

Color of Your Dishes

Week 2 | Take Off the Mask

■ BOTTOM LINE

You are not defined by your mask but by your maker.

■ GOAL OF THE GROUP

This 3-week series is on Discipleship and Community. The title comes from a saying, “your students should know the color of your dishes.” This week we are discussing how the masks we wear hold us back from the authentic relationships and life we long for.

■ SCRIPTURE

Genesis 3:3-11 and Romans 5:8

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Share: Think back to when you were a kid. What was your favorite Halloween costume and why?
2. Ok, it's time to get a little more honest. We often wear masks because we are embarrassed, afraid of something or are avoiding something. What reason do you find yourself wearing a mask? Why do we have this view about weakness? In what area of weakness do you wear a mask?
3. **Read Genesis 3:3-7 and Discuss:**
 - a. Looking at verse 7, notice that after they make their mistake they “cover” themselves. This is an act of shame, not only believing that they made a mistake but moving towards a believe that they are broken, a mistake themselves. What else do you see in this verse?
 - b. How does shame affect the way you see yourself?
 - c. How does shame limit your ability to engage in authentic relationships?
4. **Read Genesis 3:9-11 and Discuss:**
 - a. Looking at verse 10, what was the posture of the man and woman? Why?
 - b. Notice they are hiding from God and in that God points out in verse 11 that they are listening to another voice over his voice. Did he call them “naked” or did they make decisions about their worth on their own?
 - c. As we discussed last week – “You will follow the voice you value the most”. Even though they had a relationship with God they still got caught in their own situation. How can you relate to this?
5. **Read Romans 5:8 and discuss this statement:** “You are not defined by YOUR MASK but by YOUR MAKER.”
 - a. How does this statement shape the way you approach the mistakes you make?
 - b. If this statement is true, how would you enter into authentic conversations differently?
 - c. What about this statement is hard to believe, considering all the thoughts that you have?

“We are more sinful and flawed in ourselves than we ever dared dream, but at that same moment we are more loved and accepted in Jesus Christ than we ever dared hope.” – Tim Keller

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TRY THIS

Take a piece of paper or a journal and write down the “weakness” or “mistakes” that you think God can't use. Spend time praying that God would reveal what He believes about you and what He wants you to know about your “weakness”. Extra Credit: Find a verse in the Bible that speaks truth about what God believes about you or a truth that you need to remember when you are struggling with that area of your life! Share with the group next week.

Color of Your Dishes

Week 1 | Follow Me

■ BOTTOM LINE

You will follow the voice you value the most.

■ GOAL OF THE GROUP

This 3-week series is on Discipleship and Community. The title comes from a saying, “your students should know the color of your dishes.” We will get back to the heart of true discipleship and look at what it means to share your full life with Jesus and others. True discipleship isn’t just plugging people into a program; rather, it’s inviting people into your life, home, and mess. Let’s talk about how Jesus modeled this.

■ SCRIPTURE

Matthew 4:18-20 and Matthew 11:28-30

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **Share:** What are you learning about that is intriguing you? Is there a recent podcast, author, or YouTube video that inspires you?
2. When you hear the word *disciple*, what do you think it means?
3. A definition of a disciple of Jesus is a follower of Jesus, his model, his teachings, and his direction. Some of the ways we do that are through reading the bible, prayer, and community. Discuss these statements and compare with your thoughts about question 2.
4. **Read and Discuss Matthew 4:18-20 (The Message version):** *“Walking along the beach of Lake Galilee, Jesus saw two brothers: Simon (later called Peter) and Andrew. They were fishing, throwing their nets into the lake. It was their regular work. Jesus said to them, “Come with me. I’ll make a new kind of fisherman out of you. I’ll show you how to catch men and women instead of perch and bass.” They didn’t ask questions, but simply dropped their nets and followed.”*
 - a. When Jesus invites the two brothers to “come with me” and points them to the purpose of their life, how much more freeing, impactful and purposeful do you think this life would be?
 - b. Why would people choose to follow Jesus instead of continuing their life the way it was?
 - c. How does this impact the way you think Jesus is inviting you to follow Him differently?
5. **Read & Discuss Matthew 11:28-30 (The Message version):** *“Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you’ll recover your life. I’ll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won’t lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you’ll learn to live freely and lightly.”*
 - a. When Jesus talks about unforced rhythms of grace, what does that stir in your heart? What do you think He meant?
 - b. Why do you think Jesus compares the burdens of doing life our way as heavy compared to His way as free and light?
 - c. What holds you back from thinking that God’s way of learning and growing is free and light?
6. Discuss this statement: “You will follow the voice you value the most.”
 - a. How could the voice of Jesus, as you read about what He said to his disciples, bring value in this next season of your life?
 - b. In what areas of my faith journey could I walk alongside someone else and share what I have learned thus far?
 - c. In what areas of my faith journey do I need someone to walk alongside me?

“Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won’t lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you’ll learn to live freely and lightly.”

- Jesus

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TRY THIS

Invite someone over for dinner (or to a coffee shop if you don’t have time to clean up.) Make yourself available. Start a conversation about faith by sharing your own story.