

Life Changing Prayer-June 1st small group guide

Life Changing Prayer: Search Me, O God

Small Group Guide

Opening Prayer:

Begin your session by praying together the prayer from Psalm 139:23-24:

"Search me, God, and know my heart. Test me, and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think it's important to ask God to search our hearts, even though He already knows everything about us?
2. The sermon mentioned that "what we fear the most reveals where we trust God the least." Reflect on this statement. What are some of your biggest fears, and how might they relate to areas where you need to trust God more?
3. Why do you think it's often difficult for us to see our own sins or shortcomings?
4. The pastor suggested three self-awareness questions. Let's discuss each one:
 - a. What are others trying to tell you?
 - b. What have you rationalized?
 - c. Where are you most defensive?

5. How does confessing our sins to God differ from confessing to other people? Why are both important?

6. In what ways does this prayer (Search me, O God) point us to our need for Jesus?

Key Takeaways:

1. Our hearts are naturally deceitful, and we need God's help to truly understand ourselves.
2. Courage is required to ask God to reveal our fears, anxieties, and sins.
3. Self-awareness and openness to feedback from others are crucial for spiritual growth.
4. Confession to God brings forgiveness, while confession to others can bring healing.
5. Recognizing our need for Christ is transformational in our relationship with Him.

Practical Applications:

1. This week, spend time each day praying the "Search me, O God" prayer. Journal any insights or convictions you receive.
2. Identify one area of fear or anxiety in your life. Develop a plan to actively trust God more in this area.
3. Find a trusted friend or accountability partner. Share something you've been struggling with and ask for their prayer and support.
4. Practice self-reflection using the three questions discussed in the sermon. Be honest with yourself about areas that need growth or change.

5. If you're not already part of a life group, consider joining one to experience the benefits of Christian community and accountability.

Closing Prayer:

Close your session by having group members pray for each other, specifically in areas where they want God to search their hearts and lead them in His ways.