

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

OVER UNDER SIDEWAYS DOWN, week starting 02.19.2023

KEY SCRIPTURES:

Matthew 23:27 “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of the bones of the dead and everything unclean.”

Luke 18:9-14 “To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’ But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’ I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

Matthew 23:5 “Everything they do is for other people to see.”

Ephesians 2:8-9 it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.

Philippians 2:5-8 In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage. Rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross!

Philippians 2:3 in humility value others above yourselves...

Philippians 2:9-11 Therefore, God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

QUESTIONS:

1. Have you ever had an experience with something that looked great on the website, in the box, or on the outside, but was another story on the inside?
2. Share a specific time where you have used some public platform (work, church, school, LinkedIn, social media, etc) to project a "better-than-real-life" image.
3. Read Luke 18:9-14 above. We shake our heads at that jerk Pharisee. I mean, thank God we're not like *that* guy who thinks he's not like the other guy--but we have our own way of saying that same thing: “You're not going to talk to me that way... I'm not going to be the one to apologize... it's not fair... I don't need help...” Or even having a hard time saying "I was wrong... it was my fault." Can you think of any other examples? which one(s) have you found yourself saying or thinking?
4. Matthew 18:14 offers the counterintuitive truth that the way to greatness is down, not up; where we achieve true greatness by giving up our rights and serving others. Can you think of someone who gained more influence in your life because of their humility?
5. Arrogance and insecurity are two sides of the same prideful coin. They show up as comparison, self-centeredness, jealousy, and discontent. They blind us from our own problems while projecting them on others. Is there a time you felt pride (or insecurity) creeping in that you'd be willing to share?
6. In your own words, how would you explain the difference between *being* humbled & humbling yourself?
7. Share an area of life where you have the hardest time humbling yourself. When the group prays, pray for these things together.