

*Plastic
Trophies*



The lies we believe
**DISCUSSION
GUIDE**

4-WEEK STUDY

ON THE LIES WE BELIEVE

WEEK 2

Discussion Guide

Matthew 3:13-17

Plastic Trophies



The lies we believe DISCUSSION GUIDE

WEEKLY READING

Primary text from this week: Matthew 3:13-17

GETTING STARTED

Goals this week: To identify and replace the lie that says “you are what you do”

Missed the sermon? Watch it at www.youtube.com/venturamissionary

Break the Ice: When you were a child what did you want to be when you grew up?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What was one thing that stood out to you from Sunday's sermon that you'd like to discuss?
2. Pastor Doug started Sunday's sermon by talking about the *plastic trophies* we tend to chase—things that promise us significance, self-worth, and identity. What is an example of a plastic trophy you have chased?
3. In his book, *Crash the Chatterbox*, Pastor Steven Furtick says that one of the biggest reasons comparison is so damaging is that we tend to compare “our behind-the-scenes with everyone else's highlight reel.” Do you agree with that? In what ways have you fallen into that trap in your own life?
4. Read **Romans 8:31-39**. What does this passage remind you about your security in Christ?
5. Read Matthew's account of Jesus' temptation in the wilderness in **Matthew 4:1-11**. In what ways do you think God's declaration of approval over Jesus in **Matthew 3:17** might have helped Him in each of His temptations? How does the fact that God loves us and is pleased with us help us when we are tempted?
6. Read Jeremiah's account of God's call on his life in **Jeremiah 1:4-5** (split your Bible in half and then flip to the right past Isaiah). Why is it significant that God knew Jeremiah and called him even before he was born? What does that mean for you and me?
7. On Sunday, Pastor Doug emphasized the fact that , even though our worth is not determined by what we do, what we do still matters. Read **Ephesians 2:10** and notice the order described in the verse. Which one comes first: the fact that we are God's handiwork (workmanship), or the fact that we are to do good works? What does that mean for you and me?
8. What are some ways that can help you remember and live in God's approval this week?



PRAYER

Pray for each other: As a group, pray for God to reveal His love and approval for all of you in Christ and empower you to live from a place of security in that love and approval.

Pray for yourself: Pray and ask God to help you remember that He loves you and is well pleased with you.

Pray for your four: Identify four people who don't know Jesus (friends, family, neighbors, or co-workers/classmates), and commit to pray for them consistently. Pray that **(1)** God would reveal Jesus to them, **(2)** that God would turn their hearts towards Him, **(3)** that God would put Christians in their path to represent Christ, and **(4)** that God would give you an opportunity to share what Christ has done in your life.

ACTION STEPS

This week, as you are getting ready in the morning, remind yourself that God loves you and is pleased with you by reading the words of Matthew 3:17 over yourself. Then, live in grateful obedience throughout the rest of the day!

NOTES
