

# Small Group Guide

Week of July 7, 2024

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How do I know If I am Saved?



## Icebreaker



- You've been asked to create a new ice cream flavor. What is it called and what's in it?
- You're allowed to add one new feature to smartphones. What would it be?
- If you could safely eat any non-food item, what would you choose to try?



## Discussion Questions



- We heard that "following your heart" isn't always the best advice. Have you ever followed your heart and later regretted it? What did you learn from that experience?
- The analogy of a gated community was used to explain how we can't just focus on outward behavior. How do you think we can work on changing our hearts, not just our actions?
- Sometimes we take pleasure in others' misfortunes (like laughing at people falling). How can we cultivate more compassion?
- We heard that God gives us a "new heart" rather than just fixing our old one. What does this mean to you personally? How have you experienced this in your own life?
- The tie-dye analogy was used to describe God's transformation in our lives. In what areas of your life do you feel God is currently "binding" or "dipping" you to create something new?
- What makes it difficult for you to accept or believe in God's love sometimes? How can we help each other remember and experience this love?
- What holds you back from serving more? How might serving others change your heart?



## Thought for the Group



In this passage, we see that our actions really do show what's in our hearts. It's not just about saying the right things, but actually doing them.

Now, here's a curveball - our hearts can be pretty sneaky sometimes. You know how we often hear "follow your heart"? Well, turns out that's not always the best idea. Our hearts can sometimes lead us down some weird paths if we're not careful.

But here's the good news - God's all about changing us from the inside out. It's not just about trying to behave better on the outside. It's about letting God work on our hearts. Even when we feel like we've messed up big time, God's love is bigger than our mistakes.

Just like the tie-dye analogy we heard, God's not just trying to clean up our stains. He's taking our whole messy selves and making something totally new and beautiful.

So, what do we do with all this? We're challenged to believe in Jesus and love others. Sounds simple, but it's a game-changer when we really do it.

Remember, God's not interested in giving our hearts a quick patch-up job. He's giving us brand new hearts. He loves us, has an awesome plan for us, and can handle anything we're dealing with. How can we let God keep changing our hearts? And how can we encourage each other along the way?



## Next Steps



- Every day this week, spend 5 minutes each day journaling about your actions and motivations. Pray about areas needing growth.
- Choose one person you struggle to love. Show them God's love through a specific action this week.
- Commit to one month of related service in your church or community.