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GOD'S HOPE FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE

Session 6: God Wants You BECOME

Message by Pastor Kevin Cavanaugh
Cedar Grove Church | October 22, 2017



WATCH FOR LEADER'S TIPS

LEADER'S STUDY GUIDE

Getting to Know One Another

- Describe a time while growing up when you were running a race, riding a bike, jogging, hiking or competing in a game and you either tripped, fell, or failed. How did you feel?
- Was there anyone who cheered you up or on?
- Would you say that you are personally more of an encourager, discourager or neither?

God Wants You to BECOME

So far we've learned that God's Hope for us is that we would know with all our hearts that:

1. God created us so that He could **love us**. We are **BELOVED**.
2. Then He Formed us to be a part of **His family**. He wants us to **BELONG**.
3. We were designed for **discipleship**. He wants us to **BECOME** like Him.

...so that the Israelites could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of its glory, transitory though it was... 1 Corinthians 3:7

We are not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face to prevent the Israelites from seeing the end of what was passing away...

1 Corinthians 3:13

*All of us have had that veil removed so that we can be mirrors that brightly reflect the glory of the Lord. And as the Spirit of the Lord works within us, we become more and more like him and reflect his glory even more. **1 Corinthians 3:17-18***

As we read about Jesus life and think about God's truth every day and then we seek to incorporate it into our lives the bible says, we become "more and more like him."

- If you spend time with God you're going to start reflecting the qualities of God.

Remember God is cheering you on at every stage of your race.

*I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection! But I keep working toward that day when I will finally be all that Christ Jesus saved me for and wants me to be ... I am still not all I should be, but I am focusing all my energies on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I strain to reach the end of the race and receive the prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is CALLING us up to heaven. **Philippians 3:12-14 NLT***

God smiles at you at every stage of your development.

Q: Do you know why you're already okay in his eyes?

A: Because Christ died for you, God is not ashamed of you.

The major reason is people don't become the person God wants them to become is **Shame**.

- We spend far too much of our time and energy trying to pretend that we have it all together.
- Everybody in the world knows that you don't have it together.

**God is cheering you on
at every stage of your race.**

Q: Who is your biggest cheerleader right now?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



Note: Open your group with a prayer.

- We all have non-cheerleaders in our lives (discouragers). Think about who the biggest discourager was in your life growing up (A parent, sibling, teacher, coach, employer):
 - How significant was the level of discouragement?
L 1 2 3 4 5 H
 - Who is the biggest discourager in your life right now?
 - How significant is the level of discouragement in your life right now? **L 1 2 3 4 5 H**
- How do you see Jesus in your life right now? Do you see Him as more of an encourager or an enforcer?

STOP AND PRAY

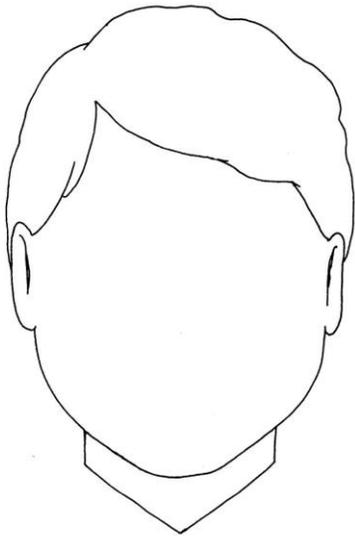
If you see Jesus as your biggest cheerleader thank Him for it. If you have projected all the negative voices in your life on to God and see Him as the great enforcer, please stop and repent of accepting those lies. Then reject them, cast them out of your mind and heart. And ask the Holy Spirit to fill you with the truth.

Thank Him for being the one who cheers you on the most.

HIDE AND SEEK

How much are you playing hide and seek with God right now? Pretending everything is all right in your life, going through the motions of a religious life rather than a real and honest relationship?

Take 60 seconds to draw and fill-in a mask on the picture of the head below.



- How much are you playing hide and seek (cover-up, pretending) with:
 - fellow brothers and sisters **L 1 2 3 4 5 H**
 - siblings **L 1 2 3 4 5 H**
 - parents **L 1 2 3 4 5 H**
 - employer **L 1 2 3 4 5 H**

READ Psalm 32:1-6 how do you see it comparing with 1 John 1:8-10.

TAKE THE PLUNGE

As a kid it was always hard to get into a pool or ocean, especially if the water was a little colder. There really was no easy way. You simply had to jump in and get it over with. The same is true about confession. There is no easy way. You just have to open your mouth and speak out the truth. What is the biggest thing that holds you back? Fear, Pride, Religious Spirit, Unbelief, Apathy, Other?

PLAY A FACE CARD

When it comes to confession, we tend to play the low cards, the 2's-9's (little sins). We tend to hold back our Jacks, Queens, and Kings and we usually have an Ace in the hole. What are you currently holding and hiding? Bitterness, Resentment, Unbelief, Rebellion, Addiction, Porn?

STOP AND PRAY FOR EACH OTHER!

Note: Please have everyone pair up for prayer and then you should close.



Friends, confession is such a critical first step but quite often like with any other condition it requires follow-up and outside help. If you dealing with something habitual can I encourage you to get connected with Celebrate Recovery on Tuesday nights.