

Week 4 – No More Going Through the Motions

Notes:

After thinking about prior studies that I've been a part of, I don't want us to work our way through these sessions/go through the motions and at the end, say that sure was (or wasn't) a good study and move on.

Make it personal. From **Week 1** – No More Hiding Behind the Past, what from YOUR past are you laying down and giving completely to God?

From **Week 2** – No More Holding Back, is there something that is and has been holding you back from being who God has called you to be? From stepping out in faith and doing whatever God has called you to do? Is it fear? Selfishness (my time)? Lack of Confidence?

From **Week 3** – No More Weak Leadership, as a man, what is my role and responsibility in my home, church, community and God's Kingdom?

For **Week 4** – What is priority in your life and what defines you? Is it work/career, money, hobbies, status, etc.? When people look at you, what is the first thing they see or think of? How do you want to be seen or thought of?

- For a lot of years I was content to only go through the motions and my life didn't have much 'true' meaning. I certainly didn't have an impact in my church and community. It was only when I started making an attempt to put God first in everything that I saw true change and meaning in my life (Christ's Hands).

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Weak leadership has effects that extend beyond us. What's one area in which you've been convicted to lead?

- In my church. I want to be available (FAT – Faithful, Available and Teachable) and for my role to have meaning. I want to step out and help in any area/need that God puts before me. Can this be uncomfortable? In Week 2 we talked about reasons that we don't step out in faith and do what God has called us to do or who He has called us to be such as fear, selfishness and lack of confidence.

Describe common results associated with going through the motions and in what ways does going through the motions contribute to a life of mediocrity?

- Matthew 15: 8-9 "This people honors me w/their lips, but their heart is far from me; in vain do they worship me."
- Can anything good come from just going through the motions? In my marriage? My work? My walk with Christ? Just because I have accepted Jesus as my savior doesn't mean I am a good partner with Him.

From the Watch section on page 61, did any of the statements stand out to you?

- God says, "In this world you leave Me out, and you are not going to be able to break out and to experience life as I intended it to be experienced." I personally have never been as blessed or at peace as when I am fully committed to Him. I have felt His power and seen Him move in ways I never experienced before.
- Make God your priority, and He will inject meaning in your life... What is my life like if He is not 1st and not priority? Chaos...

Page 62 – MAN UP

1st Paragraph – Solomon had it all. **Status. Power. Fame. Money. Women, Freedom, Attention. Control...** yet he couldn't figure out why he was here and what he should do. He couldn't figure out the meaning in life.

2nd Paragraph – Neither Solomon's pursuits nor his conquests gave him the kind of satisfaction that lasts longer than a good meal or a movie.

- Joy vs. Happiness (substance)

In what ways does Solomon's pursuit of significance and meaning mirror many men's quests today?

- No difference. We seek all of those listed above and place priority on them. I'm sure we can add a few?

How can a lack of meaning contribute to a lifestyle of resignation just to go through the motions?

- None of those things truly bring about change or play a significant role in building God's Kingdom.
- What good is anything if it does not bring glory to God and draw me closer to Him?

Brainstorm some creative ways to break out of the box of going through the motions. Begin with your spiritual life. Then move outward.

- List the things we do (or don't do) in our personal walk with Christ that are routine. In the church?
- Perhaps laying my Bible down after church on Sunday and not picking it back up until the following Sunday morning?
- Finding my regular seat on Sunday morning and not greeting visitors?
- Shying away from opportunities to witness to others?

What are some common places (or things) men look to for meaning other than God?

- Work, money, recreation, substance abuse, control, etc. What 'defines' me and makes me a man....

Have you seen someone make plans, only to have God intervene and suddenly change those plans? What did they learn?

- Unanswered prayers!
- I learned that He is in control and that I'm not!

Identify one specific way you can align your thoughts, words, or actions this week underneath God's overarching rule.

- I have some needs/things I am praying for God to move in and my thoughts, my actions, etc. reside (or need to) in the fact that, IF it is His will, He will move in them. I have always stressed in times when His will and mine don't line up. Mom.....