

CHALLENGE WEEKEND

Session 2 - The Performance Game

BOTTOM LINE

We don't have to perform to earn God's love; it's freely given.

MESSAGE OVERVIEW

We all have people we are trying to impress or that we hope view us a certain way. Maybe we want our teachers to think we're gifted, creative, or smart. Maybe we want our parents to think we're happy, fun, or responsible. We all have places where we perform in hopes of impressing or shaping the view that someone has of us. Sometimes we fall into the trap of wanting to appear to God like a "good Christian". We read our Bible, pray, go to church, volunteer, all from a place of gaining God's attention. But God doesn't want or care about our performance. He wants and cares about our hearts. He wants a genuine loving and trusting relationship with us.

SCRIPTURE

Elijah and Baal - 1 Kings 18:1-40

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast.

// Ephesians 2:8-9 NIV

He said to them, "You are the ones who justify yourselves in the eyes of others, but God knows your hearts. What people value highly is detestable in God's sight. // Luke 16:15 NIV

Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. // Matthew 22:37-38 NIV

QUESTION TO ASK YOURSELF

Where are you performing in hopes that God will see what you're doing for him?

DISCUSSION GUIDE

- Have you ever seen someone act totally different for their teacher or coach than they do with you in person? Portray themselves as more responsible, or more prepared, or more supportive than they really are? Share an example.
- We all perform to be seen a certain way at times. And not all of that is bad. You might be more professional at work or more respectful at school, etc. Share a time recently that you were performing to be seen a certain way by someone else? (Think a cute boy or girl, teacher, parents, coach, etc.)
- What are things people do that make you think they are a “good Christian”? Have you ever felt like they were doing it for show or to boast?
- When do you feel like you are performing for God? Or so that others will think you’re a “good Christian”?
- What actually makes you a Christian? Read Ephesians 2: 8–9: For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast.
- What does it look like for you to have a close personal relationship with God?

PRAY TOGETHER

Dear God, thank you so much for loving me and wanting to have a relationship with me. Please help me not to perform so that I’m seen by others and by you. Please help me not to perform to be good enough for you. Please help me rest in my relationship with you. I love you God. Amen.