

GROWTH GROUP HOMEWORK | SESSION 5

SESSION FOCUS | HOW GOD SEES US

VERSE | 2 Corinthians 5:17

CONTEXT | 2 Corinthians 5:1–6:2

PRAYER | God, how do you see me?

CONTENT: BOOK | *THE CURE*

For Session 6, we will be discussing your key insights and personal applications from the book *The Cure*.

- The goal of a net-out is to help members read with greater intentionality and application.
- See the “Net-Out Example” handout. Keep “net-outs” to one page.
- Four parts of a net-out include:
 - A brief summary of the book
 - Key questions to answer (see below)
 - Personal application
 - Meaningful quotes
- Bring printed copies to our next meeting for everyone in the group. You will give a copy to each group member to learn from your takeaways.

KEY QUESTIONS TO ANSWER FOR THE CURE:

1. What stood out the most when the authors spoke about hiding behind a mask?
2. What is the biggest difference in the Room of Good Intentions versus the Room of Grace?
3. What part of what you read made you uncomfortable? What part was freeing?

ASSIGNMENT | FULLY KNOWN

Being fully known by someone can be frightening. However, when we are intentionally and consistently willing to share everything—even that secretive “last 10 percent”—about ourselves with a trusted friend, it can lead to a life of freedom that can’t be experienced otherwise.

- Who in your life are you fully known by?
- Who knows the dark corners of your heart and your struggles?

If we don’t have someone in our lives who plays this role, we are in a dangerous position of isolation where the sin cycle is primed to thrive and continue in secrecy. A primary goal of this group is that by the end you would have another person in your life that you are intentionally and consistently tracking with—that you allow to fully know you. This exercise is designed to help you plan and work toward cultivating that type of relationship.

Your assignment is to have at least one face-to-face meeting, using one of the guidelines below, and to be prepared to share with the group how the meeting went.



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IF YOU HAVE A SAFE, CLOSE, TRUSTED FRIEND

Your assignment in this session is to have a conversation with him regarding any hidden areas in your life. Use this assignment to remind you to intentionally and consistently go to the “last 10 percent” with whomever you are fully known by. Talk openly about your hopes for the relationship and process the reality behind whether this trusting friend is someone you are intentionally and consistently tracking with on an authentic level.

IF YOU DON'T HAVE A FRIEND WHO FULLY KNOWS YOU

Your assignment is to develop a plan. Think about someone in your life who has the potential to support you and love you, and begin intentionally developing that relationship. Come ready to share your plan. This is one of the most critical components to staying the course and growing. It is a primary goal of our group that you grasp the importance of being fully known by a few and having authentic relationships with other men.

ONE-ON-ONE

Meet with another group member according to the one-on-one schedule.



NET-OUT EXAMPLE

COUNTERFEIT GODS
Net out by Brad Lewis

BRIEF SUMMARY

Counterfeit Gods shows how idolatry creeps into core areas of a Christian's life. Keller teaches the reader about the prevalence of idolatry in the Bible and in the human heart. He deals with some of life's biggest idols: love, money, success, and power.

KEY QUESTIONS TO ANSWER

- *What does it look like to have counterfeit gods?*
 - Our hearts are “idol-making factories” that transform the good gifts God blesses us with into an “ultimate possessions” in our lives, replacing God in our affections.
- *What different types of idols exist in you?*
 - Love Idol: Misplaced desires for romance set us up for destructive and unfulfilling relationships with our spouses. Declaring romance as the only thing a person needs for a meaningful life offers unrealistic expectations and can have disastrous consequences.
 - Money Idol: Lures of wealth and success are contrary to the gospel of Christ, who came in poverty and suffered. Greed is a dangerous and pervasive idol, so much so that most people are unaware of their own overindulgences.
 - Political Idol: Socioeconomic brackets convince us that our income and spending are average, when most of us have a standard of living like that of royalty compared to the rest of the world.
- *What is the biggest risk of have idols?*

The great deception is that we are led to believe that only bad things are idols. But evil is far more subtle and deceptive. As the author says, “The greater the good, the more likely we are to expect that it can satisfy our deepest needs and hopes.”

PERSONAL APPLICATION

- I've recognized several key idols in my life after reading this book. I'm convicted to constantly ask the Lord to have mercy on me, a broken sinner who puts him second all too often.
- Understanding that the human heart is an idol factory, I must steep myself in Scripture to root them out, turn to Christ to find forgiveness, and rely on the gospel as my power source for finding ultimate freedom from them.
- I've discovered my idols are all good things in my life. The solution is not to love the good things God has blessed me with less, but to love the best blessing more—his Son. Any other path will lead to enslavement to my flesh.

MEANINGFUL QUOTES

- “A counterfeit god is anything so central and essential to your life that, should you lose it, your life would feel hardly worth living” (p. 34).
- “When people say, ‘I know God forgives me, but I can't forgive myself,’ they mean that they have found an idol whose approval is more important than God's” (p. 63).

