



COMMUNITY Groups

DECEMBER 11TH & 18TH, 2016 | OUT OF THE WATER, INTO APPROVAL

OPEN

- Describe a time when somebody said something that encouraged you. Why was it so meaningful?
- What stood out to you the most from Ryan's message? How was God speaking to you on Sunday?

DISCUSS & APPLY

- Read Matthew 3.13-17. What does Jesus mean when he says that his baptism is proper to "fulfill all righteous"? In your own words, what is the significance of Jesus' baptism? What stands out to you in v. 16-17, and why? How do you think this event affected Jesus' confidence and demeanor as he started his ministry?
- Have you ever had a moment where you strongly and unmistakably felt God's approval for you as his child? What happened? On a scale of 1-10, how natural is it for you currently to walk before God in this status of affirmation? Why did you choose that number?
- Read Hebrews 10.19-25. What themes in these verses intersect with what we saw in Matthew 3? In what ways do you personally struggle with having a "guilty conscience" in your relationship with God? What do you think the writer means by phrases like "confidence" and "full assurance"?
- Have someone re-read v. 24-25. What role do you think others should play in helping us live out our new identity in Christ? How could we as a group help remind one another of the love God has for us?

COMMIT

What is one specific way that could more confidently rest in God's love for you this week?

PRAY

Instead of praying as a group, have everyone pass some form of ID from your wallet to the group leader. Have them shuffle up the cards and then pass the pile around the circle, with each person taking the card on the top. Find whoever's card you took and get their phone number (and give back their ID!). Your job is to text them tomorrow and ask how you can pray for them. Keep in touch throughout the week and think of ways you can encourage them.