

## Becoming Like Jesus: New Thinking

Jonathan Cleveland

Romans 12:2

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### Discussion and Reflection Guide

#### **Becoming like Jesus requires us to think differently than we normally do**

Read and discuss Romans 12:2 (NIV)

*<sup>2</sup> Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

\*What does the phrase 'renewing of your mind' inspire in you?

\*Why is thinking differently such a tricky concept?

\*How does the environment you live in shape your thinking in ways you may be unaware of?

#### **The book *With* suggests 4 patterns of thinking that many of us conform to:**

Life UNDER God

Life OVER God

Life FROM God

Life FOR God

\*What do each of these patterns look like? What are some examples of how you've seen them conformed to?

\*Do you see yourself falling into one of these patterns typically?

#### **None of these reflect Jesus' thinking on spirituality**

Read and discuss John 5:19-20 (NIV)

*<sup>19</sup> Jesus gave them this answer: "Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does. <sup>20</sup> For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does. Yes, and he will show him even greater works than these, so that you will be amazed.*

John 14:10-11 (NIV)

*<sup>10</sup> Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. <sup>11</sup> Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves.*

John 17:20-23 (NIV)

*<sup>20</sup> "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, <sup>21</sup> that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. <sup>22</sup> I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one— <sup>23</sup> I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.*

\*How do you see Jesus' different way of thinking in these passages?

\*In what ways does it differ from the more common 4 patterns?

#### **Jesus lived his life WITH God in constant, secure communion**

He is fundamentally secure with God and he is trying to teach us to trust that we are too.

\*How does the world teach us to be fundamentally insecure? Or also, strangely, that we are enough on our own?

\*How does the renewing or rewilding of our minds take place?

\*What things have helped you interrupt unhealthy or insecure thinking for the truth?

\*Are you sensing the Spirit ask you to step into new thinking with a particular spiritual discipline? What thinking are you sensing would be good to leave behind?

\*How could you practically plan to incorporate different thinking – doing life WITH God?