

**Getting into Our Lives** .....Group time - 20 minutes

1. What are your primary motives for doing “righteous” acts? Have you ever used religious action to gain greater honor for yourself?
2. How can we encourage one another with generous actions without using our actions to get others’ approval and praise?
3. Do you view God’s praise and joy as a great reward? How can you keep that in focus during the week?

**Getting Out the Gospel** .....Group time - 5 minutes

Who is in need (person or cause) that you could give to?

How can you go about doing it in a way that keeps focus and praise on God?

**Getting into Prayer** .....Group time - 10 minutes

**Reach:** “Father, help us to give and assist others so that they will give praise and glory to God and not to ourselves, and may that generosity result in a spiritual harvest.”

**Grow:** “Magnify my understanding of your praise and sharing in your joy as the greatest rewards for my service and work in this world.”

**Empower:** “Help me to be a seed of change that grows into a force for godliness in our small group, church and community for the glory of God.”

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**When Good Works Don't Work**

*Matthew 6:1-4*

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*1 Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. Otherwise, you have no reward with your Father in heaven. 2 So whenever you give to the poor, don't sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be applauded by people. Truly I tell you, they have their reward. 3 But when you give to the poor, don't let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 4 so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.*

**Those who are truly followers of Christ, live for and give for God's \_\_\_\_\_ and not for the \_\_\_\_\_ of people.**

NOTES:

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***I never knew:***

***I need to change:***

***I should share:***

# GROWTH GROUP QUESTIONS

Week of January 14, 2018

## Getting Started .....Group time - 15 minutes

1. Celebrities often make headlines for the causes they support. What is the difference between public support and self-promotion?
  
2. Have you ever donated to a charity in order to get the “free gift” that comes with “any size donation”? Did the reward change the experience?

FOR GROWTH GROUP TIME

## Getting into God’s Word .....Group time - 40 minutes

### Read Matthew 6:1

1. What does “practicing your righteousness” mean? What kind of actions does this include? **See also: 1 John 2:29 & Matthew 6:5-6,16-18**
  
2. What motivations do we need to be cautious of? Why?
  
3. How does Jesus’ instruction here synthesize with His previous call to “let your light shine before others”? **See also: Matthew 5:14-16**

4. What do we miss out on if we practice righteousness for others?

### Read Matthew 6:2-4

5. What is Jesus’ first example a righteous practice? How has it been done wrong? What is their reward?
  
6. What is the reason behind secretive giving? How does the gospel enable us to give in this way? **See also: Colossians 3:23-24**

7. What can we learn about God from this passage?

### Read Matthew 25:14-30

8. Who is the ultimate recipient of the investments? What is the reward for working with the appropriate person in mind?

### Read Romans 2:28-29

9. What is God most concerned about?