

Small Group Guide



Discussion Questions

1. Pastor Jeff opened by saying that in this series we are "unlearning as much as we are learning." What is something God has been asking you to let go of recently — a habit of thinking, an assumption, or a way of approaching Him?
2. Daniel prayed "we," "us," and "our" nearly 38 times, even though he personally had been remarkably faithful. Why do you think it is so tempting to distance ourselves from the failures of God's people rather than standing among them?
3. Read the parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector in Luke 18:9-14. Jeff pointed out that the Pharisee was not a villain — he was genuinely trying to follow God. What subtle shifts in the heart can move a sincere believer from the posture of the tax collector toward the posture of the Pharisee?
4. Pastor Jeff observed that American culture is "hyper individualistic" and that this shapes how we think about our relationship with God and the church. In what ways have you seen this individualism affect how you pray, how you view your own failures, or how you view the failures of others in the church?
5. Jeff said this about criticizing the church: "Where am I talking about the church as if I'm not in the church, as if I'm not a part of the church? Where am I gloating about the failure of the church as if it's not mine?" How do you personally navigate the difference between honest, humble concern for the church and a critical spirit that separates you from it?
6. Daniel's ultimate appeal to God was not about personal comfort but about God's name being made known through His people. How does framing your prayers around God's glory — rather than your own relief — change what you ask for and how you wait for an answer?
7. The pastor shared his daughter Emily's update about her husband Brandon's rare neurological disorder. She wrote that looking back, they could see God's hand carrying them through every part of it. Has there been a season in your life where, looking back, you could see God's faithfulness more clearly than you could in the middle of it? What did that reveal to you about Him?

8. He made a pointed statement: "The way that we honor God's name is not hiding. The path to honoring God's name is repentance." Where do you think the church — locally or broadly — has been tempted to protect God's reputation through concealment rather than confession? Where have you personally been tempted to do the same?