

4 WEEKS



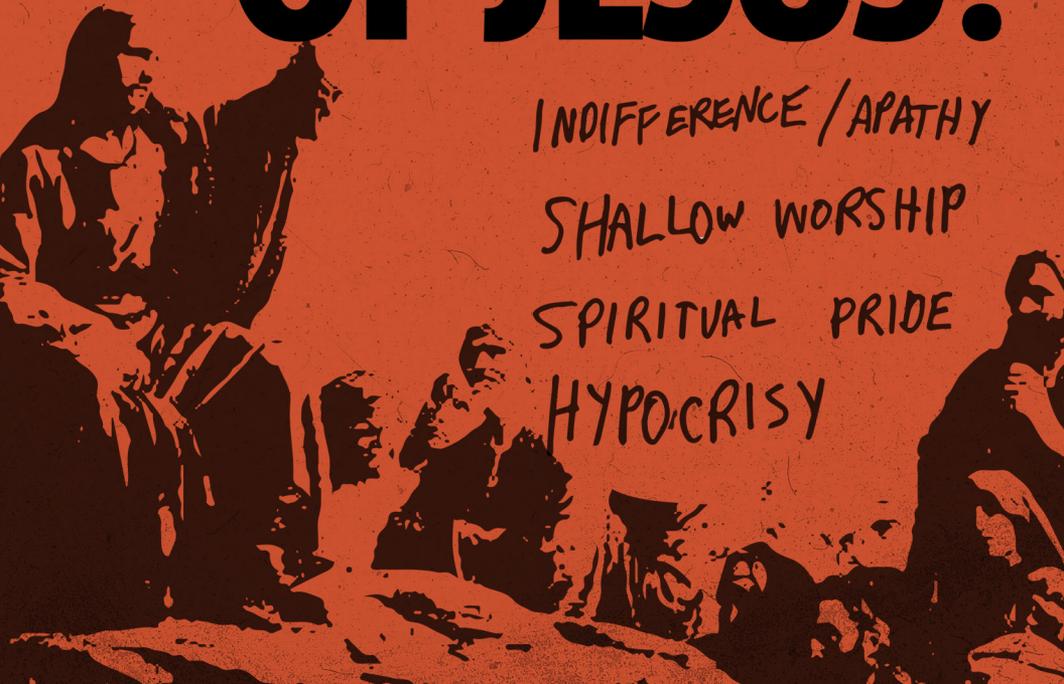
WHAT HURTS THE HEART OF JESUS?

INDIFFERENCE / APATHY

SHALLOW WORSHIP

SPIRITUAL PRIDE

HYPOCRISY





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SMALL GROUP STUDY

Kicking it off:

Would you describe yourself as a hot, cold or lukewarm kind of person? Why?

Big Idea:

Self-sufficiency and/or distractions of this world can cause lukewarm indifference toward God and hurts His heart.

Key Scriptures:

Revelation 3:15-17

"I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth. You say, "I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing." But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked."

Mark 4:18-19

"...Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the Word; but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the Word, making it unfruitful."

Revelation 3:19-20 NLT

"I correct and discipline everyone I love. So be diligent and turn from your indifference. Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends."

Discussion:

1. Read Revelation 3:15-17.
This week we are talking about how indifference and apathy hurts the heart of God. This passage speaks of self sufficiency as being a root cause. In what ways do you identify with the illusion of self sufficiency?
2. Read Mark 4:18-19. What stands out to you from this list? How do these things "choke the Word"?
3. What distractions of this world can you identify with? How have you seen those things make you unfruitful in your Christian life?
4. Discuss the six "indifferent" spiritual challenges- with which do you most struggle?
I'm indifferent when ...
 - I'm more concerned with impressing people than living for God.
 - I'm obsessed with life on Earth rather than eternity.
 - I rationalize sin and live without truly fearing God.
 - I believe in Jesus, but I rarely share my faith.
 - I only turn to God when I need Him.
 - I'm not much different from the world.
5. Read Revelation 3:19-20. How do you feel when you

read this? What indifference might you need to turn from?

6. What would it look like for you to open the door to God in an area where you're mostly indifferent?

Wrapping It Up:

What will you do every day this week to destroy indifference in your life?

Memory Verse:

"I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth."

Revelation 3:15-16

PRAYER FOCUS:

Pray for the ongoing planning and preparation for our upcoming Easter service at the Tyson Event Center.

SMALL GROUP STUDY

Kicking it off:

Have you ever encountered someone you thought was super shallow? What about them made you think that? (don't name names, just behaviors or observations)

Big Idea:

Shallow worship is offensive to God; He desires our hearts, not lip service.

Key Scriptures:

Matthew 15:7-9

"You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you: "These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain ..."

Psalms 95:6

"Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker."

Psalms 63:4

"I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands."

Psalms 149:3

"Let them praise his name with dancing ..."

Hebrews 13:15

"Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise."

Romans 12:1

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.”

Discussion:

1. What makes someone shallow?
2. Read Matthew 15:7-9. This passage describes the shallow worship for which Jesus criticized the church leaders of His day. Talk about what it would be like to live out everything we sing with our lips.
3. How do you go about ensuring your heart is close to God’s heart? What struggles might you have with this?
4. Read Psalm 95:6, 63:4, 149:3 and Hebrews 13:15. Describe what a meaningful expression of worship (in church) looks like for you and how it is connected to your heart.
5. What different kinds of worship have you experienced in churches?
6. Why do you think it’s easy to get bent out of shape about different styles of worship?
7. Which of these biblical acts

of worship feel most natural to you: kneeling, raising hands, dancing, or praising? Share your experiences.

8. How can you grow in your in-church expression of worship? Your out-of-church expressions of worship?
9. Read Romans 12:1. Considering who God is and what He’s done for you, how can you worship Him with the way you live this week?

Wrapping It Up:

Expand the ways you worship God in and out of church—not just this week, but for good.

Memory Verse:

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.”

Romans 12:1

PRAYER FOCUS:

Pray for the spiritual health and growth of our worship team who so faithfully lead us in worship each week.

SMALL GROUP STUDY

Kicking it off:

What life accomplishments, relationships, and things are you most proud of?

Big Idea:

When we are full of ourselves, there is no room for God.

Key Scriptures:

Luke 18:9-12

"And He also told this parable to some people who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and viewed others with contempt: "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and was praying this to himself: 'God, I thank You that I am not like other people: swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all that I get.'"

Luke 18:13-14

"But the tax collector, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, the sinner!' I tell you, this man went to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."

Matthew 5:16

"In the same way, let your light shine before others,

that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

Discussion:

1. What's the difference in a humble, being-proud-of-something-you've-done kind of pride and sinful pride?
2. How would you define the term "spiritual pride"?
3. Read Luke 18:9-12. What's wrong with the Pharisee's logic? Do you ever do this?
4. Talk about a time when you were a little too confident and were humbled by a situation.
5. Read Luke 8:13-14. What strikes you about the humility of the tax collector?
6. How do you personally struggle with pride? How do you see God peeling back pride in your life?
7. What's one way you can genuinely humble yourself this week?

Wrapping It Up:

Make a simple list of everything great in your life. Then, write next to each item how God made it possible.

Memory Verse:

"...for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted." Luke 8:14

PRAYER FOCUS:

Pray for the Hope Center as we serve the under resourced in our community - that we do so with humility, not pride.



Hope 
Center

SMALL GROUP STUDY

Kicking it off:

Who are some of the least hypocritical people you know?
What stands out about them?

Big Idea:

Hypocrisy is the gap between what we show and who we are.

Key Scriptures:

Titus 1:16

"They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny him..."

Matthew 23:25-28, 33

"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. Blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and dish, and then the outside also will be clean. 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. In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness. ...You snakes! You brood of vipers! How will you escape being condemned to hell?"

Proverbs 28:13

"Whoever conceals their sins does not prosper, but the one who confesses and renounces them finds mercy."

Psalm 139:23-24

"Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

Discussion:

1. Describe what "masks" you wore growing up. How did you show yourself as someone you weren't?
2. In what area of your life currently do you struggle to show something you're not?
3. Describe how you feel or what you think about when you hear the word "hypocrisy."
4. Read Titus 1:16 and Matthew 23:25-28,33. Discuss the types of hypocrisy that are being addressed in these passages.
5. In what ways can you see yourself in these acts?
6. Read Proverbs 28:13. Why do you think confession leads to mercy?
7. By what actions do you denounce God? Pray together as a group about

those actions, confessing and renouncing them before Him.

8. Close with praying Psalm 139:23-24 together.

Wrapping It Up:

Do inventory this week as you interact with people. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you other masks you put on, and then confess and renounce them.

Memory Verse:

"They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny him..." Titus 1:16

PRAYER FOCUS:

This is Holy Week! Pray for hearts to be drawn to Christ this week and for many who are far from God to attend our Easter service at the Tyson.

Consider the magnitude of Jesus' sacrifice for us all, dying for our sins and rising again. During this time in the weeks before Easter, allow these prayers of confession and praise to bring us closer to the heart of Jesus. "All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name." Acts 10: 43

INDIFFERENCE/APATHY

God of grace,

We confess that we have elevated the things of this world above you.

We have made idols of possessions and people and used your name for causes that are not consistent with you and your purposes.

We have permitted our schedules to come first and have not taken the time to worship you.

We have not always honored those who guided us in life.

We have participated in systems that take life instead of give it.

We have been unfaithful in our covenant relationships.

We have yearned for, and sometimes taken, that which is not ours, and we have misrepresented others' intentions.

Forgive us, O God, for the many ways we fall short of your glory.

Help us to learn to live together according to your ways through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

(Based on Exodus 20:1-17)

SPIRITUAL PRIDE

God of mercy,

You sent Jesus Christ to seek and to save the lost.

We confess that we have strayed from you and turned aside from your way.

We are misled by pride, for we see ourselves pure when we are stained, and great when we are small.

We have failed in love, neglected injustice, and ignored your truth.

Have mercy on us, O God, and forgive our sin.

Return us to paths of righteousness through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

HYPOCRISY

Forgiving Lord,

We have fallen short time and time again.

You have given us your word, both in scripture and in Son, you have promised us your presence, both in Spirit and in community, and you have graced us with your kingdom, both in teaching and in service.

Even so, we neglect, ignore, and reject your purposes for us.

We do not love what you love.

We do not embrace what you embrace.

We do not defend what you have called us to defend.

Have mercy on us, o God of all ages past and all hope for years to come.

Forgive us for what we do and what we fail to do.

And with your gifts, promises, and grace, continue working in our lives that we might receive full life in Jesus Christ, now and forevermore.

Triumphant Lord,

We rejoice in your entry into the world and into our lives!

Joining with the crowds, we sing your praises and exalt your reign, but even so, our hearts are far from true worship, our minds are distant from true understanding.

We are disappointed with your humility, we are uninspired by your selflessness.

Our sin leads us to give you death even though you give us life.

Our treachery guides us to war even though you call us to peace.

Help us to reflect in our lives the glory of your Son and to live faithfully here and now.

Have mercy on us, Savior of all, find us in these forsaken places.

Forgive what we have done and who we have been.

Bring us home again and impart within us a new song of joy and celebration.

amen

Top 10 Tips for Leading a Small Group

1. Establish a welcoming, accepting, and safe environment.
 - Take time to prepare.
 - Make sure to give a warm enthusiastic greeting to each person.
 - Verbally communicate the environment that you hope to create.
 - Ephesians 4:1-3
2. On the opening night of your group you need to have some intentional discussions centered around these questions:
 - What is the purpose of our group?
 - What is the vision for our group?
 - What are your expectations?
 - What do you hope to gain from this group experience?
 - What are some things we value as a group?
 - What are some healthy guidelines we need to have in place?
Review and sign a group agreement.
3. Be authentic. Spend time sharing your life stories in order to get to know each other on a deeper level.
4. Find a good balance between:
 - Truth and grace/Bible study and life
 - Encouraging and challenging one another
 - Giving and receiving feedback from each other
5. Ask good questions to stimulate good discussion. Use open ended questions and follow up questions.
6. Hang out together, do things socially, eat together and have fun together!
7. Develop a missional lifestyle, find a service project to do together in the community.
8. Raise up new leadership by rotating facilitation of the group.
9. Share the responsibilities in order to increase individual commitment and ownership of the group.
10. Pray for your group and for each other!

Find ways to celebrate what God is doing in your group! Who else could you invite to join you in order that their life may be impacted by what God is doing in your group?

Group Agreement

OUR PURPOSE

To transform our spiritual lives by cultivating our spiritual health in a healthy small group community. In addition, we: _____

OUR VALUES

Group Attendance: To give priority to the group meeting. We will call or email if we will be late or absent.

Safe Environment: To help create a safe place where people can be heard and feel loved. (Please, no quick answers, snap judgments, or simple fixes.)

Respect Differences: To be gentle and gracious to people with different spiritual maturity, personal opinions, temperaments, or imperfections. We are all works in progress.

Confidentiality: To keep anything that is shared strictly confidential and within the group, and to avoid sharing improper information about those outside the group.

Encouragement for Growth: To be not just takers but givers of life. We want to spiritually multiply our life by serving others with our God-given gifts.

Welcome for Newcomers: To keep an open chair and share Jesus' dream of finding a shepherd for every sheep.

Shared Ownership: To remember that every member is a minister and to ensure that each attender will share a small team role or responsibility over time.

Rotating Hosts/Leaders and Homes: To encourage different people to host the group in their homes, and to rotate the responsibility of facilitating each meeting.

OUR EXPECTATIONS

- Refreshments/mealtimes _____
- Childcare _____
- When we will meet (day of week) _____
- Where we will meet (place) _____
- We will begin at (time) _____ and end at _____
- We will do our best to have some or all of us attend a worship service together.
- Our primary worship service time will be _____
- Date of this agreement _____
- Date we will review this agreement again _____
- Who (other than the leader) will review this agreement at the end of this study _____



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