

Series: "Firsthand" by Ryan and Josh Shook

Sermon: The Divine Gift of Emptiness

Chapters in the book: 2 & 5

Discussion guide:

- What is secondhand faith?
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- How do you transition from firsthand to secondhand?
- What are the dangers of secondhand?
 - How does secondhand faith lead to people leaving the faith?
 - How does secondhand faith lead to people centering the faith around something other than Jesus?
- How does secondhand faith leave one feeling empty?
 - Why is this emptiness actually helpful?
- What is the difference between trying to draw near to God and trying to win God's approval?
 - How does secondhand faith lead to trying to win God's approval?
 - How do these motives change the experience of spiritual disciplines like reading the Bible, praying and battling sin?
- Why is it so easy to fall from trying to draw near to God to trying to win His approval?
- How can open conversation with God help keep you in firsthand faith?
- How can relating to God in the way that works best for you help you stay in firsthand faith?
 - How do you relate to God best? (singing, nature, etc.)
- How can you move from Bible reading to Bible relationship?
- How can you take risks for your faith and how can that help develop real faith?