

This guide is intended to help you be better prepared to make disciples in your small group. It is based on the Sunday sermon listed in the top right corner. If you missed Sunday, make sure you listen to the sermon before your small group meeting. The messages are also on our website.

Prayerfully considering these questions will help equip you to practice mutual ministry with your family at Vertical. While it's not likely that all of these questions will be asked during your small group meeting, we believe that your personal walk with Christ will be strengthened as you meditate upon the truths that God is teaching you through His Word.

1. Where are you tempted to present a polished image—at church, work, or at home? How would you react if that image were shattered and people saw the real you?
2. How has social media or “doom scrolling” shaped what you value most? What does it reveal about whether you prize image or integrity?
3. What outward appearances or “counterfeit beauties” do you focus on more than cultivating the inward character God delights in? How does Scripture redirect your priorities (cf. 1 Sam 16:7; Isa 53:2)?
4. What makes Christ’s holiness beautiful to you? Where do you see His beauty in the Gospels, and how does that reframe what you call beautiful?
5. What happens to others when you live for your own agenda instead of God’s will? How have you seen “burned fields” in relationships caused by selfishness?
6. Absalom used manipulation to get his way. Where are you tempted to use control or coercion instead of honest conversation and prayerful dependence? How can trusting Christ’s sufficiency free you from that?
7. Are there relationships where you’ve been settling for “staged peace” or false reconciliation? What would it look like to seek genuine confession, forgiveness, and reconciliation?
8. Think of someone in your life whose quiet faithfulness reflects Christ’s beauty. How does their example encourage you to treasure integrity over image?
9. Describe a time you chose to protect your image rather than your integrity. In light of this passage, what would you do differently now?
10. How does knowing Christ’s integrity is credited to you (2 Cor 5:21) and being formed in you (Gal 4:19; John 15:5) give you hope and strength as you pursue the beauty of holiness this week?