DATE: Oct. 8, 2025

SERIES: BE DIFFERENT!

TOPIC: "BE AUTHENTIC"



Big Questions: What are the most popular trends you see others doing right now?

Why do you think these are so "trendy"? Do you ever find yourself going along with these trends? WHY? Or WHY NOT? What is more comfortable, to blend in with the crowd? Or to stand out all on your own? Why do you suppose so many people want to "follow the trend" instead of being different? What does our reading from tonight say we should do instead of following the trends of this world? (see Romans 12:2)

Takeaway: Just like last week, we are going to continue studying the SAME Bible passage (Romans 12:1-3) again tonight! As we look at each verse (in detail) we gain a better understanding of God's plan for our life! Last week, we talked about our bodies being a TEMPLE of the Holy Spirit. This week gets at one of the MOST IMPORTANT topics we cover in PowerLife during the whole year! What makes YOU unique? How do you FEEL about that?

GETTING STARTED

- **WELCOME!** Anyone NEW tonight? Be sure they get supplies (if REGISTERED) For those who are just visiting as a friend, they can get supplies after they officially register.
- TAKE ATTENDANCE! If you have any students on your roster who did not show, please make notes if you have an update. Or, if anyone knows them, please text them!
 - O Please make notes, and we can follow up with their families as well!

SMALL GROUP COVENANT!

- Take time to REVIEW what you included in your group covenant!
 - O Remember, what is spoken in your small group, stays in your small group.

CONNECTION QUESTION

- Have ONE STUDENT in your group pick a question to start! (see the Connection sheet)
- OR go around and share HIGHS/LOWS
 - OR use the BIG QUESTIONS (list above) to get your conversation started!

WEEKEND WORSHIP JOURNALS

• Please make sure everyone is using their Weekend Worship Journal! The goal is to complete the ENTIRE booklet this Fall! Once completed a PRIZE can be redeemed at the leader table.

OPEN YOUR BIBLES!

- Remind students to bring their Bibles EVERY Week!
 - O (we have extras in the atrium if anyone needs to borrow for the night!)
- NOTE: encourage students to work together & find the pages. HIGHLIGHT each verse!
 - (NEW TESTAMENT) Romans 12:2 (page 1373)
 - What are the first 2 word of this verse? (DON'T COPY!)
 - Why do you suppose Paul says that? What happens when everyone starts to COPY the same behavior as others?
 - What are some TRENDS you see where this is happening today?
 - Are ALL forms of COPYING bad?
 - Instead of copying others, we should let God do what? (Transform us!)
 - In your own words, what does it mean to be TRANSFORMED?
 - Think of a caterpillar, what does it become? (BUTTERFLY!)
 - O What are some other examples of transformation?
 - Keep reading Romans 12:2 <u>HOW</u> does God want to transform us into a new creation? (by changing the way we <u>THINK</u>!)
 - What are some things you "think" about yourself or others, that maybe don't sound like the voice of God?
 - How might you <u>CHANGE</u> the way you think about these things?
 - Have someone read the LAST SENTENCE of Romans 12:2!
 - What will we LEARN when we allow God to transform us by changing the way we think? (God's <u>WILL</u> for our life!)
 - o MEANING: God's purpose for your life!
- REMIND STUDENTS:
 - God created you ON PURPOSE and has an incredible PLAN for your life!
 - Let us continue encouraging each other to be transformed!

PRAY TO END THE NIGHT!

- o IDEAS: (pick one! Or multiple!) Ask if any STUDENTS want to lead the prayer?
 - Or leaders can say a prayer of Gratitude and Blessing over the group!
 - Or everyone can say the Lord's Prayer ("Our Father...") all together.

CHECK OUT AT THE LEADER TABLE!

• Please take a moment to return your folder (and roster attendance) to the leader table. If you have feedback or notes, please leave those with us as well!!

RETREAT DETAILS!

- 8th Grade Retreat coming up Saturday, Oct. 18 (please work on YES/NO/MAYBE form)
- 7th Grade Retreat coming up Sat/Sun, Nov 15/16 (more details coming soon!)

THANK YOU!! HAVE A GREAT REST OF YOUR WEEK!