

August 16, 2020
After God's Heart | Week 2, Living to Please
Group Discussion Questions

GROUP PREP

In preparation for group, read [1 Samuel 24:1-15](#) and [watch Emmanuel's weekend service message](#), then answer the following discussion questions.

SOCIAL TIME (10-15 minutes)

Here are two ice breakers you could use during Social Time
[Meet My New BFF](#) or [Bag o' Questions](#)

CHECK-IN (15-20 minutes)

If this is your first meeting, there's no need to force an official Check-In. Use this time to review the [Group Agreement](#) and [Group Commitment Card](#).

If your group met and discussed action steps last week, ask them if they completed their action step and what it is teaching them. Last week's question was, *"What steps will you take this week to seek after God and live obediently?"*

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Everyone is seeking something – a friend, a spouse, a new job, more sleep, acceptance, adventure, relief, more money, etc. Seeking after something can provide hope, motivation and purpose. It can also provide heartache, pain, and discontentment, if we're seeking the wrong things. If we want to experience the abundant life, we must prioritize seeking after God's heart.

1. Read [John 10:6-10](#). In your own words, describe the "abundant life" Jesus is referring to.

Many miss out on experiencing the abundant life, because they prioritize pleasing people over pleasing God. Read [1 Samuel 15:24](#). King Saul was a people pleaser. What comes to mind when you hear the words "people pleaser?"

What are some of the positives and negatives to being a people pleaser?

2. Read [Proverbs 29:25](#). Pleasing people is a temptation many of us are unaware of when we do it. Why is being a people pleaser such a temptation?

Make a list of the different ways we show we are seeking to please people rather than God.

Personally, which of these ways do you find yourself caring more about pleasing people over God?

3. In [1 Samuel 24:1-15](#), we witness David refusing to do what his men want him to do by not killing Saul. It would have been easy for David to justify killing Saul, but David would rather disappoint his friends than God. As you reflect on examples when you are tempted to please other people instead of God, how do you tend to justify the thought process?

A person after God's heart seeks to please God over people because he or she rests in the unconditional acceptance of Jesus. In what ways do we rest in the unconditional acceptance of Jesus?

4. Read [Galatians 1:10](#). To have confidence in faith like the apostle Paul, we must take steps to change how we think. What steps will you take this week to seek after God and condition your mind to think about pleasing only Him?

ACTION STEP (10-15 minutes)

Choose one of the following or create your own.

- **Daily time with God.** Determine the type of routine you'd like to have to spend time learning about what pleases God. Here are some ways to do this:
 - o [Download the Emmanuel app](#) and read the One Year New Testament daily.
 - o [Download the YouVersion app](#) and find a devotion you can do daily.
 - o Purchase a [Jesus Calling](#) devotional and read it daily.
 - o Devote time daily to using the [Bible Project](#) and the video teaching offered.
- **Pray.** Seek discernment in God's approval by devoting time every morning and night to prayer. If able, get on your knees. A proper position can change the way you pray.
- **Worship music.** There are many songs written about the unconditional acceptance Jesus has for us. Make a playlist and listen to these songs daily.

PRAYER (5-10 minutes)

Give everyone in your group an index card. Ask them to write their name and action step on one side and a prayer request on the other. When finished, have everyone pass their cards to the left. Everyone in the group now has someone to connect with throughout the coming week for three reasons:

- 1) To build the relationship
- 2) To encourage to accomplish their action step
- 3) To pray for in a specific way

Ask them to place the index card on their night stand or another place that would allow them to see it and use it every day.

GROUP SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

To determine how your group can serve together in the surrounding community, email Breanne Schafer, Emmanuel's Outreach Coordinator, at bschafer@eclife.org.

FILL IN THE BLANKS BELOW FOR THIS UPCOMING WEEK'S ACTION STEPS.

My action step is _____.

This coming week, I will encourage _____ to complete their action step.

Their action step is _____.

My memory verse is _____.

This coming week, I will pray for the group's following prayer requests:

| | |
|-------|-------|
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |