



Small Group Discussion Guide

Week of November 13, 2017

Open your group with a time of sharing and prayer. Ask God to help clear your hearts and minds for today's teaching.

This week we are going to look at "Lies in the Church." In one way we should expect that lies in the world will make their way into the church. It is kind of like screen door in the summer time. If you want the fresh air to come in you leave the main door open and everyone who comes and goes out of the church allows the bugs to come in as well. Here are a few lies we will look at: God is the "big man upstairs." "He is the big daddy-oh," "All people will be saved," "God just wants me to be happy," "Just name it and claim it," "We need to be perfect, like our Heavenly Father is perfect."

Jesus addresses the issue of worldly thinking making its way into thinking of the disciples. However, instead of screen doors in His time as an analogy, Jesus and his disciples dealt with dirty-dusty roads and tracking into the house. Read [John 13:1-17](#) and discuss how washing one another's feet is all a part of being in the world and then coming together at church or during small group.

- I. *God is "the big man upstairs or daddy-oh"* First of all. What truth does this saying convey? Can you think of any passages that might support this view or biblical concepts that might lend people to think this way? If Jesus was the son of God would this lead people to believe God is just an older or more senior member. How does the phrase Abba Father help clarify this idea in [Mark 14:36](#), [Romans 8:15](#), and [Galatians 4:6](#)? How does [Hebrews 12:18-29](#) help in understanding our relationship with God. Just for fun what does [Numbers 23:19](#) record about God? How does that equate?
- II. Are you warmed up yet? Let's look at the lie: *"all people will be save."* This makes sense since Jesus died for the entire world, right? This idea of universalism has been gaining a lot of speed as of late. What verses taken out of context do you see that might support this idea? What from scripture do you see as contrary to this idea? Read [Matthew 25:46](#), [Matthew 25:4](#), [Mark 9:24](#) and [John 3:35-36](#).
- III. *God just wants me to be happy.*" I am not sure about this one. A just God might want a bit more (pun was intended). Is God interested in our happiness? What verses support that? What else is God interested in? I guess you could ask Job, he might know. If happiness has to do with happenstance then let's look at sermon on the mount ([Matthew 5:1-11](#)). We might be tempted (for selfish purposes) to say happiness and joy are different. We might want to say happiness is worldly and joy divine. Explore the idea that really they are the same. [James 1:2-4](#), like the sermon on the mount focuses on the intent and outcome of what God will do in circumstances. Take time to discuss this further and give examples.
- IV. Finally, discuss how the last few lies make their way into the church and what scripture says about them. Conclude in prayer.



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