

# TALK IT OVER

## BEHIND THE CURTAIN What Drives Us? – Week 1



Talking through the message during the week helps you turn what God is saying to you into action steps. These talking points, questions and scriptures are designed to help you take the next step. If you are leading a group through this guide, don't feel like you have to answer every question. Pick out the questions that will stir up conversation in your group.

- When you were a kid, where was a place that you most loved to go to? What made it such a wonderful experience? What place do you love to go to now? Why?

**Read Mark 8:34-38** Here, Jesus says to follow him, you must deny yourself and fully commit your life to Him.

- Jesus calls any follower to 'deny himself and take up his cross and follow me'. What do you think that means? What are some common obstacles to obeying this commandment?
- What are ways that we can resist the 'gain the whole world' mentality that today's society often encourages? How can we guide our children and others in this struggle?

**Read Galatians 5:19-26** In this passage, Paul outlines the effects of sin and the fruits of the Spirit.

- Which of the fruits of the spirit are your strong points?
- What were some changes and sacrifices you've made to show your love and commitment to others?
- What are some changes & sacrifices people can make to show love and commitment to God?

**Three Things That Drive NPCC:** In his sermon, Dwight mentions these 3 things:

- Unconditional ACCEPTANCE OF PEOPLE. (Read Romans 15:7) What keeps us from accepting others? What are ways we can show unconditional acceptance?
- REACHING people, not KEEPING people. Why do Christ and the church emphasize this? How can having a church-focus of *keeping people* hurt our chances of *reaching* people?
- Responsible TO PEOPLE not FOR PEOPLE (read Ezekiel 3:18-19). Why does God hold us accountable for what attempts we make in saving the lives of others?

### NEXT STEPS:

Here are some specific things you can do this week to help you apply the principles of this message:

Identify a few items in your life that you need to downplay or eliminate to strengthen your relationship with God.

Identify a specific way that you can improve in your unconditional acceptance of others.

Think of a person that you need to reach out and share the message of Christ. Think of a way to begin this process.

### Talk It Over with God:

- Praise God for the unconditional love and patience that He shows to you.
- Ask God for forgiveness in the areas of your life that keep you from fully following Him.
- Ask God for the strength and guidance in reaching out to a person to bring them to Him.

Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others in a Small Group. Connect at [www.newpointe.org](http://www.newpointe.org) – small groups