

THE LAVER

DISCUSSION GUIDE

DISCUSSION QUESTION:

1. What was something that stood out to you from Sunday's message?

As we enter the outer court the first stop is the Brazen Altar where sacrifices for our sins are made. The very common response to our guilty conscience as we move closer to God is to try to clean ourselves up in an effort to feel better about how God feels about us. This is a violation of God's plan to draw us in to his loving presence.

The first stop after entering "The Gate" is not the laver where we rinse and cleanse but rather it's the altar where we receive God's grace and mercy. After we embrace God's forgiveness of our sins then we move to a place of cleansing and purifying. It is important to note that this isn't to be done from a perspective of guilt but rather a response to God's grace.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

2. Share a situation when you felt obligated in some way to a behavior or an action that you did not enjoy.
3. Share a situation when you felt an obligation to something you did enjoy.

Religion demands legalistic expression without providing a relational experience. Jesus came to change this order completely addressing the deeper desires of humanity where we find great joy in knowing, loving and serving God as our Father! God has always been like Jesus but it wasn't until Jesus came that mankind could see it.

Ps 37:4 *Delight yourself in the LORD; And He will give you the desires of your heart.* NIV

Through an authentic relationship our spiritual disciplines become habits of grace. This is why the Bible says it is grace that teaches us to say no to ungodliness.

Titus 2:11-13 *For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. 12 It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright & godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God & Savior, Jesus Christ.* NIV

DISCUSSION QUESTION:

4. Share a time when somebody you had great respect for demonstrated how he or she was proud of you.

As you read through the Tabernacle Prayer this week do so from the realization that God is not unhappy with you. In fact, God is as pleased with you as He is with Jesus because you are in Christ. Let's press in to his presence with joy!