

Small Group Questions

September 12, 2021

Series: Positively Different

Message: "Faith with no Filters"

This series will examine various aspects of Jesus' ministry that engaged the culture of His day in positively different ways. By positively different, we mean it was not like culture but it was also not a negative engagement that simply produced anger and distance but, rather, influence and impact. The application within the series will seek to demonstrate how the culture of this day needs a positive voice that does not cave to culture nor become hostile to it. Many are concerned about the direction of our culture. Beyond concern, an important question looms: How can we make a difference in a day like this? Jesus shows us the way and will serve as our Guide to navigating life in some challenging days.

The main goal of this series is to produce the characteristics in followers of Jesus that speak and live with a positive voice, pointing to God's grace and a relationship with Him as the greatest need.

Thanks again for your time and effort in shepherding the lives of others!

(Questions to get everyone to participate)

1. Can you remember ever getting lost as a child? What happened?
2. If you had to identify the greatest need in our day, what one word would you use? Why?

(Questions based on the primary texts)

Read Luke 2:41-52.

1. Make a list of the character traits of Jesus in this passage. What do they tell you about the kind of child Jesus was? What surprises you the most?
2. How much does Jesus know about His mission? How much do His parents know?
3. What aspects of culture are represented in the passage? What do you make of Jesus' interaction with the cultural norms?
4. In our day, many people are ranting and disrespecting others. Based on the passage, what are some ways to interact with the culture of our day in ways that imitate Jesus?
5. How does this story illustrate the tension Jesus may have felt between obedience to His Father and obedience to His earthly parents? In what ways do you feel tension in your faith to God and life in the real world?
6. Years after this account, Jesus ministry included many conflicts with religious leaders. In today's passage, Jesus encounters some religious leaders. What do you make of His time with them here knowing the conflict that is coming later?
7. What is one positive way you can speak or live in your world this coming week?