

Unfiltered – Week 1 Small Group Questions

Opening Prayer

Ice Breaker

1. The series is called Unfiltered. What's one area of life where you tend to filter yourself around others but wish you could be more honest?
2. What's something you weren't very good at when you started out, but today you either excel at or are at least much better at?

Discuss

Main Scriptures: Matthew 5:17-20, 48

1. Jesus said He didn't come to get rid of God's law, but to complete it. Why do you think some people back then — or even today — assume that God's grace means the rules don't matter anymore?
2. Pastor Jeff talked about a danger of grace — some people treat forgiveness like a free pass to keep living however they want, instead of letting it change them. He said, "Grace does not lower the bar so we can stay where we are. Grace lifts us up so we can become who God created us to be." In other words, grace isn't God saying "it's fine, don't worry about it" — it's God saying "I'll help you become better." Can you think of a time grace helped you grow, instead of just letting you off the hook? For example, maybe you felt guilty about losing your temper with your kids, and instead of just feeling forgiven and moving on, that forgiveness actually pushed you to work on your patience.
3. Jesus said our goodness needs to go deeper than that of the most religious rule-followers of His day. What's the difference between just following rules and actually having a changed heart?
4. Jesus told the religious leaders they were like a cup that's clean on the outside but dirty on the inside. Pastor Jeff said, "The law is a mirror, not a Savior. It can reveal the dirt, but it cannot wash me clean." What's the difference between trying to clean up your own life and letting God clean it up for you?

5. Pastor Jeff said, "His grace FOR me is what forgives — but His grace IN me is what fuels me to overcome." In your own words, what's the difference between God forgiving you and God changing you?
6. Jesus said, "You are to be perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect." C.S. Lewis said this isn't an impossible demand, because God actually helps us grow into it. Does the word "perfect" make you feel discouraged or hopeful? Why?
7. Philippians 1:6 says, "I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns." If you knew Jesus was going to finish what He started in you, how might that change the way you handle setbacks this week?

Practice

Pick one area of your life where you've been relying on willpower instead of asking God to change your heart. Talk to Him about it this week, and ask Him to help from the inside out.