

Week 1 - "Because He Lives"

The Battle Against Worldly Influence

Big Idea: Because Jesus lives, we don't have to be shaped by the world around us; we can offer our whole lives to God in worship and be transformed by the renewing of our minds.

Opening Question

Where did you experience the "battle" we talked about Sunday in your own life this week?

[Read Romans 12:1–2](#)

Discussion

1. *When you hear the phrase "Worship is warfare," what does Romans 12:1–2 help you understand about what we mean by worship?*
2. *Paul begins by appealing to believers "by the mercies of God." Why is it important that Christian obedience begins with what God has already done for us rather than what we are trying to do for Him?*
3. *What does it practically mean to "present your bodies as a living sacrifice"? What parts of everyday life are we most tempted to separate from our worship of God?*
4. *Paul warns us not to be "conformed to this world." What are some ways our culture shapes our thinking, values, and desires without us even realizing it?*
5. *Where do you see the greatest tension right now between what our culture says is good, desirable, or important and what the gospel says is good, desirable, or important?*

6. *Think about the voices influencing you—social media, entertainment, politics, advertising, friends, career, etc. Which ones have the greatest power to shape the way you think?*
7. *Paul doesn't merely say, "Stop being conformed." He says, "Be transformed by the renewal of your mind." What is the difference between simply avoiding worldly behavior and actually becoming a transformed person?*
8. *"Because He Lives" was written during a season of significant cultural uncertainty. How does the resurrection of Jesus change the way Christians respond to fear about where our culture or world is headed?*
9. *The song declares, "Because He lives, I can face tomorrow." What are you facing right now where resurrection hope needs to have a greater influence on you than fear?*
10. *What practices has God used most effectively to renew your mind? What could you intentionally incorporate into your life more consistently?*
11. *Where can you identify a particular "pattern of this world" that has influenced you more than you would like to admit? What would actively resisting that influence look like this week?*

Closing Question

Based on tonight's passage, what truth do you need to actively remember and believe this week?

Prayer Prompts

- **Renew our minds:** Ask God to reveal places where worldly thinking has quietly shaped our values, desires, fears, or priorities and to renew us through His truth.
- **Strength to resist:** Pray for one another concerning specific cultural pressures or temptations identified during the discussion.

- **Whole-life worship:** Ask God to help us present our bodies, schedules, relationships, work, money, and decisions to Him as acts of worship.