

MADE NEW

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2021

GROUP CHECK-IN:

Part of the rhythms of us as a group is to move beyond just *learning* but moving through life together. This space to start is a great way to begin to move into sharing rhythms, trusting, and being faithful with the relationships entrusted to us.

Ask this question: ***"In 7 words or less, what would be helpful to hear God (or someone close) say to you this week?"***

Give space for everyone to answer, stopping to pray for one another as the Holy Spirit leads.

SERIES OVERVIEW:

We continue this week with our series "Made New." Over the next five weeks, we will be centered around one question: *"What does it mean to really flourish spiritually?"* With this idea of spiritual flourishing, we are going to look through Scripture and dive into five postures that need to be in place for us to spiritually flourish. There are likely more, and for sure dive in as the Holy Spirit leads your group! But as we examine these five, each of these is born out of a deep dive into God's Word.

SUNDAY RECAP:

We looked at our fourth posture: our identity as servants. **Serving others starts with seeing Jesus.** Pastor Brannon took us to Matthew 20 with a look at a negative example before helping us see servanthood rightly. To refresh, read **Matthew 20:20-28** together as a group.



CONVERSATION QUESTIONS:

Pastor Brannon recognized that when we talk about serving it often goes against the whole foundation of serving. But for the sake of today, let's press through the awkwardness and let the Holy Spirit place a lens on our lives.

- ***There should be a fundamental difference between who the world thinks is great and who you think is great.*** Take some time to dive into this. How does Jesus define greatness? How does John 13:1-20 contrast our natural definition of greatness?
- ***Passion for Jesus isn't the problem, but posture before Jesus.*** Why does the way in which we posture ourselves matter when talking about serving and greatness? What are some ways we as a community or you personally struggle to posture yourself rightly in your thinking or doing in regards to what is great and what it means to serve?
- ***They started seeing what others weren't doing rather than who they were becoming.***
 - How does this line up with *"am I doing the right thing for the wrong reason?"* What should be the posture of our heart if we are looking at others? ***(Dig deeper: Galatians 6:3-5, Matthew 7, 2 Corinthians 5:18, 1 Corinthians 3)***
 - Look back on your walk with Jesus. Are you able to identify points in your walk that say "I am becoming more like Jesus?" Do you struggle to find any way in which the Holy Spirit has been sanctifying you? Take time to pray that Jesus would give your right posture before Him.

EVERY DAY TO EVERYONE:

As we hear God's Word, examine God's Word, our lives move in response to His Word and the leading of the Holy Spirit. We want you to take space to process what steps to take so that we can make much of Jesus every day to everyone. Don't feel pressured to move in bigger steps than where God has you - you can process these individually or move in step as a group.

• First Steps (SECURITY IN CHRIST OVER REWARDS OF THE WORLD):

The first step for this week is to make space to check your mindset and heart posture. Pastor Brannon asked us to say "Am I serving so that...? Or am I serving because of...?" **When I serve because of who Jesus says I am, then I can freely serve without thinking of the reward because I've already been called a child of God and that's reward enough.** Examine your life and ask the Holy Spirit to guide you, encourage you, and convict you where your posture in serving may not line up with your identity in Christ.

• Next Steps (COOPERATION OVER COMPARISON):

"Servanthood is never a competition between equally undeserving sinners. It's cooperation where undeserving sinners showcase an all-sufficient Savior." If you often find yourself keeping count of all the things others aren't doing or aren't doing the "right way," start with finding time away in silence and ask God to help you see Him rightly, yourself rightly, and others rightly. Practice thanking God for the way His Holy Spirit is working uniquely in ways you may not see, praising Jesus for His redeeming work on the cross, and asking him to show you ways to partner with others in the ministry of the Gospel.

• Further Steps (ANONYMITY OVER RECOGNITION):

Anonymity is "doing the right thing and telling no one." How can you this week find ways to be a servant without making a big deal, serving your Father in heaven because of the work of Jesus on the cross.

Close in prayer, asking Jesus to strengthen you and the Holy Spirit to lead you as you take steps to make much of Him in your every day to your everyone.