



## **Disciple: The Story of the World and the Flesh**

**Date:** Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> February

**Speakers:** Tony Bunker & Becky Stamps

**Key Verses:** Romans 12:2

### **Talk Summary:**

The flesh is that part of all of us that, even after we become a follower of Jesus, still seeks to put our own self centred desires back on the throne of our lives. It represents our legitimate desires such as the longing for intimacy and sex, which have become disordered. That is to say they are seeking to be fulfilled outside of God's plan for us, for example through pornography. The power of the Holy Spirit can set us free from the control of our flesh, and break any addictions and unhelpful patterns of behaviour we have fallen into.

The world in this context means a climate or set of beliefs and attitudes prevalent in society which is hostile to the message of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Followers of Jesus find themselves living in the midst of this - it is 'the water that we are swimming in' - and it basically consists of the disordered desires (flesh) of everyone combined together. This does not mean everything 'out there' is bad, far from it, but there is a message widely propagated that you must have more money, possessions, sex and success to be happy and that true happiness is in getting what you want. This pulls on the flesh of every follower of Jesus and seeks to pull us off course. The answer is found in Romans 12 verse 2 - don't conform to the world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

### **Small Group Discussion**

Small Groups will be digging deeper into weekly Disciple topics through the participant's guide and video resources.

The participant's guide is designed as a journal, with plenty of space for notes, key teaching points for each session, and Chat and Reflect questions. Our small groups will be using this guide during discussions. If

you'd like a copy of the guide, simply go to your favourite book distributor and search "**Disciple Participants Guide**".

If regular reminders and short devotionals would be helpful to you, then check out the Disciple app! It contains daily devotionals for free, plus access to each week's starter film and daily content related to the course. More information on the app can be found at <http://www.ficm.org.uk/disciple-app>