



***GO.
SERVE.***

**» *Church Group
Devotions***



mission serve 2017

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2017 Church Group Devotions - Night 1

Fooled by the Filter

We live in a heavily filtered world! We want to share our lives with other people, but we only want to share the good stuff. We normally don't want people to see the ugly parts: our faults, our mess-ups, our weaknesses, our embarrassments, and our blemishes. So we slap filters over everything to make it look better. Sometimes it's an Instagram filter to make our selfie look better. Sometimes it's a fake smile on our face so nobody knows we're hurting. Other times it's a false confidence so nobody knows that we're actually struggling with our self-image and self-confidence. Whatever it is, we all use filters from time to time. The truth is that filter may fool our friends, family, and even us sometimes, but it never fools God. He sees every part of our life and knows the truth of who we are. And the best news of all is that he still loves us and sent His son to die for us! Receive his mercy and grace tonight and learn to rest in his love.

1. What are some of your go-to social media filters whether on Instagram or Snapchat? Why do you like these so much? (they're fun, they make you look good, etc.)
2. Have you ever seen an example of a picture that was heavily edited, photoshopped, and filtered (maybe a celebrity on a magazine cover) and then seen the original unedited version? What did you find? How did you feel about it?
3. What are some filters that you see other people put on their lives (not just social media pics)? What are some filters that you put on your own life? What are you using those filters to hide?
4. Read Hebrews 4:13 and Romans 5:8. How does it feel to know that God sees all our faults and sins, yet He still sent Jesus to die for us?
5. Can you remove the filters from your life and see yourself the way God sees you....through the lens of the blood of Christ?

2017 Church Group Devotions - Night 2

Jesus Unfiltered

A lot of times we remember and think about Jesus for all the amazing things and miracles He did. That's awesome! He did many incredible things that showed the power of God. However, we often overlook the example that he set throughout his entire life and ministry of being a selfless servant to all those around him. Jesus, the Son of God, the one who was there at the foundations of the earth, the one who is the picture of perfection without sin, also chose to be the picture of humility. He could've had legions of angels at his call to do his bidding, but he chose to put others needs ahead of his own. He chose to serve those around him; especially those who needed help the most. He set the example. Are you willing to follow Him?

1. Is there a job or a chore around your house that you hate doing or refuse to do (maybe because it's too gross!)?
2. Read Matthew 20:28. How does this verse speak to why Jesus came to earth and the example he set for us?
3. Why do you think Jesus made it a priority to serve others in his life (not just teach and preach)?
4. What's an area of your life where you need to work on humility? How can you begin to do that?
5. How can you serve those around you in the different areas of your life: family, friends, classmates/teammates, church?

2017 Church Group Devotions - Night 3

The Jesus Filter

So far this week we've talked only about removing the filters from our lives. Tonight let's talk about what it would look like if we put on and looked through the Jesus filter when we see the world around us. Jesus made a habit of looking around and really seeing and knowing the people around him. He took the time to look and see where they were hurting or struggling and needed help. What would it look like if we saw people that way? How often do you go through a crowded place (classroom, bus, restaurant, game, etc.) and never notice anyone around you because your eyes never leave your phone? Open your eyes to those around you! There are so many hurting people right in your back yard. But Jesus didn't just notice them and then leave them there. He saw their need and went and filled it. He helped them, and he calls us to do the same. Put on your Jesus glasses and see the world the way he sees it!

1. How many people are in your school? Your grade? Your average class? If you had to guess, how many people do you see every day?
2. Have you ever had an experience where someone was telling or showing you something and you completely spaced out? How did it end up?
3. If you were to look and truly see the people at your school through the Jesus filter what kind of hurts and problems do you think you would see?
4. What does it mean to have compassion for someone?
5. How can you help meet those needs of the people around you?

2017 Church Group Devotions - Night 4

Concert of Prayer

Tonight you hopefully enjoyed an incredible time in God's presence. Did you feel the love, joy, comfort, and peace that come with it? The concert of prayer is all about removing filters. Seeing God for who He truly is: good, faithful, loving, holy, powerful. Seeing us for who we are and our need for God: sinners who mess up and need the forgiveness that God offers us. Seeing the full truth of what Jesus has done for us: He gave his life for us so that we could be in a relationship with God. And ultimately thanking Him for making a way for us to be in relationship with God and for meeting our needs each and every day. God's presence, understanding who He is, humility, confession, forgiveness, thanksgiving, and praise! Let these replace the filters in your life.

1. What is something that God showed you or taught you tonight?
2. What filters were you able to remove from your life?
3. How can you experience the presence of God in your life every day?

2017 Church Group Devotions - Night 5

Unfiltered and Loved

Unfortunately, we often put so many filters on our lives that those filters begin to define who we think we are. The wonderful truth is that our true identity is who God created us to be! Before you were born, before you ever had a chance to place any filters on your life, God knew you. He is the one who created you the way you are. He loves you and has had a purpose for you from the beginning. You were created on purpose for a purpose. The overarching purpose that we all share is to reflect God's goodness and glory by showing love and compassion to those in need. You are not what other people say about you or think about you. You are known, created, loved, and purpose-filled by the God of the universe!

1. What are some identities that the world tries to put on you? Have you ever begun to believe one and let it start to define you?
2. Read Psalm 139:13-16. What does this passage mean to you? How does it change the way you see yourself?
3. Do you have that one friend or family member that you can be totally real and honest with? You don't have to hide or fake anything with them because they won't judge you at all? How does that help you to have that relationship?
4. Have you ever tried to hide something or fake something with God?
5. Psalm 139:1-12 tells us that God is always with us and knows every part of our lives; even the ones we try to hide. How does it feel to know that God sees every one of your faults and still loves you as his own child?

2017 Church Group Devotions - Night 6

Share

Whenever something awesome happens to us we want to share it with everyone right? A great meal? Post a pic! See something awesome? Put it on your snapchat story! We want people to see and celebrate with us. We want them to experience what we're experiencing. Why should it be any different with the Gospel? The greatest news of all has radically impacted and changed your life. Why would you keep it to yourself?!? Share it with everyone around you. Don't make your friends and classmates have to photobomb your relationship pic with Jesus! As you leave tomorrow and go back home, the challenge is to find ways to the good news of Jesus, unfiltered, with everyone.

1. Have you ever been photobombed before? Have you ever pulled off an epic photobomb before?
2. Have you ever felt like an outsider before? How was it?
3. Why do you think Jesus made it a priority to go after "outsiders" with his message?
4. Think about someone that you can share Jesus with. How will you do it?

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