



INTRODUCTION - Week 1

We've all become addicted to lives of achieving, accomplishing and earning — constantly striving for the perfect life. We long for connection, meaning and depth, yet we settle for a frantic "Perfect Over Present" life. Consider this: What if God wanted more for you than perfection? A life filled with grace, love, rest and play?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Growing up, we are taught lessons about what's important. Some lessons we learn explicitly and others subliminally. How were you taught to finish this sentence: "You are what you _____."
2. Hans suggested that most of us, from the moment we are born, are on, instead, a "Perfect Over Present" journey. Do you agree with him?
3. How do things like social media reinforce this idea that life is all about perfection?
4. The "Perfect Over Present" journey most of us are on is characterized by endless achieving, constant accomplishing and earning at all costs. Tell about a time in your life when you realized that in this world: you are what you achieve, you are what you accomplish or you are what you earn?
5. Read Titus 3:3-7. Rather than achieving and accomplishing, how is our worth determined by God?
6. In Jesus, God trades in that story of perfection for a new story. God came into this less-than-perfect world as a messy child to inadequate parents. He didn't spend time with the high and mighty, and died a less-than-perfect death. What is one way you could trade in your "Perfect Over Present" story or a "Present Over Perfect" life?

MOVING FORWARD

Here's something to wonder about: If perfection is the end goal in life, we are doomed to lives filled with inadequacy and isolation. Maybe that's why 45% of adults experience profound loneliness on a regular basis and 30% of teenagers experience prolonged periods of depression. Don't we believe God wants something so much more for us? Remember: God traded in perfection. You are what God thinks of you! You are what God sees in you! You are what God believes you to be!

TRADE IN PERFECTION

He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. — *Titus 3:5*