

# Transformation Journal

December 27

Daily Devotions for the week of December 27, 2009

**Monday:** *Christmas (i.e. the Incarnation and the story of Jesus) opens up to us the possibility that we can share life in God. Paul describes this transformation as new life in Christ. We get a glimpse of the transformation that this new life takes in each one through our reading today.*

**Scripture:** Read Colossians 3:1-17

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**Journal Questions**

1. We all get too used to “earthly nature” clothing. Which aspect of your old nature feels like a comfortable old T-shirt to you now? Why is it difficult to shed or remove?
2. With what piece of Christ’s wardrobe would you like to replace it?
3. What part of the Christmas message did you hear in a fresh way this year? What is your response?

**Prayer Focus**

Pray that Christmas will not just be a season in your life, but a daily reality.

**Tuesday:** *Today's reading is the only story we have in the Bible from Jesus' childhood. Jesus grew and developed as a normal child. Even though you know his as Savior and Lord, his experience was just like yours. Because he identifies so completely with your life he can lead you into sharing in God's life (which is what you were created for).*

**Scripture:** Read Luke 2:41-52

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**Journal Questions**

1. What difference does it make to remember that Jesus experienced all the stages from infancy to adulthood?
2. Who are the children in your life with whom Jesus identifies?

**Prayer Focus**

Pray for children in your life that they might grow in wisdom and in years and in divine and human favor (see 2:52).

**Wednesday:** *There are interesting parallels between the prophet Samuel and his mother Hannah with Jesus and his mother Mary. For instance, Mary's song (i.e. Luke 2:46-55) parallels Hannah's prayer (1 Samuel 2:1-10). What you read in Luke 2:52 yesterday is also said of the boy Samuel in verse 26 today.*

**Scripture:** Read 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

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**Journal Questions**

1. Both Samuel and Jesus were involved in important spiritual activities and conversations at a young age. What are your expectations of what children can contribute to the life of our church?
2. What is the role of children in the church?

**Prayer Focus**

Pray that we may be a place where children grow both in stature and in favor with the Lord and with people (see 2:26)

**Thursday: Last day of 2009.** *On this last day of the year we fast forward to the end of time when Jesus comes to judge the nations. The description of the final judgment reveals to us what is important to Jesus and therefore what needs to be important to us as his apprentices. In 2010 our Missional Communities (i.e. our small groups) will not only be focused on living in authentic Christian community but also on taking the kind of actions described in this passage.*

**Scripture: Read Matthew 25:31-46**

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**Journal Questions**

1. If Jesus were to come today and evaluate your life, what would he say about how you have “looked after” him by caring for others?
2. When was the last time you did something for someone hungry, alone, poor, sick or imprisoned?

**Prayer Focus**

Pray for the continued formation and development of our small groups that they might be the heart and engine of a movement that God launches through us in 2010.

**Friday: Happy New Year!** *Begin the year with a psalm of praise. God is truly worthy of all praise.*

**Scripture: Read Psalm 148**

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**Journal Questions**

1. For what do you have to praise and thank God for?
2. What are you expecting God to do in your life this year?
3. What are you expecting God to do in our church this year?

**Prayer Focus**

Pray that we might see God do some things in our midst that we have never seen before. Pray that we might witness the “vision of one” come into view.

**Saturday** – Read over your notes for the week and see how you are doing with your personal applications.