MONTEREY CHURCH
TRUTH . LOVE . POWER

SMALL GROUPS MINISTRY
DISCUSSION GUIDE

WELCOME

As a child, what is something you believed in that turned out to be a lie?

WORSHIP

Listen to "What a God" - Kari Jobe Carnes
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1gDpiJSRNqM

WORD

Message Title: "This Is Real"| *Luke: Good News for Broken People (Part 20)*| Pastor Bryan James, 10/25/26

Scriptures: Luke 7:18-35

1. What part of the message or Scriptures stood out to you this week? Why?
2. What is the theme that Pastor Bryan desires for us to follow through Sunday's teaching? What are some of the questions he wants us to reflect on and ask ourselves?
3. ***Read Luke 7:18-23****.* What do these questions reveal about what is of utmost importance to John?
   - How does Jesus answer these questions? How might John interpret his reply?
   - What six things characterize his ministry?
   - Reference v. 23, what does Jesus mean by this? (How can we be "trapped" by appearances?)
4. ***Read vv. 24-28.*** What questions does Jesus put to the people? How does Jesus affirm John?
5. ***Read v. 29.*** How does the people's response to John contrast to that of the Pharisees in v. 29?
6. ***Read v. 31-35*****.** The Pharisees were good at justifying their own wisdom. What is evidence of what is true and real? (i.e., How is wisdom proved right?)
7. **Application & Reflection Questions:** *Read also James 1:2-8 and Romans 12:1-2.*
   - If you could ask Jesus one question today about a decision you are facing, what would it be?
   - What are some ways we can test the 'realness' of a vision/word/instruction that we believe is from God? (i.e., How do we examine our ideas/visions/dreams in light of God's truth?)
   - If it is from God, why is perseverence important? What reward comes with persevering in the faith?
   - If it is a delusion, what is the wise thing to do?

WITNESS

How can your resolute faith in God in difficult circumstances bear witness to others?

CLOSING PRAYER & INTERCESSION

Share prayer requests and pray for one another.
Allow space to wait and listen for God to speak, as you pray.