



BiG iDEA SMALL GROUP DiSCUSSiON GiDE

Small groups that focus on the Big Idea for the week can use this guide to apply the message to life and take action. Feel free to use whatever parts of this guide best fit your group personality and time frame. Do NOT feel like you have to use every question. All verses, unless otherwise noted, are from the New International Version (NIV).

07.17/18.10 // You Don't Have What it Takes: You Can't Please Everyone.

BiG iDEA: *Becoming Obsessed With What People Think About You Is The Quickest Way To Forget What God Thinks About You.*

// **Ice Breaker** _____

Option 1: Have you ever known someone who was a people pleaser? What was their life like?

Option 2: What are some of your favorite restaurants? What makes them your favorites?

// **Questions for Discussion** _____

1. Galatians 1: 10

Am I now trying to win the approval of men, or of God? Or am I trying to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ.

Who is Paul trying to please?

Who is he not trying to please?

Why did he say he wouldn't be a servant of Christ if he tried to please men?

2. 1 Thessalonians 2:4 (NLT)

For we speak as messengers approved by God to be entrusted with the Good News. Our purpose is to please God, not people. He alone examines the motives of our hearts.

What motives do we have for trying to please people?

What do we fear would happen if we failed to please them?

3. Matthew 6: 33

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

What needs are you expecting others to meet that only can be met by God?

What choices or changes do you need to make in order to have those needs met only by God?

4. John 12: 42 - 43

Yet at the same time many even among the leaders believed in him. But because of the Pharisees they would not confess their faith for fear they would be put out of the synagogue; ⁴³for they loved praise from men more than praise from God.

Why is people pleasing a form of idolatry?

How can people pleasing be a type of addiction?

5. **Proverbs 29: 25** Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD is kept safe.
What problems can happen if we fear man and not God?
Optional: Have the group share examples of problems either they have run into or someone they know has run into by trying to please people.

6. **Psalm 34: 9** Fear the Lord, you his godly people, for those who fear him will have all they need.
How can the fear of the Lord be an antidote for the fear of man?
What are some steps you can take to live in the fear of the Lord?

7. **People pleasers often take criticism personally, have an extraordinary fear of rejection, find it hard to express their true feelings, or have a hard time saying “no.”**
How can knowing these characteristics help us determine if we are a people pleaser?
Describe which of these characteristics may affect you.
What are some specific steps you can take to overcome this characteristic?

8. **Which of the following are traps in being a people pleaser?**
 I will compromise for you. I will over-commit for you.
 I will let you limit my success. All the above.
Why do you think these are called 'traps'?
In what ways would someone be tempted to compromise for someone they wanted to please?

9. **Philippians 2: 3**
Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.
What is the balance of being considerate to others and not being a people pleaser?

// **Application** _____

Read and commit to memory . Galatians 1: 10

Am I now trying to win the approval of men, or of God? Or am I trying to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ.

- **Write down the areas where you are tending to please others at the expense of your devotion to God, family and/or health and some steps you'll take to correct them.**
- **Recommit to being being a 3C (Committed, Connected, Contributing) Christian to help get your life in proper balance.**

// **Prayer** _____

We have been consumed by the opinions of others, but we want to be consumed by the opinion of You (God) and You alone.

That we would have the wisdom in our relationships to value others, but not at the expense of our relationship with You.

*You can't please everybody,
but you can please God.*

Chad Faust 2010

