

PRAYER AND PRAISE

Senior Sunday - “The God Card” Matthew 15:1-11; Philippians 2:1-8

Life Group Discussion

Bottom Line: When we try to manipulate God to fit our own preferences, we miss Him completely.

Create meaningful conversation. Adjust questions as needed, and don't feel like you need to answer all of them.

1. Take a few minutes to catch up with each other and open with prayer
2. Have you ever been in a situation where you had “all access”? What did it feel like to have that kind of power available? Did it change the way you acted or behaved at all? If you haven't had “all access” before, but could have it to go anywhere, where would you go? Why?
3. What comes to mind when you heard the phrase “playing the God card”? What are some ways you think people can play the God card?
4. Why do you think it is dangerous to play the God card?
5. Do you think it is still a bad idea to play the God card even if the results are good? Why or why not? Can you think of an example of where that might happen?
6. The Pharisees often took God's law and added to it so that the meaning of the law got lost in their own preferences. What are some ways you and I take things the Bible may say, but use Scripture to justify our own preferences or quirks? What are some rules we make up that—in all honesty—really are about us more than about God? What are some ways we try to get around what God asks?
7. Do you think it is easier to manipulate God or allow yourself to be influenced by God? Why or why not?
8. Do you think is possible to *actually* “play God”—to take advantage of Him? What is the danger in thinking we can do this—outsmart God?
9. What do you think the long-term risk is in trying to play God, or manipulate Him?
10. What are some ways that we can keep ourselves in check and work at allowing God to be God and us viewing ourselves in proper relation to Him? How can we look to Jesus for guidance on how He did this while on Earth?
11. What would it take for you to . . . love the people Jesus loves? Act the way He does? Humble yourself the way Jesus did?
12. Close in prayer