

John Series

Leaders Guide

Week 9

Key Takeaways:

1. To grow as believers, we must constantly decrease so Jesus can increase in us.
2. Jealousy, man-made joy, and self-centeredness hinder Christ's increase in our lives.
3. Our joy should come from our position in God's family, not our circumstances.
4. We need to allow God's Word and the Holy Spirit to fully "flush out" our impurities.
5. Treating God with apathy is as dangerous as outright disobedience.

Discussion Questions:

1. The pastor mentioned that decreasing so Christ can increase requires intentionality. What are some practical ways we can be intentional about this in our daily lives?
2. Reflect on a time when you struggled with jealousy or comparison. How did it affect your relationship with God and others? How can we combat these tendencies?
3. The sermon distinguished between happiness (based on circumstances) and joy (based on our position in God's family). How does this perspective change the way we approach challenges in life?
4. The pastor used the analogy of flushing out a baby bottle to illustrate how we need God's Word and Spirit to cleanse us. What "impurities" in your life do you need God to flush out?
5. How would your life look different if you truly lived as though "God is true" in every aspect? What areas might need to change?
6. The sermon emphasized that treating God with apathy is as dangerous as disobedience. In what ways might we be unintentionally apathetic towards God in our daily lives?
7. What does it mean to you personally to "decrease" so that Christ can "increase" in your life?

Practical Applications:

1. Daily Decrease Challenge: Each day this week, identify one area where you can intentionally "decrease" to allow Christ to increase. Share your experiences with the group next week.
2. Apathy Check: Take time to reflect on areas where you might be treating God with apathy. Write these down and pray specifically about them, asking God to renew your passion and commitment.
3. Joy Journal: Start a journal documenting moments of true joy (not just happiness) that come from your position in God's family. Share an entry with the group next time.
4. Scripture Saturation: Commit to spending extended time in God's Word this week, allowing it to "flush out" impurities. Choose a passage or book to focus on and meditate upon.
5. Accountability Partners: Pair up with someone in the group to check in regularly about your efforts to decrease so Christ can increase.

Closing Prayer:

Close the session by praying together, asking God to help each member decrease in self and increase in Christ-likeness. Pray for the practical applications to take root in everyone's lives.