



THE BIG REVEAL

INTRODUCTION

In one sense, you know yourself better than anyone in the world. You alone have access to your inner thoughts, feelings, and judgments. In another way, you know yourself worse than anyone else can know you. Because we hate being honest with ourselves about ourselves...we all rationalize, justify, minimize, forget, and embellish—and we do not even know when we are doing it.

DISCUSSION

In what ways have you not been honest with yourself about yourself?

EXPLANATION

Is it easier to notice other people's faults or your own?

Is it easier to tell other people how to change rather than have God change you?

Why do you think that is?

What is something you wish you could easily change about yourself?

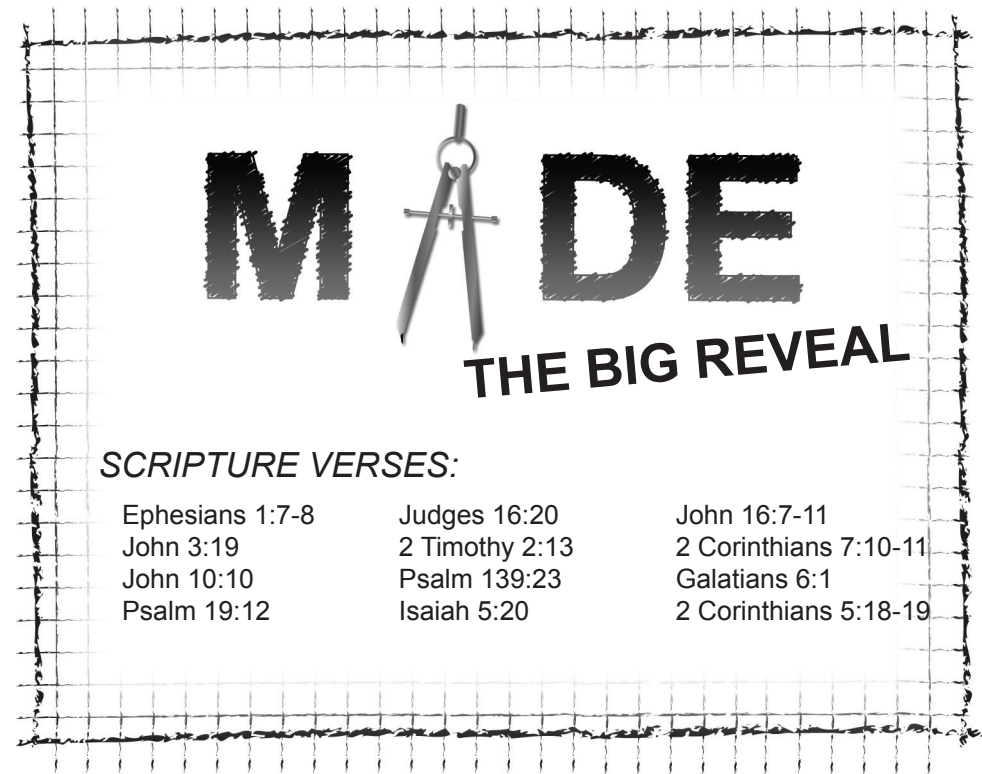
APPLICATION

When feeling guilt do you try really hard not to sin or do you seek to love Jesus more?

What do you think is the difference between loving Jesus and trying REALLY HARD not to sin?

Can you define repentance?

How can conviction from God's Spirit actually lead to hope?



WEEK 8 NOTES

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THE BIG REVEAL

Ephesians 1:7-8 “In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding,”

The duality of the human being is an amazing thing. In one sense, you know yourself better than anyone in the world. You alone have access to your inner thoughts, feelings, and judgments. In another way, you know yourself worse than anyone else can know you. Because we hate being honest with ourselves about ourselves...we all rationalize, justify, minimize, forget, and embellish—and we do not even know when we are doing it.

Apart from the Holy Spirit, we will have a hard time ever acknowledging our sin. The goal is NOT to try really hard NOT to sin, it is to LOVE Jesus. We live a life given to us by God, we have a soul given to us by God, His Spirit knows how to talk to and convict our hearts.

Sometimes God does want to get our attention. You cannot live your life doing whatever you want and think you are a Christian; sometimes we are just too insensitive. Our bodies have an amazing capacity to warn us about what ails them, if we learn to read the signs. In the same way, God will tell us the truth about our souls if we are patient and open and willing. *Psalms 139:23 Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.* The psalmist asked God to do a fearless searching inventory of his heart, for only God can give enough grace, strength, and truth to overcome our distorted vision.

Conviction is when we get a glimpse of what we are capable of, as in,

- How did I become the kind of person who can do that?
- How did I become the kind of person who cheats on tests?
- How did I become the kind of person who tells lies to get what I want?
- How did I become the kind of person who is so cowardly about what I say?

Repenting of our sin is never despairing over our sin; it is always done in hope. Guilt can be an important stop, but it is never meant as the end of the line. REPENTING IS A GIFT GOD GIVES US FOR OUR OWN SAKE, NOT HIS. Repenting does not increase God’s desire to be with us, it increases our capacity to stand in more light with Him.

Repentance is remedial work to mend our minds and hearts, which get bent by sin. *2 Cor 7:10-11 Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.* Repentance is always done in the gracious promise of forgiveness.

We all labor under a debt called sin that we can never repay but we are a people who need to understand our sins have been forgiven **which means** when God convicts us it is for growth, done in hope, so we become the people He calls us to be.

2 Cor 5:18-19 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.

