

INTRODUCTION

The reflections during the *Building Bridges of Hope* series aim to capture the big ideas of the weekly sermon. The sermon series will focus on CG Midtown's core values through the lens of the book of Acts.

CG MIDTOWN VALUE: GROWTH

We seek to be transformed by the work of the Holy Spirit. We do this by putting the Scriptures into practice in our daily lives and by serving sacrificially (missionally) in the world. We challenge and stretch our hearts and minds by engaging in opportunities that promote continuous spiritual formation in the way of Jesus.

SERMON REFLECTION

Read: Acts 10-11, Romans 12:2

Overview: Our lives with Jesus are always a work in progress. The Spirit is at work as the church is on mission and that means that all of us live in a continual state of "becoming" or growing. We will never "arrive" at our full selves until we are united with Jesus in eternity. Until that time, we are open to being formed into the image of Jesus.

Reflect:

- Share about an area of your life that has been transformed by following Jesus. How would you describe the way (or process) in which the Holy Spirit brought about that change in your life?
- What stood out to you about the description of Peter's need for ongoing transformation (Acts 10, Galatians 2)?
- Why is confession of sin needed for transformation (1 John 1:8-10)?
- What is the role of community in your growth in Christ?
- How do you respond to this statement from Scott Sauls, "Discipleship leads to sacrificial love for our neighbor and if it leads anywhere else it's not of God"?

PRAYER

- *O my Divine Saviour, transform me into Yourself. May my hands be the hands of Jesus. Grant that every faculty of my body may serve only to glorify You. Above all, transform my soul and all its powers so that my memory, will, and affection may be the memory, will, and affections of Jesus. I pray for You to destroy in me all that is not of You. Grant that I may live but in You, by You, and for You, so that I may truly say, with St. Paul, "I live - now not I - but Christ lives in me." [Author unknown.]*