

you can look FOR GOD HERE!



09.10.23

INTRODUCTION

As new rhythms of the fall season get underway, this weekend was a great opportunity to stop and remember what's most important. Together, we spent time going back to the heartbeat of our church (and one of Pastor John's favorite topics): no matter what, you can look for God here. Learning from the life Jesus and the early church's example found in the Bible, Pastor John taught how PLC determined to be a No Matter church where we get to be a part of God's extraordinary mission in the world.

DISCUSSION

1. What did you think or feel the first time you heard, "No matter...God loves you, and you can look for God here"? Share your experience with your group.
2. In John 4, Jesus speaks with a Samaritan woman who we learn is in messy relationships. In Luke 19, Jesus invites himself to the home of Zacchaeus, an embezzler who regularly stole from his own people. Both were hated and shunned by their community. What do you imagine these people thought about Jesus and His interactions with them? What does this say about Jesus' focus and character?
3. Have you ever avoided someone because you didn't agree with them? Been angry at someone's life choices? Disapproved or judged? Excluded someone? Let's be honest – it's easy to do. How can we catch these responses when they happen so we can keep in step with Jesus?
4. Being part of a No Matter church is messy. We're a collection of people who don't think alike, talk alike, vote the same, dress the same, etc. In a world that thrives on avoiding (or even villainizing) people who are different from us, what challenges and opportunities does a No Matter culture create for us and for you?
5. Pastor John taught, "Our doctrine isn't grey, but how we live it out in our world is hard sometimes." As part of a No Matter church, we believe in modeling the actions of Jesus because He changes everything. It may get complicated and dangerous, but it's worth it. Share something that has changed in you (your thinking, interactions with others, assumptions, etc.) because of Jesus (and maybe the example of a No Matter follower in your life).

APPLICATION

No Matter...What? Spend time in prayer asking Jesus to reveal both where you are in step with this No Matter character and where you have room to grow. Celebrate the wins and be ready for some healthy conviction to help you continue growing. Then, ask Him to help you change your perspective, heart, and attitude. Here are a few books you could snag to keep learning about prayer (conversations with God):

- *When You Pray*
- *Walking with God: How to Hear His Voice*
- *Prayer: Experiencing Awe and Intimacy with God*

Do Some Digging. RightNow Media has an eight-week video study called *The Acts of the Apostles* by Louie Giglio (you can sign up for RightNow Media [here](#); it's free!). It reveals God's plan for global redemption, His purpose for our lives, and the power He's given us to accomplish His mission. It's a great opportunity to learn how the early church viewed this No Matter mission we're still carrying today.