



Group Time

ENCOURAGEMENT 1-on-1 (See last page for directions)

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LOOK BACK:

Point: As salt and light, our role is to help people taste and see Jesus.

- Share how you were salt and light and brought glory to our Father in heaven this past week.

Question: What does the phrase, “the spirit of the law” mean?

LOOK UP: Watch this week’s Group video on the 4G web page.

Recap: Anyone who has raised children or trained animals knows that defined boundaries are important. Since we were children, we’ve always wanted to know where the boundaries are – then some of us would push those boundaries to different degrees. This is what God’s laws became for the Israelites, and they became very good at both defining and pushing those boundaries. Unfortunately, working to redefine and push means that we are trying to gain the system to our advantage – our hearts are not righteous.

This is what Jesus tells us in Matthew 5:21-37. He addresses the true intended spirit of the laws, raising the bar for each, and He tells us that following them requires a heart whose intentions are in the right place. It’s a heart that doesn’t intend to define and push for personal gain, but a heart that intends to love and serve to glorify God. The only way to have such a heart is to give your whole self over to the only one who loved and served righteously – Jesus.

LOOK IN: Discussion

- Why is a couple’s introduction, or reintroduction, to church so often a byproduct of having children?
- Share about someone you know (maybe you) who started attending church for the sake of their children (e.g.: moral education) and then found a real relationship with Jesus Christ and/or a real relationship with a family of God.

LOOK FORWARD: Application

Point: Intentions matter! Stop trying to be good and start fixing your mind on your relationship with Jesus.

Cut Out The Junk – Keep a three-day hourly journal. Using either a small notebook or a notebook app on your phone, journal hourly over the next three days about what you are filling your life with. What are you doing, hearing, watching, and/or talking about each hour you are awake? You should end up with approximately 16 entries each day.

Analyze your entries. How much of it was necessary? How much of it was Jesus related? How much of it was junk?

Fill Your Mind With Jesus - Plan your day ahead of time. How can you replace the junk with Jesus, through His word, worship, purpose, and people? What would a truly good day look like?

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