

“What’s going on?”

+ Women’s Prayer- Join us every Tuesday from 12:00-1:00 in the sanctuary for an opportunity to pray. There will be people to pray with, or you can pray on your own. Childcare will be available, if needed.

+Fall bonfire- LifePoint will be hosting an all-church bonfire on Sunday, October 27th at 4:30 at the Wood's house. Important notes: Stay tuned for a Facebook event and announcements with more details.

+ Are you interested in joining the Denman School Team? LifePoint has been partnering with Denman school to love, support and care for them. There are tons of opportunities to get involved. If you’d like to join the team you can contact Rachel at rplattner@lifepointqcy.org

MATTHEW 6:1-6; 16-18

ICE BREAKER

Question: What’s the most flattering compliment anyone has ever given you? How did it make you feel?

Question: Has anyone here ever been in a situation where someone else was recognized for something good you did? It could be as small as a person telling your joke louder than you and getting the laughs... How did that make you feel? What did you want to do about it?

CENTERING FOCUS

Begin your time together by participating in “popcorn prayer.”

One person open up this time in prayer, and allow 5-10 minutes for anyone to pray, as they feel led. Do not rush to close this time if it is silent, but instead pray and practice silence.

Once an appropriate amount of time has passed, someone can close in prayer.

LAST WEEK'S CHALLENGE

Last week was our first week of practicing the discipline of community. We focused on one way we could listen, and then bless someone in our LifeGroup community.

Question: Did you practice this discipline this week? How was it? How has practicing the discipline of community drawn you into deeper intimacy with Jesus?

THOUGHT PROVOKING QUESTIONS

Question: Have you ever done something remarkable and no one was there to see it? Did you feel an urge to tell people about it? Why do you think that is?

Question: Are you more willing to put more effort into a task or job if you know other people will see it or hear about it?

Question: How do you think social media has affected the way we think about drawing attention to our achievements or putting our good works on display?

ENGAGING WITH SCRIPTURE

Matthew 6:1-4 (ESV):

Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Question: Where have you seen the phrase “beware”? What does it mean?

Question: Is Jesus warning us about practicing righteousness? Is he telling us not to do good works? Is he saying that we should be good Christians privately but not in public?

**Remember Matthew 5:16 (ESV): let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven*

Question: What is the difference between the good works Jesus is condoning and the good works he is condemning? What is the motivation he is steering us away from?

Question: What is the reason Jesus gives to motivate us to follow his teaching?

Question: What is the reward we get when we put our awesomeness on display for the world to see?

Matthew 6:5-6 (ESV):

And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Matthew 6:16-18 (ESV):

And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Question: What does Jesus call people who engage in this type of “religion on display” behavior? **hint: Jesus repeats the word three times...*

Question: What is a hypocrite? Why is this type of behavior hypocritical for a follower of Jesus?

Question: So, is it ok for followers of Jesus to pray in public—like at a restaurant before a meal?

Question: What are some ways we “sound a trumpet” to alert people of our good deeds in our culture?

Question: Have you ever had an inside joke with a friend? Do you have any friends that you often reminisce adventures you’ve had together? What does this do to your friendship?

Question: Ian Hsu once said, “*Some things are meant to be between you and God.*” What do you think doing good things only God knows about does to your relationship with Him?

Question: The point of our created existence is intimacy with God. This act of keeping some of the righteousness you do between you and God is one of the Rhythms of Intimacy called “Secrecy”. How can we practice this Spiritual Discipline together this week?

NEW CHALLENGE

As we continue to practice the spiritual discipline of community, this week our challenge is to invite someone into deeper community with you.

This will look different for everyone, so make it personal for you. Examples include inciting someone over for dinner, going out to lunch with someone, asking someone for help with a household chore, sitting and visiting with someone and asking them questions, etc.

If you think of something and it makes you a little scared, it probably a good sign that you are inviting them into deeper community with you.