Group Questions – Week 1: Unlearning Religion

10/25/26 – Pastor Kirby

Getting to Know Me Questions:

- If you were an Olympian, in which sport would you wish to compete? Why?
- What was your faith experience and view of God as a Child? How has that played into your adult faith journey?

Into the Bible Questions:

- What's something from this week's teaching that you learned, stood out, was interesting?
- Summary: Many people would claim to be Christians, but we are living according to self, and not to God. In fact, too often we fall into patterns of religious rule-following rather than genuine relationship. What was intended to be a relationship with God has become a religion ***about*** God.
  Sometimes we have only information, when we need transformation.
  In Sermon on the Mount, Christ is trying to move us from religious duty to genuine relationship with God. One primary focus of Sermon on the Mount is to unlearn what we think we know, and to embrace a life lived fully through Christ's transformational love. **Our primary goal is not information, but transformation.**
- How to beat judging: Unlearn judging and learn how to love. A critical spirit kills relationships. So, when you treat others the want to be treated, this becomes the practical application of God's call to righteousness. And when you fall short, ask the Holy Spirit to lead you to the righteousness of God and transform your heart.
- **READ:** Matthew 7:1-6 and Matthew 23:23-24
- As believers we are called not to judge, but we are expected to haver sound discernment. What is the difference in judgement and discernment concerning others?
- As a believer, how do we set strong boundaries while still demonstrating love? What's an example from your own life?
- Pastor Kirby said 'When you move something from God's righteousness to man-made rules, it doesn't become more righteous, it becomes more religious.'
- What are some examples of added man-made rules to faith that have changed the standards of God's love?
- Describe an instance in your life where you had a critical, judgmental spirit towards someone, then later realized you judged too harshly? Were you able to correct the situation?
- We are to move from critical in spirit to poor in spirit. Meaning we are to humble ourselves before God in order to grow in that relationship. The role of the Church is not to judge the world, but to introduce them to Jesus. We are not above others; we are alongside them.
- **READ:** Matthew 7:12 and Matthew 5:3
- How would you define "poor in spirit" in your life? What do you think Jesus means when the kingdom of heaven is for the poor in spirit?
- What are some areas of life where you need Jesus to lift you over the bar of self-righteousness? (ex. Pride, anger, negative attitude, critical spirit, compassion and mercy, hatred of others etc)

Application Questions:

- **READ:** The sermon on the mount Matthew 5-7
- Jot down your impressions of Jesus' teaching and pray over and journal the points that the Holy Spirits highlights and the qualities that you need guidance in your walk of faith.