

Growth Group Discussion Questions
For Our Growth Group Meetings
 “Knowing Is Not Enough”- Part 4
“Humility: The Art Of Saying Yes ”
 Week of January 31st, 2021

Summary- We've gotten really good at saying NO over the past year! Saying it because we needed to stay clear of infection dangers, and having to say NO because of outside mandates that altered our living plans whether we were in agreement to those plans or not! But NO has definitely won the day for a year now. In contrast, learning to say YES to Jesus is more than emerging from a pandemic quarantine. *It is how Jesus coached His disciples to respond to Him and to the realities of the world He loves.* He taught His followers to be humble representatives of His love so they could rightly care for and reach others with the Gospel message! *Humility is the key.* Humility is more than the opposite of pride. Humility is really all about saying YES to Jesus... it's choosing to surrender yourself to God & His purposes. It's His way for us to build and sustain meaningful relationships and to reach people looking for Jesus. It's an “art” that we must develop to help us navigate the Christian life well! Knowing about it is not enough... it must become your operating style...to make a difference.

ICE BREAKER QUESTIONS

1. What is one characteristic you received from your parents that you want to keep?

GOING DEEPER

LEARNING TO THINK LIKE JESUS

Jesus' journey on this earth as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, began with an attitude of humility and submission in full view. And, it's clear He wanted that attitude to be built into every follower. Read the story of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector as a group and discuss the following questions.

Luke 18:9-14 “Then Jesus told this story to some who had great confidence in their own righteousness and scorned everyone else: 10 “Two men went to the Temple to pray. One was a Pharisee, and the other was a despised tax collector. 11 The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed this prayer[b]: ‘I thank you, God, that I am not like other people—cheaters, sinners, adulterers. I’m certainly not like that tax collector! 12 I fast twice a week, and I give you a tenth of my income.’ 13 “But the tax collector stood at a distance and dared not even lift his eyes to heaven as he prayed. Instead, he beat his chest in sorrow, saying, ‘O God, be merciful to me, for

I am a sinner.’ 14 I tell you, this sinner, not the Pharisee, returned home justified before God. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.” (NLT)

1. The Pharisee was a “religious expert” and certainly had been “schooled” on the stories of humility that are in the Old Testament. The Tax Collector was a certified “swindler” and even betrayed his own people extorting taxes from them by force if necessary. Yet, Jesus said the Tax Collector went away justified by God after his prayer session, and implied that the Pharisee did not.

- a. What had the Pharisee missed in his training that was now so glaringly absent as revealed in this story? How do you think he could have missed it?
- b. The Tax Collector appeared to be out of place in the temple by his demeanor and posture described in the story. Yet his prayer hit pay dirt with God as judged for us by Jesus in verse 14. What was it about his prayer that was acceptable to God?
- c. Discuss the attitude the Pharisee displayed in his words to God in the temple. What was the point of his prayer to God? Who did the Pharisee compare himself to in the story? Who should he have really compared himself to if humility was his operating style? Why? (Hint: the comparison trap!)
- d. The Tax Collector humbled himself before God as shown by his attitude and prayer in this story. The Tax Collector said YES to God and NO to his old ways and “self” in his prayer. What is it about the Tax Collector’s humility that is so attractive?
- e. Which guy would you want as a friend? Why?
- f. Whose attitude on display here has the best chance of attracting others to the good news of Jesus? Why is that?
- g. Read verse 14... why is humility so important and why should we make the effort to humble ourselves?

PUTTING HUMILITY INTO PLAY IN YOUR LIFE

2. Knowing about humility is not enough. Saying YES to Jesus is how humble people react and put humility into play in their lives. The next questions deal with what it means to humble ourselves as Jesus Followers.

Becoming a Christian begins with humbling yourself before God. Read the verses below, and answer the follow questions.

Titus 3:4 But, when God our Savior revealed his kindness and love, 5 he saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth and new life through the Holy Spirit

Ephesians 2:8 God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. 9 Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.

- a. According to the verses above, how are we saved? How do you say YES to Jesus in the “getting saved” process? How do you have to humble yourself for that to happen? Have you done that already?

3. Humbling yourself, by saying Yes to God, is not only required in finding Jesus as Savior... but also to keep each of us following Jesus daily.

- a. Discuss how humbling yourself (saying YES to God) affects the way you read and apply the Bible to your life. (Hint: submitting to what it says because knowledge is not enough)
- b. Discuss some ways that we can say YES to Jesus in our lives:
 - Loving & Serving others
 - Following your spiritual leaders
 - Finding ways to use your spiritual gifts to build up others