

WHAT DOES GOD WANT ME TO KNOW?

What is the difference between something that is *simple* and something that is *easy*?
How have you seen these differences played out in your own life?

Read Ephesians 2:4-10. What does this passage teach us about the nature of God?
Your Life Group may notice how often this passage uses the word “with.” God is rich in kindness and mercy. His desire is to be with us!

Reread the passage in two or three different translations. How do the different translations add to your understanding of this passage?
Ask your group members what kind of translations they have and then select a few to read. If everyone has the same translation, your group can use phones to access Bible apps and other devices to look up this passage in different translations on websites. Like www.biblegateway.com.

What are some healthy ways to think about *works*? What are some unhealthy ways?
What other passages can you find to support your answer?
This passage clearly states that *works* do not make us right with God. But it also clearly states that those who are in Christ were created to do good works. We will do the work God has for us out of the overflow of God’s love for us—not the other way around.

WHAT IS MY INITIAL REACTION?

Do you have answers to the three questions Bob posed in the message this weekend?
Who are you? Where are you? What do you want?

Why or why not?

Read Matthew 20:29-34. Have you ever been as desperate as the blind men in this story to encounter Jesus? What in your life hinders you from calling out to Jesus?

Put yourself in the position of the two blind men in this passage. How would you have responded to Jesus’ question?

Why is it so scary to be honest about what we *really* want?
Sometimes we are afraid to admit what we really want because we are ashamed.
Perhaps we are afraid to be disappointed, so we “protect” ourselves from the let-down by hiding our true desires. We should be encouraged by Jesus’ response to the blind



men in **Matthew 20:29-34**, however. They told him what they wanted and he looked on them with compassion.

WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?

Read John 15:15-17. What is the lasting fruit that God created you to bear? Based on your life experiences, who has God uniquely prepared you to love well?

When we seek value and identity by trying to do someone else's work, we end up tired, frustrated and bitter. We will never bear lasting fruit if we are busy doing someone else's work. Fruit that lasts comes from finding our identity in Jesus and abiding in him.

In what ways have you agreed with Jesus but refused to follow him?

What is the simple, yet difficult thing that God is asking you to do this week?

What exceptions do you tend to make it when it comes to *loving everyone, all the time*?
How will you overcome your tendency to make those exceptions?

