

QUESTIONS *for* VIRTUAL SMALL GROUPS

FATHER FILTER | WEEK 4

ICE BREAKERS:

1. What are some talents that you have, or things that you are really good at?
2. Are you taking vacation this summer? If so, where?

LAUNCH QUESTIONS:

1. What is one of the most powerful insights that you have had from this series “Father Filter?” How might you begin to live differently as a result of what you have learned (or reaffirmed) in this series?
2. How would you describe your relationships with the Father? Jesus? Holy Spirit? Which one is easiest for you to describe and why?
3. Describe a time when you felt close to your earthly father or mother. What about a time when you felt distant? How about a time when you felt close/distant to your heavenly Father?

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION:

1. Amanda used the metaphor of a windshield to describe the way we see God, clearly or through cracks. What does your windshield look like? What events in your life have acted like a rock on the highway that crack the windshield through which you view God? Have these circumstances or others changed the way I feel about God or the things I believe about him?
2. Amanda said that she fixes the windshield by “remembering” who God is. What is way that you can fix the cracks or windshield in your faith experience to view God correctly again?

3. Read Psalm 103. Which of these aspects of God's character do you need to reaffirm in your life? How might you practice renewing your mind daily so that you view God correctly? (Forgiving our sins, Healing our diseases, Redeeming our life from the pit, Crowning you with love and compassion, Satisfying your desires with good things)

4. In order to have an authentic relationship with the Father, we need to understand who He is. Do you see him as HE describes himself in the bible or have you created an image of God and see him as YOU say he is? In order to answer this question, think of the things we know about God in the bible that are hard for us to understand. What do you do with those things? Do you believe them or discard them because they don't fit your image of God? How might those choices affect our relationship?

5. Amanda spoke of how the word "compassion" shows us the deep emotional, visceral, passionate love that God has for us. Do you feel that way about God's love for you, that he loves you with overwhelming passion just because you are his?

6. Why is it hard to remember that God chooses celebration over condemnation for us?

7. The story of the prodigal son shows some important aspects to God's love. One of them is that he sees us and loves "while" we are still a long way off...while we were still sinners (Rom 5:6-8). If God is passionately pursuing all of His children, why do some respond and others don't?

PRAYER POINTS:

1. Open up your Bible to Psalm 103. Pray through this Scripture as a group, thanking God for who he is, and asking the Lord to impress these aspects of his character onto your hearts.

2. As Pittsburgh begins to transition to the "green phase," please pray for our community and leadership for wisdom and safety in working towards regathering.

SENDING CHALLENGE:

1. Remembering takes a little effort -so this week read Psalm 103 -maybe in several translations—and find an attribute or benefit of God that you need your soul to remember.

2. Amanda described two groups below. Which of the two groups do you find yourself in? Journal about your next steps going forward to clarify your Father Filter.

a. Maybe at one point you could see God clearly -but you've allowed your

circumstances and feelings to cloud your filter. You can't see God any more and you need to REMEMBER. You need to remind your soul of who God is.

b. Maybe today you believe that you are a long way off. The younger son turned toward his father. And when he did, he could see him running toward him. He saw the path to total restoration and forgiveness. And the father celebrated him. Even as you are a long way off - turn around. See God pursuing you. Accept his forgiveness. Trade condemnation for celebration.

NOTES:
