


“Meeting God in Sin”






Remember: The goal of small group is 100% participation . . . to hear from everyone. Choose the questions you think your group will respond to, but center them around the Bible by using the questions marked with “  ”



Open It:

- Share about a time that changed your perception and caused you to see the world differently. Greg referred to it as a “wake up and smell the pavement” moment. **Ex:** an interaction with someone like a teacher/mentor, dramatic life changes: divorce, moving away, the death of a loved one, etc
- Have you ever been hurt by someone who was more honest than you expected?
- What’s the most challenging feedback you’ve ever received? Why?

Read It:

-  Proverbs 26:14
-  Romans 3:23
-  Romans 5:8
-  Romans 6:23
-  Romans 10:9

Explore It:

- Would you call yourself a “spiritual slob?” Why do you feel this way?
- In the message, Greg’s friend says, “You won’t amount to much in life, you’ll just function.” What’s the danger of living a “functional” life versus a purposeful, God-centered life? **The danger is forfeiting the incredible opportunity to work alongside God in His efforts. When we live “functionally” well, we feel like we’ve got a good grasp on faith. Everything looks good on the outside. We’ve got the world deceived and they think we’re a good Christ Followers. However, Jesus calls us to something more. God wants us to thrive and multiply and develop and deploy. Functioning is not enough because Jesus deserves more.**

- What spiritual disciplines do you practice? And how regularly do you practice them? (At BPF we call them “Rhythms and Practices.” They include: worship, daily devotion, prayer, community, serving, repentance, share your story, rest, celebration) Give people an opportunity to share, but be careful to be uplifting to everyone. Wherever someone is in this process is the perfect place to start moving in the right direction. Encourage small steps toward these practices.
- What is your biggest distraction from these rhythms and practices? Most people struggle with social media/scrolling, tv/streaming, etc. but this could also include sports, a hobby, kid’s activities, caregiving, or even church activities. Dallas Willard once said *“Hurry is the great enemy of spiritual life in our day. . . You must ruthlessly eliminate hurry from your life.”*

- How could you say “No” to these distractions and make time for God?



Proverbs 26:14 compares laziness to a door swinging on its hinges. What does this image teach us about the danger of being spiritually or personally lazy? We may look like we’ve got all this activity in our lives but we’re not going anywhere. Without direction and purpose, it’s like we’re still in bed tossing and turning and not accomplishing anything.

- How do laziness and apathy creep into our lives and how do we guard against them? Strong rhythms and practices that keep Jesus’ mission and our identity in Him at the forefront of our minds is one way to guard against these things. Another is community. People who know us and care for us can help us recognize when these things creep in.
- When have you tried to rescue yourself or fix yourself? How’d that go? We can’t fix or rescue ourselves because we are the problem.



Romans 3:23 says that we all need Jesus because our sin separates us from God. When was the first moment that you recognized your need for Jesus? Take time to allow people to share their stories if you have people who are willing. No matter how many times they have told it or how many times you have heard it, these are good stories. We must all be reminded who we are and what God has done regularly.

- When was the most recent time you knew you needed Jesus? These stories may not be as big as the first moment, but anytime God meets us, He rescues us from something.



What does Romans 5:8 speak about how God loves us? **He loves even while we are sinning.**

- What does this say about our tendency to try to “earn” God’s love? **We can’t earn it. It’s a gracious gift.**
- Romans 6:23 makes it clear that eternal life in Jesus is truly a gift that cannot be earned. Why do you think this truth matters? **I don’t have to strive or work, but simply need to rest and trust in Him to do what I cannot.**



Read Romans 10:9 again and notice that it emphasizes confession and belief. Why do you think both speaking and believing are important in salvation? **Speaking alone can be empty, but “believing,” is more than empty words or a mental ascent to a truth. “Belief” involves both trust and action.**

- How does public confession strengthen both the individual and the church community?
- When is the last time you made a public confession of your faith? **“Confession here refers to any time you’ve shared your faith or story with someone. It could be as simple as speaking about God or church in a public (or digital) space. Small group counts, too.**
 - Is there another public space where you think your confession/story would be heard? **Encourage/”Breathe Courage” into them to share it in those spaces.**

Do It:

- What sin do you sense God may be meeting you in right now? How will you respond?
- What will you do this week to take a small step toward stronger practice of spiritual rhythms/disciplines? (prayer, Bible, community, service, rest, etc.)
- What practical step will you take this week to confess and deal with sin rather than hiding it?
- How might you encourage someone else who is stuck in “functional faith” to experience real transformation?
- What does it look like for you personally to live out the reality from Romans 10:9 confessing and believing daily?