



#nofilter THE GOD FILTER

#npnofilter

Week 1

1 of 4

May 13, 2018

Bottom Line: A lie believed as truth will affect you as if it were true.

Icebreaker: Each person states one at a time something he or she thinks no one else in the group has done. If someone else has done it, they have to keep sharing until they find something that no one else in the group has done.

Key Verse: *We are confident of all this because of our great trust in God through Christ. It is not that we think we are qualified to do anything on our own. Our qualification comes from God. 2 Corinthians 3:4-5 NLT*

We use words like “omniscient,” “omnipotent,” and “omnipresent” to refer to God. We are saying He knows everything, is powerful enough to do anything, and is everywhere. Throw in every other magnificent word that is way too big to describe you, and that will be the way to accurately describe God.

What are the words you would use to describe yourself? When you are thinking of the total picture of you, the words would be a mixed bag. But the most confident among us would find our words to be tame and small in comparison to the description of God. Yet here’s the wonderful and amazing truth: God takes notice of us and thinks about us. It’s hard to imagine we are even a blip in His mind. But He consciously thinks about us. What do you think He thinks about when He thinks of you?

Chances are you suppose He thinks of you in some of the ways you and others think sometimes: disappointed, unworthy, pitiable. That’s far from the truth. God actually looks at you with delight and thinks of you with joy. When Paul wrote to his friends in Corinth, he pointed out that we don’t THINK we are qualified, but God does. He believes in us so very much that He calls us His friends, and instills abilities and gifts in us that qualify us to be His representatives to the world. He describes us as chosen, complete, and capable. On your worst day, He thinks of you with compassion. On every single day, He considers you with the fiercely tender love of a mother, and the empowering pride and confidence of a father. He thinks of you—and it’s all good.

THINK IT OVER >>>

What impacted you most from today’s message?

“We think God takes His cues from us, that His thinking about us is a mirror of how we think about ourselves.” How have you seen that perception in your attitude toward yourself lately?

Three things influence how we view ourselves: our own thoughts, how other people think about us, and the culture. Can you trace those influences in your perception of yourself? Are they helping you or hurting you?

“Those evaluations are all based around performance; the little word DO. We think even God looks at us through the filter of I DO.” How does the idea of being loved without a performance base actually enhance the likelihood of improved behavior?

LOOK IT OVER <<<

“What if your behavior doesn’t impact the way God views you? Everyone struggles with this. This is one of the reasons Jesus came to earth: to show us God.” Discuss. How was Jesus’ exhibition of God different from what the Pharisees had been teaching for centuries?

“Jesus loved everyone—the people He struggled with were those who thought God would love them more because of their behavior.” Discuss.

Jesus said that if we truly see Him, we will know what the Father is like. What do you see in Jesus that you believe represents His Father? Make a list of the characteristics that you think might be most at odds with the average Joe’s picture of God?

How would you answer someone who asks, “If my behavior doesn’t affect God’s love for me, why all the emphasis on change?”

NEXT STEPS

This week consider taking some next steps together as a group:

- 1) Share answers to these questions: In what areas of my life do I struggle with the lie, "I'm not good enough?" In Christ you are chosen, capable, and complete. Which truth speaks to you the most? Why?
- 2) Pray that this week will be full of relaxed confidence in God's thoughts toward each of you.

EVALUATION/ACTION

Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

Bottom Line: A lie believed as truth will affect you as if it were true.

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person?										
What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating?										
At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week?										

PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

DAILY STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out **The Daily** this week at newpointe.org/daily:

Monday: Psalm 116:5

Tuesday: John 8:31-32

Wednesday: Ephesians 1:11

Thursday: Colossians 2:10

Friday: 2 Corinthians 3:5-6

Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.

(Don't forget to bring this paper to your next small group meeting)