



## Small Group Sermon Guide

March 11 & 12, 2017, Pastor Jamie Rasmussen

### Godliness | 2 Peter 1:5-6

<sup>ESV</sup> **2 Peter 1:5-6** For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with **godliness...**

**Main Point:** *Godliness is NOT being like God, it is respecting and revering God.*

**Take Home Point:** *Godliness results in profound transformation.*

*“The Lord is my Shepherd’ is written on many more tombstones than lives.”  
—Dallas Willard, *The Divine Conspiracy**

### GETTING TO KNOW ME

*Instructions: The purpose of these questions is to generate responses that are self-revealing and informative. Feel free to ask all of these questions to your group or simply choose the one that best fits your group.*

1. Who’s the most godly person that you know? Why would you say that they are godly? What do you think helped them become so godly? Would you say that they had an easy life or one filled with many difficulties?
2. Has anyone in your group been “religious?” What was it like?
3. Have one person from your small group share the details behind them moving from religion to relationship.

### INTO THE BIBLE

*Instructions: The purpose of these questions is to draw group members into the Bible to discover truth from passages that were not the primary text for the weekend message.*

1. Read 2 Peter 3:8-13. Why should we live godly lives? In verse 12, what’s the outcome of living a godly life? Why is this the case? With this principle in mind, what can you do to grow in godliness?
2. Read 2 Timothy 3:1-9. What does it mean to have the “appearance of godliness, but denying its power?” (Hint: Check out Acts 1:8 and 2 Timothy 1:7-8;; and 1:14.) Why does Paul tell Timothy to “Avoid such people?”

## **APPLICATION**

*Instructions: The purpose of these questions is to apply the main points from the weekend message.*

1. Pastor Jamie taught that "godliness is not being like God, it is revering and relating to God." What does it look like for you to relate to God? Is it possible to be "like God" without relating to Him? Why or why not?
2. Where are you when it comes to this journey from religion to relationship? How did things change for you when you made that move?
3. Pastor Jamie share four examples of the transformation that takes place when we move from religion to relationship - answered prayer, the movement of power of God, victory over temptation, and bravery in persecution. With this in mind, please take a moment to answer the following questions...
  - a. How does godliness produce answered prayer? (Hint: See 1 John 5:14-15 and John 15:7). How have you seen this principle true in your life? How does your prayer life need to change to reflect a relationship rather than a religion?
  - b. How does godliness produced the movement of God in your life? (Review 1 Timothy 4:8.) What are you doing that's hindering the power of God in your life? What would it look like to "train yourself for godliness?" (1 Timothy 4:7) Do you spend more time, energy, and resources focused on your physical body or your soul? How would you focus more time, energy, and resources on training for godliness?
  - c. How does godliness grant us victory over temptation? (Hint: John 15:1-5) How have you seen this in your life? If prudent, share with your group a temptation that contiously gets the better of you? How can "godliness" be the path of victory?
  - d. Should we expect to be persecuted for our godliness? Why or why not? How does godliness help us persevere in that persecution?

## **PRAYER**

*Instructions: In addition to your normal time of prayer, please spend some time praying through the following points from the sermon.*

1. Ask God to draw near to you as you draw near to Him.
2. Pray that He would reveal anything that's keeping you religious rather than relational.