



#nofilter Who Are You?

#npnofilter

Week 4
4 of 4

June 3, 2018

Bottom Line: God is for you.

Icebreaker: Everyone sits in a circle. One person starts by using an adjective starting with the same letter as their first name, followed by their first name. For example, Sweet Silvia, Handsome Hank. The next person repeats the adjective and first name of the first person and then adds their own. Continue around the circle, with the last person having to repeat all the names in order and adding their own.

Key Verse: *For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, **training** us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age.*
Titus 2:11-12

God is FOR you. But in order for that fact to have meaning and purpose in your life, you must have the right knowledge of God and who you are in Him. Knowing God is indispensable to maturity and freedom and experiencing the life God has intended. However, we are responsible for our own maturity and freedom in Christ. Nobody can make you grow. That's your decision and daily responsibility. Nobody can solve your problems. That is a process you must initiate and follow through on. God is for you and will be with you, but you must choose the discipline and process of training to become what He has made available for you to be.

Our salvation is a matter of faith through grace; however, once we have trusted in Christ, the next step of faith is to obey His commands. The mature Christian life is not given, it is learned. It is developed through discipline. We are not supernaturally downloaded with spiritual maturity when we are saved. Instead, spiritual growth and maturity is a discipline-driven process that requires our full effort. But God is for us! The entire process is energized and empowered by the Spirit of God. Like any process, it takes time. The world is motivated to perform in order to gain approval. But in relationship with God, our identity is not found in how we perform or what we achieve. It is found in our relationship with Him. We work and perform and achieve, but we do so because of who we are in Christ. We are not defined by what we do and how we perform but by who we are in Him.

THINK IT OVER >>>

What impacted you most from today's message?

Discuss: "Our obedience to God is an accurate reflection of our love for Him." How would you defend that statement to one who says, "No—God knows I love Him. I just screwed up"?

"People in the grip of grace are not satisfied with mediocrity . . . they strive for excellence because they know they are agents of God." How do you work for excellence, yet guard against being competitive?

Discuss: "If we allow our identity and self-concept to be tethered to approval or criticism of our performance, we will suffer emotionally and spiritually." How does that balance with the direction to train for godliness and obey His commands?

LOOK IT OVER >>>

"When we are secure in Christ, when we know who we are in Him, the ego factor is eliminated. So is the fear factor." Discuss. How do you know? How does that work?

"Many people are confused about the relationship between faith and works, believing and training, in the Christian life. Training (putting forth effort) and believing (trusting God) are both essential. Don't try to separate them. Faith and discipline are both essential." What happens if one is left out?

"Some Christians are like wasps: bigger on the day they are born than at any other time in their lives." Clearly that's not God's plan. How would you describe what that looks like, and what God's desire for us is instead?

Whom do you know who is actively training? How do they do it? How do you witness it?

NEXT STEPS

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

- 1) Commit to follow Jesus as the true leader of your life, obeying His commands because you love Him.
- 2) Read the Doctrinal Affirmation daily.

EVALUATION/ACTION

Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

Bottom Line: God is for you.

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: Titus 2:11-12

Tuesday: John 14:15

Wednesday: 1 Timothy 4:8

Thursday: 2 Timothy 3:15-16

Friday: Jeremiah 29:11-12

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)