

Community Group Discussion Guide

Step 01: Recap what our current series is all about.

Note: Remind the group what series we're currently on (since not everyone will have been at church recently) and read through the series description provided below to refresh everyone on what it's all about.

Series Title: Jesus Over Everything

Description: One of Jesus' favorite tools for explaining His mission was to teach using parables—short stories that packed as much punch as they did a point. In Matthew 13:45-46, Jesus teaches the parable of a man who sold everything he owned to possess a single pearl of surpassing value and beauty. The point, is that Jesus is the pearl. The punch, is that we must be willing to sell all we have to belong to Jesus, and for Jesus to belong to us. The question is, are we willing?

Step 02: Recap of this week's message.

Note: Read through the message outline with everyone briefly. You can stop and make comments as you see fit or read straight through it. Make sure you take time to read through the main text.

Message Title: Jesus Over Reputation

Main Text: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

Supporting Texts:

Message Outline:

Turning our reputation into an idol leads to:

1: Doing Good Things for the Wrong Reasons

—The hypocrites were giving, praying, and fasting, but to receive praise from others rather than to give it to God

2: Serving Ourselves, Not God

—Ultimately, the danger is that we are no longer serving God, but ourselves.

Step 03: Lead group discussion.

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Note: Do your best to keep the discussion going. Make sure you have read through the questions beforehand and are primed with thoughts of your own. Make everyone get specific with *how* they will apply this message in their own lives and in community—*no vague ideas allowed!*

Specific to this week's message:

1. Pastor Jason talked about how we are all a mixed bag of motives. Why is it important for us to understand this about ourselves?
2. How can we take inventory of our own motives to discover how much we are driven by pleasing and praising God by doing good, as opposed to being driven by other motives?

General questions:

3. How did this message encourage you? How did it convict you?
4. What is your plan for applying this message to your personal/daily life?
5. What might it look like for us to live this out in community?
6. Was there anything about this message that stood out to you?