



Date: 10/22/2023

Title: Transformation Sunday

Scripture: (Baptisms and Baby Dedication)

Introduction to Analog

The word, Analog, means “something that is similar or comparable to something else.” Analog is designed to be a tangible way to take another deeper, look into each week’s Sunday morning message. Individuals, friends, small groups, and families can use Analog for further discussion and exploration of the Sunday teaching. May this tool help you explore the expansive heart of God and practice love in the ways of Jesus.

Teaching Season

This week we took a break from our teaching in Luke to celebrate our annual “Transformation Sunday.” Transformation Sunday is the week that we as a community participate in baptisms and baby dedications.

Teaching

For us, Baptism is an opportunity for participants to engage in a celebration of the work that God is doing in them. It is an embodiment practice for the transformative work of the Spirit, on the lives of believers. In reflecting on this practice, Rachel Held Evans said this: “Baptism reminds us that there’s no ladder to holiness to climb, no self-improvement plan to follow. It’s just death and resurrection, over and over again, day after day, as God reaches down into our deepest graves and with the same power that raised Jesus from the dead wrests us from our pride, our apathy, our fear, our prejudice, our anger, our hurt, and our despair.” As we join together every Transformation Sunday we get to celebrate alongside our siblings in Christ as they share their stories of transformation with us.

Listen to the teaching [online](#) or on the DCC App

Opening Question for the Group: Start your group discussion with the question below.

1) What was your favorite birthday and why?

Questions for Discussion or Reflection

Here are some questions for discussion or reflection. Don't feel like you have to cover them all, and you may have questions of your own to ask. The Spiritual Practice for this week could be very meaningful for you or your group, so plan on 10 minutes or so for this exercise. If you are using this in a group context, read through these questions and the Spiritual Practice before your group meets to familiarize yourself with this material. You may want to send this out to the group before you meet.

1. Think about a few ceremonies, sacraments, rituals, or markers of major life-events (i.e. weddings, communions, getting a tattoo when a loved one has passed, etc.) why do you think humans have developed these practices? Are there any such practices in your own life that hold special significance?
2. If you've been baptized, share a bit about what that experience was like?
3. As we consider baptisms origins, as a symbol of participating with the divine, what does participation with the divine look like? Put another way, if you were to get baptized today, what story would you tell of your life with the divine?

Spiritual Practice:

This week for our formation practice, we invite you to listen to our guided time of prayer and reflection. You can listen to this guided prayer by clicking on the link below. You can also access the spiritual formation podcast through the DCC App.

[Spiritual Formation Podcast: Embodiment & The Image of God](#)