

2021

Fact or Fiction

The lies we believe

Group Guide July 18th



Series Overview

The circumstances of life have a way of convincing us false things are actually true. However, appearances can be deceptive. The truth is false beliefs are commonplace and dangerous. This is especially true when it comes to God. This matters because the things we believe can have serious implications on the actions we take. In this series, we will be discussing four, common false beliefs about God and how separating fact from fiction leads the way to freedom.

Week Two

Acceptance and love are the foundations of any healthy relationship. If we're honest, when it comes to God it's easy to question these two things. How does God feel about us? Does he just tolerate us? Is he comfortable keeping his distance until we do enough to please him? We've all spent time asking these questions. This week, we'll be discussing God's main emotion toward us and how it changes everything we do.

Thoughts: Jesus Can't Understand What I'm Going Through

Big Idea: God is Love.

Scripture: Exodus 34:6-7 (ESV), Acts 13:22 (ESV), Matthew 16:18-19 (ESV), Romans 5:6-8 (ESV), Romans 12:1 (NLT), Romans 5:8 (ESV)

Key Takeaways & Action Items:

- We can know he knows us, but not know how he feels about us.
- Do you know how God feels about you?
- Your mistakes may derail your life, but they don't determine your value.
- Stop putting yourself on sale when God has already paid full price for your rescue.

Group Discussion Questions:

1. Do you know how God feels about you?
2. If God were to describe how he feels about you in a letter, what would it say?
3. Read exodus 34:6-7. What did Moses do to overshadow his failings enough to earn God's blessing?
Read Acts 13:22. What did David do to overshadow his failings enough to earn God's blessing?
Read Matthew 16:18-19. What did Peter do to overshadow his failings enough to earn God's blessing?
4. ^^ In all of these references, the characters didn't do anything to overshadow their failures. What does this say about how God can work through us in the midst of ours?
5. Read Hebrews 4. How can we separate fiction from fact for ourselves?
 - a. Performance based acceptance vs. Acceptance based performance
6. Read Romans 12:1 & Romans 5:6-8
What are the truths about how God feels about us?
7. How do we live these ^ truths out, and give these truths out to others?

Scripture & Resources

- The Lord passed before him and proclaimed, “The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin...” Exodus 34:6-7 (ESV)
- And when he had removed him [Saul], he raised up David to be their king, of whom he testified and said, ‘I have found in David the son of Jesse a man after my heart, who will do all my will.’ Acts 13:22 (ESV)
- And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” Matthew 16:18-19 (ESV)
- For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:6-8 (ESV)
- And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. Romans 12:1 (NLT)
- but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8 (ESV)