



APRIL 17, 2016

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# THE WIDOW

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WEEK 3



## OPENING DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Do you believe that people can actually change?
2. The idea of transformation sometimes seems rather grandiose – as if God needs to radically change who we currently are in order for us to be more like Him. The truth is that sometimes transformation comes through multiple small transformations within us. Are you averse to transformation? Do you feel like you have already been transformed?
3. What do you believe about transformation? Do you believe that we are transformed by the renewing of our mind in Christ?
4. What does transformation look like as it relates to our giving?

## KEY POINTS

- The widow's decision was transformative for her and for those who heard of her gift. - Mark 12:41-44
- Some of our money practices are sinful, but they are redeemable. - Romans 6:3-14
- Generosity has the power to transform how we relate to others and how others relate to God. - Acts 2:42-47
- When we are new in Christ, we no longer live for ourselves; we live for Him. - 2 Corinthians 5:11-21

## FURTHER DISCUSSION FROM SCRIPTURE

Read each Scripture passage and discuss the questions as a group. You may want to have each group member journal their answer first in the lines provided before discussing together, as a means of encouraging all to participate more deeply.







## WHEN WE ARE NEW IN CHRIST, WE NO LONGER LIVE FOR OURSELVES; WE LIVE FOR HIM

### 2 Corinthians 5:11-21

Since, then, we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade others. What we are is plain to God, and I hope it is also plain to your conscience. We are not trying to commend ourselves to you again, but are giving you an opportunity to take pride in us, so that you can answer those who take pride in what is seen rather than in what is in the heart. If we are “out of our mind,” as some say, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. For Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again. So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

#### 4. When we are new in Christ, we no longer live for ourselves; we live for Him.

**There is hope in this truth, as well as challenge. Are you truly living in Christ and boldly trusting Him, or might you need to renew your commitment to Him? Is the old self truly gone? If Christ’s love truly compels us, we therefore should be responding accordingly in our devotion to Him. Falling more in love with Him makes us more generous. Is this true of your life?**

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#### 5. Have you ever thought of your giving as having the ability to transform you, to keep you centered and grounded in what you truly value? If you were to make a significant Uncharted commitment in your giving, how would that transform and change other things that you currently spend your money on? What would that do to your “spending portfolio” of sorts? How might that change you spiritually?

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