

Group Life.

WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER



ICEBREAKER (10 MINUTES)

What do you consider your greatest accomplishment?

OR

Jesus' question to the rich young ruler helped change his perspective. Has someone ever asked you a question that helped you shift your perspective and grow in your faith? What was it?

INTRODUCTION (5-10 MINUTES)

Read Mark 10:17-27.

What stood out to you the most from this week's sermon?

INTO THE WORD (25 MINUTES)

Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-3. The young man was focused on his spiritual achievements and on paper, it looked like he would have made a great disciple. However, Jesus wanted him to see that he needed to shift his perspective. What accomplishments did he view in the wrong way?

HOST Guidance: The rich young ruler focused on his spiritual accomplishments rather than the motivation behind them. He was a religious leader, like Paul was. He was successful at an early age, which implies that he was also dedicated and hard-working. He also calls Jesus "Good Teacher" instead of the "proper" name of just "Teacher", showing that he was humble and earnest enough to recognize who Jesus was. However, all of this meant nothing because he was not willing to give up his wealth. He had a heart issue of seeing his spiritual achievements as earning him faith and favor.

Read Galatians 2:21 and Proverbs 11:4-8. Where does spiritual achievement lead us? If we think this way, what does it cause in us?

HOST Guidance: Spiritual achievements should be an outpouring of our love for God and desire to follow Him, not a checklist. Viewing our spiritual achievements as the goal of our faith will

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cause us to become self-dependent instead of God-dependent. If we think this way, it can cause us to look at things like praying, reading our Bible, and going to church as things that we have to do or make us good people rather than as tools to help us grow closer to God and know Him more. Righteousness should be a goal of our faith, but it comes from God, not our spiritual achievements.

Read Matthew 6:33, Romans 3:21-26 and Philippians 3:4-11. Jesus' question to the rich young man was to help him see there is a difference between spiritual achievements and true righteousness. What do these verses tell us true righteousness is? Who or where does it come from? What should it look like in our lives?

HOST Guidance: The difference between spiritual achievements and righteousness is that while spiritual achievements are taking part in religious practices, righteousness comes through us by actively surrendering all to follow Jesus. We should seek God's kingdom first, in all things, not what we want. We need to recognize that it is only through Jesus that we are forgiven of our sins and receive His righteousness and eternal life. We should see that righteousness comes only through faith in God, empowering us to grow. Finally, as Christ followers, we are called to pursue righteousness by surrendering to Him.

APPLICATION (25 MINUTES)

HOST Guidance: Below are several application questions for your group to consider and discuss. Choose as many questions as you have time to discuss, but try to close with the last question below.

How do you tend to over-emphasize spiritual achievements in your own life? What are you tempted to focus on that creates a false sense of security?

What do you do currently or what could you do to shift your focus from spiritual achievements to righteousness? How do you see God working out righteousness in your life now?

God is pleased when we have faith, turn from sin, love Him, and love people. How can you practically do these things in your day-to-day life?

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Have you accepted Jesus' invitation to surrender false security and follow Him, our true security? If so, what is one way you can continue to surrender to Him this week or during this season of life? If not, are you ready to take that next step of surrender?

PRAYER (10 MINUTES)

Our Savior and Lord Jesus, thank you for loving us enough to call us to follow You. We thank you for your kindness and care in paying the penalty for our sin by dying on the cross and offering us eternal life in You through faith. We thank you for working out righteousness in us as we choose to follow You. We ask that You help us focus not on spiritual achievements, but on the true righteousness that comes through following You, and we ask for forgiveness for the times we have not. You are compassionate and good and we trust that You are our true security. Amen.