



Do You See What I See?

Matthew 6:33 - 7:5

Growth Group Discussion Questions for January 7, 2018

Getting Started:

- 1) In high school, who was your best friend and what qualities made them special?
- 2) Our perspective creates our reality. Have you ever perceived something or someone to be a certain way and then later found out that you were wrong?

READ: Matthew 6:25-34

- 3) In our relationships, our focus is key. "Finding" is more about focusing on "what can you do for me?" and "Becoming" is about focusing on "am I allowing Jesus to change me into the person he created me to be?"
 - In your own life, is your focus centered more on "Finding" or "Becoming"?
 - Who are you supposed to "become"?
- 4) Our focus tends to camp out either in the past or in the future instead of in the present moment. In which of these three foci do we best find and connect with God?
 - Why do you feel we tend to camp out in the past or the future?
 - How would you explain what it means to focus on Now?

Going Deeper

Magnifying glasses allow us to find faults in others and neglect looking at ourselves. Mirrors reflect what is true about us-both positive and negative.

READ: Matthew 7:1-5 and James 1:22-24.

- 5) Planks and sawdust come from the same material. Psychologists believe that what we don't like about others is really what we don't like about ourselves. Do you agree with them? Why or why not?

- When you “look into the mirror” do you see your faults and defects or do you see yourself as God sees you?
- Which are you more prone to forget when you walk away from the mirror-- the plank in your eye or a new creation in Christ Jesus?
- Our culture seems to be obsessed with self-righteously judging and condemning everything and everybody according to their own standards. As a Christian, how do you conduct yourself in such a judgmental and shaming environment without judging them in return?

Bringing it Home:

READ: 1 John 3:1-3 and 2 Corinthians 5:14-17

6) How does God see you right now?

- How should that affect how you live and perceive yourself?
- How should that affect how you perceive and relate to others?
- How is the Spirit nudging you to change your thinking or actions in response to this study?