

Let's Begin: Touching Hearts, Transforming Lives

Session Aim

This session is designed to allow group members to catch up on the events of the summer, to connect or reconnect with group members, and to begin to form new friendships and commitments. The session also introduces the theme and concepts that will guide the small group activities during the coming months.

Preparation

Good news! Nothing special you have to do before the first session!

Bible Texts

2 Corinthians 3:7-18; Rom. 12:1-2

Introduction

The process of touching hearts and transforming lives depends on the work of the Spirit within us individually and together. Transformation comes because we know who we are, because of our place in the faith community, through lives of integrity, and acts of service to glorify our God. Be prepared to discuss how these four ideas—identity, community, integrity, and service—work together. Why is the sequence important? That is, in what way is identity the foundation upon which can be built life in the community, life with integrity, and a life of service?

Welcome/Icebreakers

Which is more important to you—touching hearts or transforming lives? Why?

How do these two concepts interrelate?

Describe a time when your heart was touched in a special way.

When has your life been changed? What were the events, people, circumstances, etc.?

Worship

Share some songs or Scriptures about change and transformation. Pray about God's transforming power in our lives.

Bible Study

Read the verses above and discuss their message of transformation.

[Your group facilitator may spend a few minutes explaining the foundations or details of the small group effort in 2009-2010.]

Application

Your assignment before the next meeting is to build relationships within your group. Think of ways you can encourage various group members.

Share specific prayer requests from group members.

Plan to send cards, make phone calls, and encourage one another.

Think also of potential group members—those within the church family who are not actively involved, and those among your friends, family, and neighbors who would enjoy and appreciate sharing an activity such as this. Invite at least one other person to the next group meeting.

Conclusion

The next lesson is a detailed study of Romans 12. Try to find before the next meeting to read the chapter several times.

Proposed Schedule (subject to change)

Mark your calendar for the following small group meetings and activities.

September	1-Small Group Kickoff (Let's Begin: Touching Hearts, Transforming Lives)
October	2-Introduction: Be Transformed
November	3—Transformed by Knowing our Identity
December	4—Transformed by Being Known in a Faith Community
January	5—Transformed by Confession
February	6—Transformed by Trials
March	7—Transformed by the Spirit
April	8—Transformed by the Resurrection
May	9—Transformed by Growing with Integrity, Serving Others, and Glorifying God