



**UNLEASH**  
RELEASING GOD'S RADIANT LOVE  
**SESSION 5**  
**TRANSFORMATION**

"For it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill His good purpose." Philippians 2:13

## ABOUT THIS SESSION

For many of us, the UNLEASH Initiative will be a defining moment in which God works on the process of transformation in our lives. As we will see in this session, God never stops working on us. Even someone who lived an UNLEASHED life, like the Apostle Paul was, could write, "For I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that day" (2 Timothy 1:12). We are trusting this has been and will continue to be a time of remarkable spiritual growth for the entire CR First family. We're all in this together, and God is going to do a great thing in us and through us.

## COME TOGETHER

Open your group with prayer. This should be a brief, simple prayer, in which you invite God to be with you as you meet. You can pray for specific requests at the end of the meeting or stop momentarily to pray if a particular situation comes up during your discussion.

- This session we're going to talk a lot about transformation. What do we mean when we use the word "transformed."? Who have you seen that made a significant transformation of themselves, health, career, family, appearance, etc?
- What are the differences between an appearance or surface transformation (getting made up to play a part) and core transformation (what happens to a caterpillar on the way to becoming a butterfly)?
- Why would one be more desirable (or more difficult) than the other?

## LEARN TOGETHER

We trust this small group will be able to look back on these days as a time when God worked in unexpected ways to bring about far more than we asked or thought. We are trusting this has been and will continue to be a time of remarkable spiritual growth for the entire CR First family. We're all in this together, and God is going to do a great thing in us and through us.

### READ GENESIS 17:1-8

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, "I am God Almighty; walk before me faithfully and be blameless. **2** Then I will make my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers." **3** Abram fell facedown, and God said to him, **4** "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. **5** No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations. **6** I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. **7** I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you. **8** The whole land of Canaan, where you now reside as a foreigner, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you; and I will be their God."



- Abram had been taking risks and following God for some time now. Why do you think this encounter took place now and not earlier in the story?
- If we use Abram as an example, when should we think we “arrive” and no longer should expect God to make major transformations in our lives?
- Read verse 1 again. God shows the pattern of transformation – cause (I am...), action (walk...), result (blameless). We often try to live this out in reverse, “Once I’m blameless, maybe I can walk with Almighty God.” Why is God’s order so important to experiencing true transformation?
- God changed his name from Abram (exalted father) to Abraham (father of a multitude). Why did God change Abram’s name at this stage of life?
- How does acceptance of a name like “Christian” or “Christ-follower” make a difference in a person’s life?

## GROW TOGETHER

The idea of transformation sometimes seems rather intimidating – as if God needs to radically change who we currently are for us to be more like Him. The truth is that our experiences of transformation often come through a process of multiple small transformations. The instant “radical” transformation is possible but does not happen as frequently as transformation by process.

- Using Abraham as an example, how would you describe God’s transformation process?
- What are some ways God uses a process to make a transformation in us?
- Share a significant experience where God shaped you more into the image of Jesus.
- What is a next step in your transformation process? What is God asking you to do to make you more like Jesus?

## PRAY TOGETHER

To close your time together, spend some time praying for each other.

Ask everyone to share, “How can we pray for you this week?”

