

Series: Advent
Passage: Malachi 3:1-4
Speaker: Pastor Garth

THE LIFE CHALLENGE

CONNECT

Share how you feel about the topic of being refined. Is it something you avoid or accept head on (or somewhere inbetween)?



IDENTITY

What is your understanding of the gospel? Discuss and define the 5 options. Are they all true and complete?

5 Options of Gospel Understanding

1. Get out of Jail Free card (ticket to heaven)
2. Hipster Gospel (peace, love & justice)
3. Mercedes Benz gospel (prosperity)
4. Jesus & Me (my special best friend, but not my king)
5. Kingdom Restoration Gospel (There is a king and a kingdom. The kingdom is here now and yet to come.)

THE EXAMEN

Garth talked about experiencing the 'fullness of God' being like two sides of a coin. On one side it's about repentance and judgment. On the other side it's about salvation and encouragement. Are you experiencing the fullness of God in your life? Identify and share some things that may be blocking the completeness God offers.

NOTE to Discussion Leaders:

For people to share they need to feel safe, so reaffirm that your group is a confidential, non-judgmental and caring group. Being a little vulnerable is hard, but God uses times like this to help the whole group move closer to God. Be brave.

PRACTICE

Read 1 Cor 3:10-18. What does this stir up in you? Take some time after reading the passage to pay attention to what the Holy Spirit is wanting to show you? If appropriate, share some of what you heard. What do you want to do with these words and truth? Maybe you need to talk to someone this coming week or spend time along with God to press into it more. Take time now to determine what you want to do with it!

PRAY TOGETHER

Pray about how this can bring joy (a deep inner gladness). It's such a contrast to think of being refined with joy, but this is what God promises. Pray about God's will being done and the coming joy it produces.