



# COMMUNITY GUIDE

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## WEEKLY APPLICATION

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**TAKEAWAY:** True spirituality frees us to live joyfully in the present, but it requires going back in order to go forward.

**HEAD CHANGE:** To become aware of the work that God is doing within you.

**HEART CHANGE:** Becoming more concerned with what's on the inside of our lives than we with what's on the outside.

**LIFE CHANGE:** Slow down to allow Jesus to touch the deeply entrenched parts of our lives

## OVERVIEW

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Why are so many of us living lives with deeply entrenched parts of us apparently untouched by the power and mercy of Jesus? For most of us, it is due to a resistance to looking at our own past and unwillingness to wrestle with its implications. As a result, we limit our spiritual maturity and struggle to grow in healthy relationships. Scripture and life teach us that an intricate, complex relationship exists between the kind of person we are today and our past. We must recognize that we have been shaped by things other than our status as children of God who have been made right by Jesus Christ. Therefore, we must do the hard work of discipleship that is necessary to let go of unbiblical ways of living and to learn to live in true freedom.

“Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed – not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence – continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling. For God is at work within you both to will and to work for His good pleasure.”

-Philippians 2:12-13-

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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1. What stood out most from this teaching?
2. Which of the “Three Lies from Satan” are you most likely to believe? (*performance, popularity, possessions*)
3. Family patterns from the past inevitably play out in present relationships and behaviors. How did you respond to the idea that you have been shaped by your family? What unhealthy patterns have you adopted in your own life? (With humility, involve a close friend or your spouse to help you discover blind spots you may not be aware of?)
4. According to Jesus, success is becoming the person God calls you to become and doing what God calls you to do in his way, and according to his timetable. The final temptation Satan posed to Jesus in the wilderness was to do what God had called him to do but not in God's way or according to God's timetable. In what ways might this be a temptation for you?

## CLOSE IN PRAYER

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Heavenly Father, awaken me to your presence within me, around me, above me, and below me. Give me grace to follow you into the unknown, into your next place in my journey with you. Help me identify the lies of Satan in my life and to replace them with your truth that I am a child of God, deeply loved by you. With the help of your Holy Spirit, help me recognize the negative patterns of my past that play out in my present. In Jesus' name, amen.

**IN THIS TOGETHER!**