



Foundations of the King's Culture

Ice Breaker: What is your favorite winter activity?

Read: Matthew 5:17-20

In the Kingdom culture:

1. We stand on the authority of Scripture. (*John 5:39 and Matthew 5:17-20*)

Discuss real life:

Do you ever struggle to believe the Bible?

Do you ever struggle to LIKE what the Bible says?

Tell the group about your relationship with God's Word. Do you struggle to read it? Do you drink it in and seem to never get enough? Are you somewhere inbetween?

The bottom line:

Knowing that we need the Word of God to teach us and sustain us, sometimes, we have to decide to take it in even if we don't feel like it. Deciding to stand on the authority of Scripture is an act of our will in submission to God. We choose to believe His Word because He is not a liar and we know we can trust Him when He says His Word is life for us.

2. Our right standing before God is not achieved by the works of our hands but by the transformation of our hearts.

Read Matthew 5:20 and discuss:

No pressure, right? How do we achieve that level of righteousness?

Read Matthew 23:25 and discuss:

What is Jesus talking about in this verse?

What are some situations or people you can recognize in this verse? Don't name names, unless it's your own.

Read Matthew 23:26 and discuss:

How do we clean the "inside of the cup and dish?"

Why did Jesus call them blind?

Read Matthew 23:27-28 and consider:

All of us have things that we can be hypocritical about. Our human nature bends us toward sin. God wants us to be free of those things that cause us to not be above reproach.

Take a few moments to think about what hypocrisy God may be asking you to address in your own life. Make a note, journal or speak it out. Ask God how He wants to help you overcome that sin in your life.

Read 2 Corinthians 5:21 and discuss:

What emotion do you feel in response to this verse? What might your reaction be telling you?

Read Philippians 3:9 and then talk to God:

Take some time to thank God for sending Jesus to cover your sins. Name three specific reasons you are grateful for Jesus.

Take time to identify hypocrisy that He has already removed from your life. Thank Him for that.

End your group with thankfulness and praising God for His generosity to want you, to invite you and to bring you into His Kingdom culture.