




COMMUNITY GUIDE

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WEEKLY APPLICATION

TAKEAWAY: We don't have to hide behind the allusion of perfection.

HEAD CHANGE: We tell children to behave like adults, but Jesus tells the adults to model themselves after the children.

HEART CHANGE: We can trust God as a preschool child trusts her/his parents.

LIFE CHANGE: Come to Jesus like a little child.

OVERVIEW

Many of us constantly battle with trying to live up to the expectations of others or trying to live up to our own unrealistic expectations. For others, we find ourselves wrestling with the lie of the expectations we think God has for us. If you battle with the pursuit of perfectionism, you may even find yourself "almost" lying in order to show an image of yourself that's not real. Or maybe you avoid something that you'd like to do because you're afraid you won't hit the standard, so you'll avoid it altogether. Or you obsess over something to get it just right without realizing that perfectionism will hinder progress while telling yourself, "this is the price I pay to be successful." So how do we avoid the burden of perfection? Jesus tells us to, "become like little children."

"We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ."

-2 Corinthians 10:5-

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What situations bring out your inner perfectionist?
2. There are three types of perfectionism: self-oriented, externally-oriented, and others-oriented. When was the last time you struggled with one of these kinds of perfectionism? How did the struggle make you feel?
3. How can we focus on Christ and the work He's doing in our lives rather than on our desire to make ourselves better on our own?

CLOSE IN PRAYER

Father, thank You for sending Your Son to live the perfect life we never could. Thank You for the sacrifice He made, once and for all, to make us right with You. Help us to extend the love and grace You've given us to the people in our lives this week and to remind us that we are your children too. In Jesus' name, amen.

IN THIS TOGETHER!