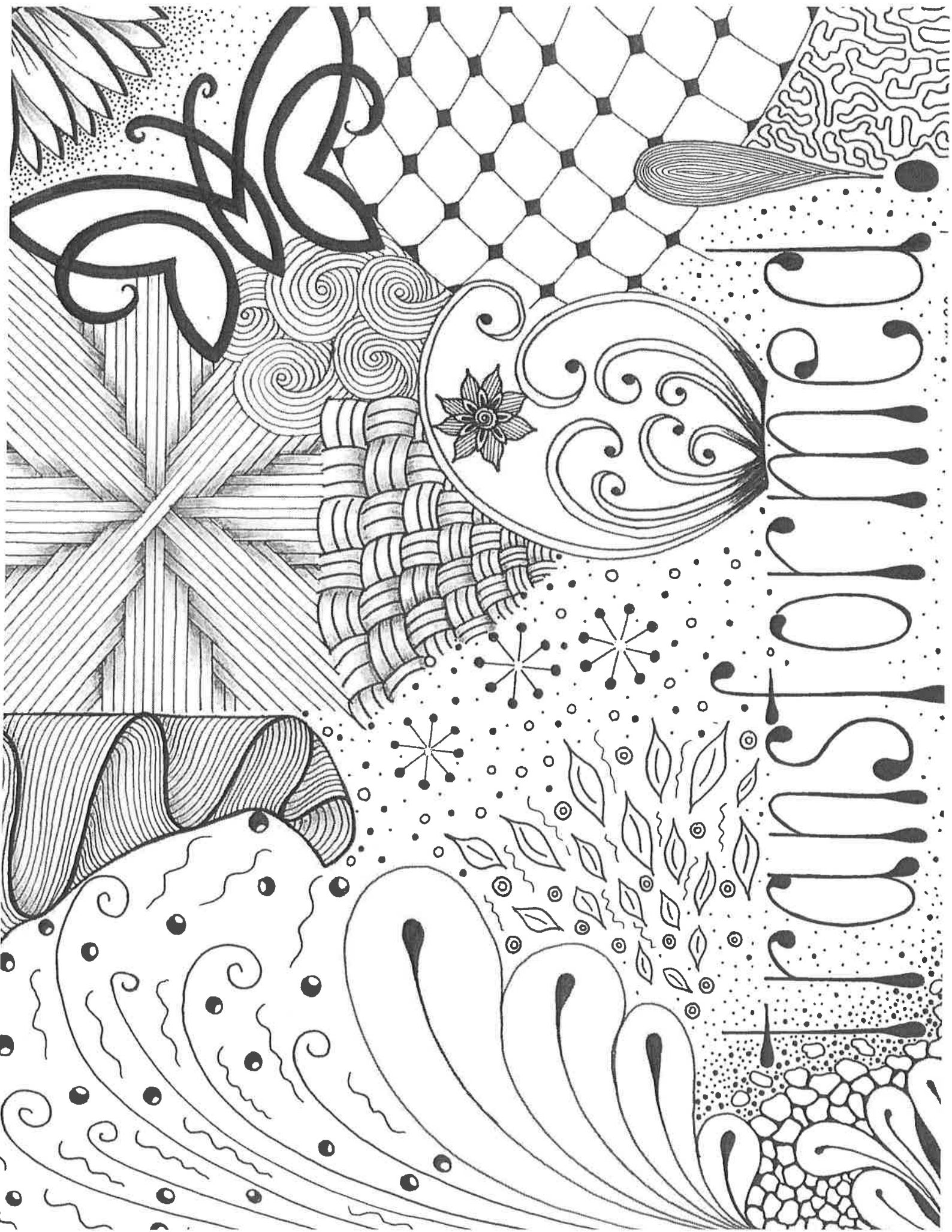
**WEDNESDAY**

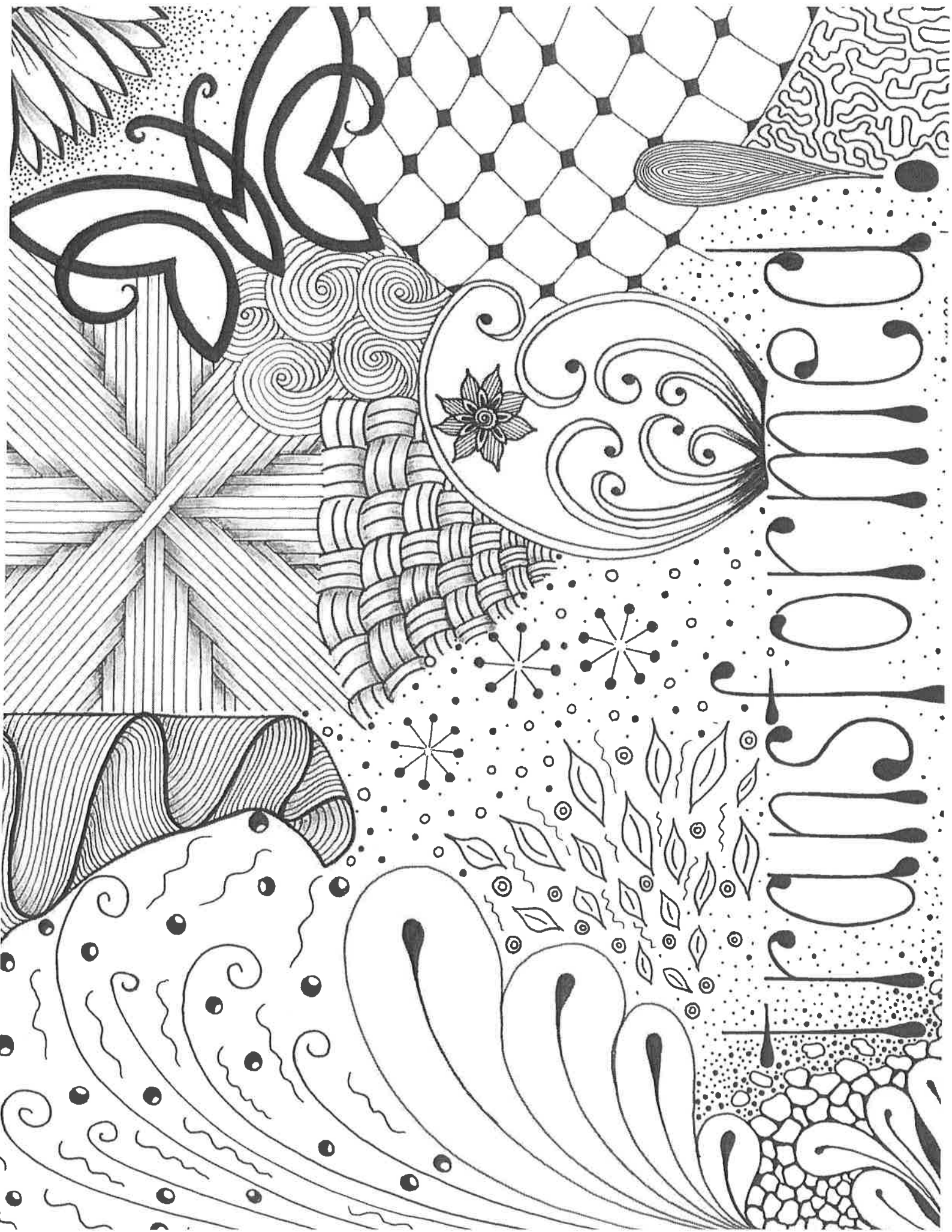
**THURSDAY**

**FRIDAY**

**SATURDAY**

**SUNDAY**







# Transformées à l'image de Dieu

ŒUVRES FÉMININES 2017



« Et nous tous qui contemplons, comme en un miroir, la gloire du Seigneur à face découverte, nous sommes transformés en la même image, de gloire en gloire, comme par l'Esprit du Seigneur. » (2 Corinthiens 3:18)



*Œuvres  
féminines*

TERRITOIRE DU CANADA ET DES BERMUDES



# Transformed into God's image

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES 2017

The Salvation Army Women's Ministries provides opportunities to build relationships and connect women, families and their communities while sharing the love and grace of God.

The programs are based on four pillars of ministry: worship, education, fellowship and service.



**Women's  
Ministries**  
CANADA & BERMUDA TERRITORY



**“We all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being TRANSFORMED into his image with ever increasing glory.”**  
2 Corinthians 3:18 (NIV)





# Transformées à l'image de Dieu

ŒUVRES FÉMININES 2017

Le ministère des œuvres féminines de l'Armée du Salut offre des occasions de tisser des liens et d'unir les femmes, les familles et les collectivités, tout en communiquant l'amour et la grâce du Seigneur.

Les programmes sont fondés sur quatre piliers du ministère : le culte, l'éducation, la camaraderie et le service.



TERRITOIRE DU CANADA ET DES BERMUDES



« Et nous tous qui contemplons, comme en un miroir, la gloire du Seigneur à face découverte, nous sommes transformés en la même image, de gloire en gloire, comme par l'Esprit du Seigneur. »  
(2 Corinthiens 3:18)