



Session 1

Becoming Like Jesus and Love

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=We0MiholfbM>

PART ONE: Christlikeness

- Watch the video using the link above watching the section “**WHY IS CHRISTLIKENESS IMPORTANT?**”

PAUSE THE VIDEO WHEN “PAUSE” APPEARS ON THE SCREEN

As a group reflect on these questions

- Chris Wright claimed that God’s whole purpose in calling us was for the purpose of conforming us to the person of Jesus. Try to remember the Gospel message that drew you into the Kingdom of God. Did anyone talk to you about the fact that becoming a Christian is about an ongoing transformative journey into Christlikeness?
- Vaughan Roberts spoke about this transformative journey into Christlikeness as being something that “restores our true humanity” If you were talking to someone who was a new Christian how would you describe that journey?
- Krish Kandiah noted that “unless the character of Christ is being formed in us, we are not Christians” This could be a shock for someone who thought that becoming a Christians was just about “praying a sinner’s prayer” which means “I’m in” no matter what. How would you explain what Chris is talking about to someone who was interested in the Christian faith?
- Could someone attend Westlake for a period of time and not be aware that Christians are called to become like Christ?
- What in this section of the video did you find most challenging personally?

PART TWO: Cultivating the Fruit of the Spirit LOVE

- It would be helpful to maximise the impact of this study if members of the group could memorise these two verses ²² **But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,** ²³ **gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Galatians 5:22-23 (NIVUK)**
- ⁶ **For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love. Galatians 5:6** Paul says that ultimately what matters is **“faith expressing itself through love”** How exactly do we express faith through love?
- ¹⁴ **We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love each other. Anyone who does not love remains in death. 1 John 3:14 (NIVUK)** What according to John is the evidence that someone has truly become a Christian and moved from death to life? How would someone coming Westlake see that **“we love each other”**
- Christian love has been defined as **“putting the needs of others before our own”** in what area of your life do you find doing that most challenging?
- **PLAY THE DVD**

Tonight, thinking about Christlikeness and Love what have you

- learned
- been challenged by?
- are confused by or are unsure about?

PRAY

- Pray that God will help us all grow more and more like Jesus
- Pray that people may see the reality of our faith in the way we express love to others



Session 2

Becoming Like Jesus and Joy

- Watch the video on “How do we become like Jesus”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XiGRe2HGfQ0>

- **PAUSE THE VIDEO WHEN TOLD**

PART A – Christlikeness

Reflect on the following questions

- Rachel Gardner says when it comes to becoming more like Jesus “it doesn’t happen overnight” and that there is no “bar code Christianity” How would you explain what she is saying to someone who wanted to understand the relationship and difference between conversion (coming to Jesus) and sanctification (growing to be like Jesus) ?
- Krish Kandiah spoke about a “transformation triangle” (from Dallas Willard incidentally) Can you recall those three points and how this works out in our journey of Christlikeness? Did you find this helpful?
- Chris Wright noted that Christlikeness requires a first step, what is that first step? Secondly, he says Jesus needs to fill every aspect of our life. Thirdly, it happens through a similar process taken by actors to play an historic character. How would you help a new believer to live out this third step in daily life?

PART B – Cultivating Christlikeness JOY

- What brings you joy in life?
- Do you think there is a difference between joy and happiness?

Philippians is often called the Epistle of Joy because of its focus on joy. Here is what says:

- Further, my brothers and sisters, **rejoice in the Lord!** It is no trouble for me to write the same things to you again, and it is a safeguard for you. 3:1
- **Rejoice in the Lord always.** I will say it again: rejoice! 4:4
- **I rejoiced greatly in the Lord** that at last you renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you were concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. 4:10
- Why do you think Paul, then a prisoner in a Roman dungeon, puts such an emphasis on joy when writing to the Philippians?

- What does it mean to **“rejoice in the Lord”**? How does a church community help us do that?
- Paul commands us to be joyful but can joy be commanded? Is it a choice?
- Paul speaks about the concern of the Philippians bringing him joy, when was the last time you experienced **“great joy”** because of a fellow believer or because of an experience you had of Christian community?
- **¹²Then all the people went away to eat and drink, to send portions of food and to celebrate with great joy, because they now understood the words that had been made known to them. ¹⁸Day after day, from the first day to the last, Ezra read from the Book of the Law of God. They celebrated the festival for seven days, and on the eighth day, in accordance with the regulation, there was an assembly. Nehemiah 8**
- Nehemiah 8 talks about a festival which stirred up great joy among God’s People. What was the cause of this joy? Have you ever experienced something similar? If someone who wasn’t a believer attended Westlake’s worship services, came to a small group and attended our prayer meetings for a month would they understand from that experience that joy is a natural characteristic of Jesus’ disciples? How do we allow for joy to be expressed in our church life?
- **And the disciples were continually filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit. Acts 13:52**
- What do you think is the connection between the Holy Spirit and joy? How would people have seen that the disciples were filled with joy? What are the implications of this for you? For us as a church?
- **¹³But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. 1 Peter 4**
- How can joy and suffering be connected? Does anyone have an example of this?
- **PLAY THE DVD**
- What did you agree with, disagree with or were unsure about?

PRAY

- Pray that the Jesus increasingly takes up “full residence” in your life. This might be best done in a period of silence.
- Someone has said that “Joy is peace expressed and peace is joy at rest” Pray for yourself, the group and for us as a church that the Holy Spirit would bring a deeper sense of joy in our relationship with God



Session 3

Becoming Like Jesus and Peace

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SxwFZgWu_As

- WATCH VIDEO ... On “How important is the Bible in the process of becoming like Jesus?”
- PAUSE THE VIDEO WHEN INDICATED

PART A: Christlikeness

Reflect on these questions as a group

- Chris Wright said that we need “**the authentic Jesus of the Scriptures**” if we are to know Him and become like Him. How do we in practical terms get know Jesus through the word of God? What role do the Gospels in particular play in this?
- Mark Greene says that the bible is both like a mirror and a light. What do you think he means by that? What parts of the Bible have had the most profound impact on you in terms of becoming more like Jesus?
- Vaughan Roberts said the bible is not simply “law” How would you explain that idea to someone who thinks the bible is just a book laying out rules? When was the last time you changed in some way because you were inspired to change by something in God’s Word that wasn’t a direct command to stop or not do something or start doing something?

PART B -Cultivating Christlikeness ... PEACE

As Christians we have objective peace with God because of what He did through the Cross of Christ but peace is also about a subjective experience. Look at **Philippians 4:6-7** What actions are connected to us experiencing this peace that God offers? Can you describe a time when this happened in your life?

- **⁶Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.**

- We have “**peace with God**” and are to experience “**the peace of God**” but there is also a third dimension to peace in the life of a disciples of Jesus. Jesus talks about it in the Sermon on the Mount and Paul draws attention to it in **Romans 12:18 & 14:19**. How according to Paul do we build this reputation of being “peacemakers?” What does that mean practically in a marriage? in a family? among friends? in a work place? in a church?
- **Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Mat 5**
- **If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Romans 12**
- **Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace. Romans 14**
- **PLAY THE DVD**
- What did you agree with, disagree with or were unsure about?

PRAY

- Pray that God’s Word would be “living and active” in our lives and church. Pray that the Word of God would shape us as disciples and as a church to reflect Jesus more clearly
- Thank God for peace with Him through Christ.
- Pray that we would be peacemakers in our home, families, workplaces and church.
- Pray for any specific situations that people are facing in which they need to experience peace or work for peace



Session 4

Becoming Like Jesus and Faithfulness

NOTE; we are studying the fruit out of sequence with the order they appear in Galatians to allow our preaching team to tackle particular topics on the date they are available

- **WATCH VIDEO ... On “Have you seen any personal changes?”**
- **PAUSE THE VIDEO WHEN INDICATED**

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=be6z7Gd_8ml

PART A – Christlikeness

Reflect on the following questions as a group

- Mark Green shared his new sense of a “deep tranquillity” that knows that God loves him and is with him no matter what. What similar types of changes have members of the group experienced? What led up to those changes? What have been their result?
- Andy Hawthorne tells his staff that we aren’t what we should be, and we are also not what we were. And if there is not that “I’m not what I was” there is something wrong. How do respond to these statements?
- Nicky Gumbel spoke about things that changed immediately and others that just take a long time. Can you relate to this “double vision” view of how we change to be like Jesus ? Do you think we overemphasise one over the other in church? Should we?

PART B -Cultivating Christlikeness ... FAITHFULNESS

- Rick Warren says that “faithfulness” is about being an “I can be counted on” kind of a person. Where do you think our contemporary culture most needs people who can be counted on?
- Throughout the Old Testament God is faithful to Israel even when as God’s people they are unfaithful to God what implications does that have for people seeking to reflect the image of God through their faithfulness?
- What do you think Paul means in 2 Tim 4:13 when he says?
 - **if we are faithless, he remains faithful, for he cannot disown himself.**
- A Bible dictionary defines faithfulness with these words **“Christians, like the Israelites, are to respond to God in faithfulness. Trustworthy servants must prove themselves to be faithful (1 Cor 4:2). Epaphrus and Tychicus are identified as faithful ministers of Christ (Col 1:7 ; 4:7). Paul remains faithful to God in spite of tremendous pressures (1 Tim 1:12). Timothy is to select teachers who will exhibit faithfulness, one of the outstanding characteristics of Christians. The Spirit of God enables Christians to remain faithful to both God and other believers (Gal 5:22).”**
- People today seem less committed to institutions and activities than they were in the past. How should “faithfulness” being the fruit of the Spirit make disciples of Jesus different? How do you recognise faithfulness in someone?
- **PLAY THE DVD**
- What did you agree with, disagree with or were unsure about?

PRAY

- Thank God for the ways He has been faithful to you and to you and to us as a church
- Pray that we would be faithful in following Christ and serving others, that the Holy Spirit would give us Holy Tenacity



Session 5

Becoming Like Jesus and Goodness & Kindness

- WATCH VIDEO ... On “is there a tension between evangelism and discipleship?”
- PAUSE THE VIDEO WHEN INDICATED

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SoVkTrkGJ7c>

Reflect on these questions:

- Paul Took says if we are genuinely converted, we will inevitably experience a change in our life. How does that statement agree with what Krish warns about when he talked about a “consumer gospel?”
- Tom Wright spoke about a Gospel that is bigger than just being about how to get us into heaven. In your own words what might that bigger Gospel be about?
- Chris Wright says “if birth doesn’t lead to growth then something is seriously wrong” He noted that if this happens then we have Christians who are no different from anyone else. In what areas do you think growing to be more like Jesus will make us different from others in the expat community here in Switzerland?

PART B – Goodness and Kindness

- Do you think there is a difference between being good and being kind to people?
- In Acts 14 Paul is speaking to a pagan crowd and highlights God’s goodness, what in particular does he draw attention to?
- ***‘Yet he has not left himself without testimony: he has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; he provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy.’***
- What role do you think our kindness as disciples is to have on drawing people that don’t know Christ towards knowing him? Do you think non-Christian people think of us as “kind” if not why not?

- Can you think of a case when you saw this verse in action? **“Do not be overcome by evil but overcome evil with good. “Romans 12:9**
- Paul speaks in Galatians about the need to do good and also the challenges of doing good. How do we do justice to both parts, taking the opportunities to do good for others without becoming worn out by doing good for others? How do you personally avoid being worn out doing good without being indifferent to the opportunities to do good for others that confront you?
- **Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers. Gal 6:9-10**
- **PLAY THE DVD**
- What did you agree with, disagree with or were unsure about?

PRAY

- Pray that Westlake through our lives would build a reputation for being a community of goodness and kindness.
- Pray that God would give you opportunities to do good this week



Session 6

Becoming Like Jesus and Patience

NOTE; we are studying the fruit out of sequence with the order they appear in Galatians to allow our preaching team to tackle particular topics on the date they are available

- **WATCH VIDEO ... On “What is the purpose of becoming like Jesus?”**
- **PAUSE THE VIDEO WHEN INDICATED**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KoxswN4rh2k>

PART A – Christlikeness

Reflect on these questions

- Andy Hawthorne spoke about how process of becoming more like Jesus by being released into mission. In a sense it makes us more useful to God as we become more like His son. How would you explain to a group thinking of going on a mission trip this relationship between mission and discipleship?
- Chris Wright claims that our journey into Christlikeness brings authenticity to the Gospel. Why do you think this is especially important in our contemporary culture?
- Mark Greene speaks about a transformative process makes us free. Can you illustrate what he means from your own life?

PART B – Cultivating Christlikeness ... PATIENCE

- Do you find it more difficult to have patience in a situation or with people?
- In 1 Cor 13 we are told that “love is patient” How does this express itself in a Christian community? In a Christian marriage?

- How does what Paul prays for in Colossians 1 help you in developing patience ?
- ⁹For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, ¹⁰so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, ¹¹being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might **so that you may have great endurance and patience,**
- **PLAY THE DVD**
- What did you agree with, disagree with or were unsure about?

PRAY

Pray that by embodying and expressing the fruit of the Spirit our lives would be offering “free samples of Jesus” to those around us

Where do members of the group need prayer for patience specifically in life at the moment?



Session 7

Becoming Like Jesus and Gentleness

- **WATCH VIDEO ... examples of Christlikeness**
- **PAUSE THE VIDEO WHEN INDICATED**

- **PART A ... CHRISTLIKENESS**

Reflect on the following questions

- Tom Wright shared a story that shows that part of the change he saw in a friend was actually based on “all the homework that has been done” How would you explain the cooperative homework we do as disciples and the work the Spirit does in us?
- Vaughan Roberts spoke about Arthur and how suffering in life had taught him contentment How do you think tough times can shape us into more Christlike people?

PART B – Cultivating Christlikeness ...GENTLENESS

Think about these questions together

- Paul talks about **“the humility and gentleness of Christ,”** in 2 Cor 10 what incidents in the Gospels illustrate Jesus gentleness? How are we both gentle with people without being a door mat for people?
- How does gentleness become evident? Why do you think Paul had to give this as a command to people in a church? **Let your gentleness be evident to all Philippians 4:5**
- What implications does what Peter says here have for the way we talk to people who don't share our faith, especially on social media? How do you talk about the Gospel so if people get offended its by the message of the Gospel not by the way you share it?

- But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with **gentleness and respect**, 1 Peter 3:15

- **PLAY THE DVD**

- What did you agree with, disagree with or were unsure about?

PRAY

- Ask God to help you do any “homework” you need to do, to walk in the way of Christ
- Ask the Holy Spirit to help you develop gentleness with people you find difficult



Session 8

Becoming Like Jesus and Self Control

- **WATCH VIDEO ... Examples of Christlikeness and Self Control**
https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=1&v=M7j1rFYR4W0
- **PAUSE THE VIDEO WHEN INDICATED**
- **PART A ... CHRISTLIKENESS**

Reflect on these questions

- Krish Kandiah shared a story of a mentor who taught him the ways of Christ through the life he shared not just the Bible verses he had learnt. Have you similar stories of people who have shared life with you and in that journey gave you new insights into what it meant to follow Jesus?
- Mark Greene's example spoke about an expensive forgiveness and mentoring of a thief. Have you had to pay a high price in any area of your life to become more like Jesus?
- Over the last few weeks as we have gone through this look at the fruit of the Spirit do you feel there are areas of your life where you have grown to be a bit more like Jesus?

PART B – Cultivating Christlikeness ... SELF CONTROL

Think about these questions together

- ¹⁹The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; ²⁰idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions ²¹and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. Galatians 5:19-21 (NIVUK)
- **Why do you think Paul draws attention to these examples of a lack of self control as a background to what he is going to say about the “fruit of self control”? What areas of our contemporary culture are we encouraged not have self control?**

- ¹⁰ And it came to pass, as she spake to Joseph day by day, that he hearkened not unto her, to lie by her, or to be with her. ¹¹ And it came to pass about this time, that Joseph went into the house to do his business; and there was none of the men of the house there within. ¹² And she caught him by his garment, saying, Lie with me: and he left his garment in her hand, and fled, and got him out. Genesis 39 KJV
- **The KJV version really captures the self control that Joseph exercised to the sexual temptation he was facing from Potiphar's wife. "he hearkened not unto her" "or to be with her" and finally "got him out" Joseph exercised self control by not listening to tempting words, avoiding tempting situations and finally getting himself out of tempting situations as quickly as possible. What has worked for you in terms of self control when faced with temptation? Do you think its more difficult to be self controlled in our culture today?**
- ³ Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly. ² We all stumble in many ways. Anyone who is never at fault in what they say is perfect, able to keep their whole body in check. ³ When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. ⁴ Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. ⁵ Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. ⁶ The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one's life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell. ⁷ All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures are being tamed and have been tamed by mankind, ⁸ but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹ With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. ¹⁰ Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be. ¹¹ Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? ¹² My brothers and sisters, can a fig-tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water. James 3:1-12 (NIVUK)
- **When it comes to self control perhaps the area most of us most struggle with is what we say and how we say it. What problems does James highlight in this passage if our speech is not self controlled?**
- **Matthew 27:14 says that at a certain time when questioned by Pilate "Jesus made no response to any of the charges, much to the governor's surprise." Jesus didn't say anything. How do we know when self control means responding by saying nothing and when it means saying something in a measured and perhaps restrained way?**
- **PLAY THE DVD**
- **What did you agree with, disagree with or were unsure about?**

PRAY

- **Thank God for those He has brought into your life who have helped along in the journey of becoming more like Jesus**
- **Privately commit to God those areas of your life where you can see you need more self control and ask God for his grace and forgiveness to help you to grow in this aspect of Christlikeness**



Session 9
Becoming Like Jesus
Summing It Up

Looking back over the past couple of months as we have focused on cultivating Christlikeness in our lives

- What do you feel you have learned?
- What have you found most inspiring?
- What have you found most challenging?
- Is there anything about this subject you are still confused about or unsure about?
- How do we get the balance right between the Holy Spirit's role and our role in seeing the fruit of the Spirit grow in our lives making us more like Jesus?
- Which one of the Sunday sermons or studies has personally stood out to you? Why?
- How can we as a group help each other practically to keep growing in the journey to be more like Jesus?

PRAY

- What do you think we should pray for as this study comes to an end?
- Pray that this emphasis on becoming more like Jesus wouldn't just be a sermon series and some bible studies but become an integral part of who we are as disciples and as a church?
- Pray that we would continue to grow to be like Jesus?
- Pray that as a church we could develop ways that effectively help people grow to be like Jesus
- Pray that through our lives and church that Jesus become tangible to others