

**Opening Questions (optional; pick one)**

- How do you receive guidance for others? (Thanks, but no thanks or I'm so glad you shared that with me)
  - ***Follow-up*** – *Is it situational, or different per who is giving the guidance?*
- Do you freely give instruction or wait for it to be solicited? What's the root of why you are the way you are? (Where did your "style" come from?)
  - ***Follow-up*** – *Are you a natural leader/ teacher or do you shy away from it? Has God gifted you in this area?*
- What is your Christmas/ New Year's Eve plan?
  - *Is it a time for family to all come together, travel, vacations, etc.?*
  - *Do you like it quiet and alone with your significant other? Or do you get together with Friends?*
  - *Any special traditions you have or are planning to start?*

**Today's Scripture – Going deeper**

**1. We prepare to meet the Lord (v. 1-3) – get our heart right**

- a. Do you easily bring your hurts and suffering to the Lord, or would you rather grit your teeth and bear it along?
  - i. What is the root of your response above, and are some things easier to hand over to God than others?
    - 1. Any strategies or verses that have helped/ do help you in this area?

**2. We seek to please the Lord (v. 4-6) – cleanse our mind and our hands**

- a. Do you find yourself looking out at this fallen world with contempt/ condemnation for all the wickedness or do you look out with sadness for all the lost people?
  - i. Do you like Jonah, wrestle with God's grace and patience and forgiveness?
  - ii. Do you like the Sons of Thunder (James/John) wrestle with wanting justice and punishment for the wayward?
  - iii. Do you like Peter, wrestle with being a doormat for your brother, constantly having to forgive offenses against you?
- b. Do you truly grasp the concept of eternity and has it helped you in your struggles from above?
  - i. What do you think your eternity will look like (hopefully in Heaven 😊)?

**3. We submit to the Lord (v. 7-12) – surrender our will for his pleasure**

- a. What has your path been like through life thus far? (Pot-hole filled street with many detours, a long stretch of barren road through the desert, Winding Mountain road through the back country, sitting in traffic inching along at a snail's pace, others?)
  - i. How has it changed with Jesus, or has it remained the same?
  - ii. Are you good to pre-emptively seek direction from the lord or just when the path seems unclear or you've gotten off course?

**Personal Connections**

- Did anything from the message personally connect with you? What did you "Take-Away" as an action for you?
- Anybody have a "revelation" through trying to draw out the concepts out today?