

Leaving the Self-Centered Life

Small Group Discussion Questions

Join our congregation for worship in-person or online at 10:30 am each Sunday via our [Grantham Church YouTube Channel](#). If you ever miss a message, the sermons are always posted to the [recent sermons page](#) at our website and at the [Grantham Church Podcast](#) the following day, along with the sermon slides and small group discussion questions under Worship Resources. Thank you for staying connected with us!

Sunday, February 11th, 2024



Sermon Title: Leaving the Self-Centered Life

Scripture Reading: Mark 8:34-35; Galatians 2:20; Philippians 2:1-11

Sermon Focus: It's not hard to see that we live in a self-centered society that is making it increasingly difficult to listen well, to be patient and kind, to be empathetic, to want to help and serve others, and to discern the difference between facts and our feelings. What is happening in America? Why are we so self-centered? And what can we do to change course? In today's message, Pastor David shares how followers of Jesus can leave the self-centered life behind for a life that leads to true joy, peace, and freedom.

Thank you for going deeper in conversation with your small group. Use the following questions to help *guide* your small group discussion:

1. Read Philippians 2:1-11. Compare that with this quote from a recent Grammy's acceptance speech: "You gotta keep showing up. Just keep showing up until they give you all those accolades you feel you deserve, until they call you genius, until they call you chairman, until they call you the greatest of all time." Many people thought this was an "inspiring" speech. Why does this attitude and posture miss the mark for followers of Jesus? Why doesn't it align with Jesus?
2. Rooted in 1 Corinthians 4:3-4, Pastor David said that we can get trapped in the "courtroom of our minds" with an inflating and deflating ego. But Jesus wants to set us free from this prison. Read Romans 8:1-2. Practically speaking, how do we live into the truth about who we are and what Christ has done for us so that we're not always trying to prove ourselves and being consumed with self?
3. Take a few minutes to read Mark 8:34-35 and Galatians 2:20 aloud and then read them again quietly and prayerfully to yourself. What is the Lord saying to you through the words of Jesus and the words of Paul? After a moment of silence and mediation, share how these Scriptures are speaking to you.
4. Rick Warren once wrote: "Humility is not thinking less of yourself, it is thinking of yourself less. Humility is thinking more of others." What do you think is the best way to think of yourself less on a daily basis, and more of others? How do you think Jesus thought of himself less and was able to live for others?
5. Be honest. What ideas, beliefs, or practices do you think are fueling more self-centeredness in our society and culture? And how is it impacting you personally?
6. Do you need to be more intentional in putting others before yourself? How is God calling you to serve others around you? Be specific in your response. What should serving look like with family, friends, co-workers, and the church?
7. How is the Spirit inviting you to repent of any self-centeredness so that you can experience true joy, peace, and freedom? Take some time to confess these things with each other and close in prayer for greater obedience to Jesus.