



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Week of September 17, 2017

Welcome to the fall term of small groups at New Day!



GETTING STARTED

What is one highlight from your summer?

What are you hoping to get out of your involvement in this small group?

[During your first meeting, take time to go over the Small Group Guidelines and Covenant; your Leader(s) will have these available.]



LOOKING BACK

Looking back on Sunday, is there anything that stood out to you, confused you, or challenged you?



MY STORY

What is an example of a way you have pursued happiness that ultimately was unsatisfying? (You don't have to get super-personal; it's the first week!)

Have you ever recognized a pursuit of happiness that ultimately was "junk food," and traded that for a godly pursuit of righteousness? If so, what did that look like?

4

DIGGING DEEPER

When Jesus said, “God blesses those who hunger and thirst for justice, for they will be satisfied” (Matthew 5:6, NLT), He wasn’t talking about people who long for greater justice and righteousness around us. He was talking about having a deep desire for justice and righteousness within us. Read the passage below and answer the questions.

Matthew 7:1-5 (NLT) 1 “Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. 2 For you will be treated as you treat others. The standard you use in judging is the standard by which you will be judged. 3 And why worry about a speck in your friend’s eye when you have a log in your own? 4 How can you think of saying to your friend, ‘Let me help you get rid of that speck in your eye,’ when you can’t see past the log in your own eye? 5 Hypocrite! First get rid of the log in your own eye; then you will see well enough to deal with the speck in your friend’s eye.”

How can applying this teaching help you operate as a healthier small group?

“Hypocrite” literally meant “actor” in the Jesus’ day. How do we become hypocrites when we point out injustice and unrighteousness in other people?

One of the most common criticisms of churches is that they are full of hypocrites. How can we change that perception?

What are some of the things we trust in today that show a lack of trust in Christ?

5

BRINGING IT HOME

This week, consider reading through the Beatitudes morning (Matthew 5:3-10). They are eight conditions that Jesus says are blessed. Pray that God would lead you into the kind of life Jesus describes there.

6

PRAYER REQUESTS

How can we take practical steps to being an answer to these prayers?