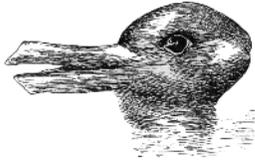
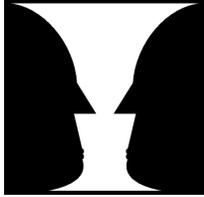


Lesson 5: The Way You Think

Icebreakers:

Look at some famous optical illusions. Point out that what you see depends on how you look at it.



Alternative:

Try this brain teaser: A man comes into the hospital severely injured. The surgeon is called in, but after examining the patient the surgeon informs the hospital staff, "I cannot operate on this man. He is my son." The surgeon is not the patient's father. Who is the surgeon? (Answer: The patient's mother)

Both of these icebreakers work (if your group hasn't seen or heard them before) because how we perceive things depends on how we think about them. This week, we look at an extraordinary result of knowing Christ - he transforms the way we think.



Watch the Video

Discussion Questions:

1. Describe your reaction to Paul's statement in Romans 9:3 "For I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, those of my own race." How far would you be willing to go to make sure someone you know heard about Jesus?
2. In Paul's world, people based their salvation on their heritage, specifically their relationship to Abraham. On what do people base their ultimate hope today?
3. Why would Paul describe Jesus as a "stone that causes men to stumble?" (Romans 9:33)
4. In Paul's day, the division between Jews and Gentiles seemed to great to mend, yet Paul devotes his life to taking the Gospel to the Gentiles. What are some divisions today that we might be tempted would be too great to cross with the Gospel?
5. Christ transformed the way Paul thought about the Gentiles (and about many other things as well - Romans 12:2). What are some ways that Christ has transformed the way you think?

Romans 12:2 (NIV84)

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.