

Reflections to prepare for the Week of Oct 9:

Paul wrote in Romans 12:2 “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect.” Notice that Paul tells us to be transformed ... *so that* we may discern the will of God. Could this mean that if we are not transformed, if we are not significantly different from the people we were before we became believers, then we cannot discern the will of God? In the next several weeks, we will be exploring what this transformation or renewing of our minds might be. But we’ll begin by reviewing the basis for our transformation, that is, the Gospel, the Good News. So our reflection for this week is: What is the Gospel?

You might try spending a day or two on each of the following:

- ◆ What scripture(s) or Bible stories express your understanding of the Gospel?
Some possibilities:
Joseph (Genesis 37-45)
The Exodus (esp. Exodus 14: 10-31)
Isaiah 53: 3-12, 61: 1-4
Matt 5: 3-11
Luke 4: 18-19
John 3: 16
Acts 2: 22-36
Philippians 2: 5-11
Hebrews 2: 8-18, 4:14 – 5:10
1 Peter 1: 3-5
- ◆ What is the Gospel in your own words?
- ◆ What does it mean to “believe in Jesus”?