

October 30th, 2016
Sermon Notes

Growth Group Discussion

Fall Session

Week 7

We use these times to *grow spiritually and to deepen our relationships*.

Celebration Highlight Opportunity

We want to keep becoming a loving, supportive community where we celebrate all kinds of victories and milestones in each other's lives.

Whether it is getting a new job that you're excited about, overcoming a character struggle you have been wrestling with, a victory at school or in your marriage, getting a new friend to church, etc, it feels great to have your friends around you know what's going on and rejoice with you.

Thus, a great bonding activity for your growth group could be this — have a few or many people in your group share a victory they're excited about in their life.

Bible Character Discussion

- What struck you about Pilate's character?
- How do you see the fear of man may have hurt Pilate the most?
- Some Christians in later church culture described Pilate as a victim, that he was in an impossible position? Do you agree or disagree with that, and why?
- What are other bible characters that you see the fear of man affecting?

Fear Top 10 List

Do any of these resonate with you? Please explain.

1. Do you ever feel as if you might be exposed as an impostor?
2. Are you always second-guessing decisions because of what other people might think?
3. Are you afraid of making mistakes that will make you look bad in other people's eyes?
4. Do you get easily embarrassed? If so, people and their perceived opinions probably define you.
5. Do you ever lie, especially the little white lies? Lying and other forms of living in the dark are usually ways to make ourselves look better before other people. They also serve to cover our shame before them.
6. Are you jealous of other people?
7. Do other people often make you angry or depressed? Are they making you crazy? If so, they are probably the controlling center of your life.
8. When you compare yourself with other people, do you feel good about yourself?
9. Do you rush to see how many people liked your latest post on Facebook, Instagram, etc, and get slightly depressed if your numbers are low?
10. Do you feel like you "need" the approval of others, and are insecure if you don't have it? If so, you are controlled by them."

Getting Deeper

- Read Matt 22:15-16 — They said about Jesus, "You aren't swayed by others, because you pay no attention to who they are." Do you think that Jesus cared anything about what people thought or cared nothing about what they thought? Or perhaps a dynamic tension between the two? Please explain.

Growth Group Feedback

Here in Jacksonville, we have a strong culture of innovation and improvement. We know we are not perfect, and we want to constantly strive to get better at reflecting Jesus and maturing spiritually.

Since growth groups are a key building block of the maturation process, please write on a piece of paper some valuable feedback that only YOU can provide.

Please simply let us know,
“What’s working, What’s not, and Why.”

You can hand it in to your growth group facilitator, host, or Paul Trimble.

Not anonymous is optimal, but you may remain anonymous if needed. Thank You!

Family Reminders

New Here?

Attend our **Newcomer’s Lunch**
TODAY at 12:30 p.m. in the Annex

This is a chance to meet a few new people, and hear a little bit more about our church family. Lunch is on us.