



LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

APRIL–JULY 2016

26 JUNE

LIVING FOR GOD'S WELL DONE

This study guide should be used the week following the sermon it supplements.

MAIN TEXT: John 5:31-47, focusing on verse 44

30 "I can do nothing on my own. As I hear, I judge, and my judgment is just, because I seek not my own will but the will of him who sent me. 31 If I alone bear witness about myself, my testimony is not true. 32 There is another who bears witness about me, and I know that the testimony that he bears about me is true. 33 You sent to John, and he has borne witness to the truth. 34 Not that the testimony that I receive is from man, but I say these things so that you may be saved. 35 He was a burning and shining lamp, and you were willing to rejoice for a while in his light. 36 But the testimony that I have is greater than that of John. For the works that the Father has given me to accomplish, the very works that I am doing, bear witness about me that the Father has sent me. 37 And the Father who sent me has himself borne witness about me. His voice you have never heard, his form you have never seen, 38 and you do not have his word abiding in you, for you do not believe the one whom he has sent. 39 You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, 40 yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life. 41 I do not receive glory from people. 42 But I know that you do not have the love of God within you. 43 I have come in my Father's name, and you do not receive me. If another comes in his own name, you will receive him. 44 **How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God?** 45 Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father. There is one who accuses you: Moses, on whom you have set your hope. 46 For if you believed Moses, you would believe me; for he wrote of me. 47 But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe my words?"

GETTING STARTED

Discuss: why does it matter so much what other people think of us? How much time do you spend worrying about what other people think of you?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Why is this passage and verse 44 in particular important?

Hint: it warns of the dangers of living for your own glory.

2. How did such pious people (the Jews in this passage) miss their Messiah? *Hint:* He didn't fit *their* model. How can people today similarly miss God, particularly the work of the Holy Spirit?

3. How can seeking praise from people stop you from seeing God? *Hint:* all you see is yourself, valued by your works/performance.

4. Why is God's "well done" so much better than man's praise? *Hint:* people are fickle, and their praise isn't always genuine. God knows all, sees all and He alone is good and so what He says matters more than anything or anyone else.

5. Read Proverbs 4:5-7. How serious are you about seeking God's approval/glory/opinion/wisdom? What more could you do?

6. In general terms, how do we please God and so gain His 'approval' for what we do (knowing we are already *accepted* [saved] in Christ)? *Hint:* Hebrews 11:6.

7. What specific steps can we take to get God's approval? *Hint:* (i) Tell God you want His approval (ii) Ask Him to show you His opinion (iii) Learn to *disdain* living for the applause of man.

8. In light of this and the Biblical instruction to encourage one another (e.g. 1 Thessalonians 5:11), how should we continue to give and receive encouragement?

COMING UP

Church Picnic | 17 July
Prayer & Fasting Day & Meeting | 20 July
John Groves | 24 July
Special Church Member's Meeting | 24 July

NEXT STEPS

Break up into pairs (guy-with-guy/ girl-with girl), confess the ways in which you've sought after man's approval and not God's; pray for each other to prioritise living for God's "well done" (Matthew 25:21 and 23).

PRAYER

- Thank God for His wisdom.
 - Tell God you want His approval.
 - Ask God to show you His opinion (be specific).
 - Pray that God would give you the joy of knowing his "well done" (an inner witness in your heart now, and a public declaration in the future, on the Day of Judgement).
 - Pray for 200+ in attendance at the morning service, 20 conversions and 10 baptisms by the end of the year.
 - Pray for events coming up.
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