



Everybody Always: Courageous | June 26, 2019

Discussion Guide

The Scoop

Sometimes we have this picture of what we're supposed to be. But what if we're defined more by what we actually do, than what we're supposed to be. Read below to hear more.

Key Verses

Ephesians 2:10 (NIV)

"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

Discussion

A popular tourist stop in big cities, Madame Tussauds Wax Museum is full of wax figures of well-known celebrities. The funny thing is, they actually do a really good job of making the wax figures look identical to the celebrity. So much so, if you were looking at a picture you might be tricked into believing they're the real deal. The problem with wax museums, however, is that they're full of images (statues) of what the celebrities are "supposed" to be. These statues can show the attributes of celebrities very well, but fail to take into account what they do and how they behave.

1. Have you ever been to a wax museum before? If so, describe your experience. If not, what do you picture it to be like?
2. What makes wax figures problematic? Why do you think people pay money to see things that are simply replicas of the "real deal?" How do wax figures fall short in giving us a full picture of the human being they replicate?

In his book, "Everybody Always," Bob Goff talks about how in our faith we spend too much time talking about what we should do, what it should look like, and what it should be. We rarely talk about what we actually do. Spending all of our time thinking that way has the potential to limit us. We research, we study, we pray, we read, and we journal. But then it stops there, and we don't actually do anything with it. Bob Goff says that while it's counter to the way we usually consume our faith, it's important for us to stop over analyzing or comparing, and simply start doing.

3. When was the last time in your faith you told yourself or someone else what they "should" do? How does doing that limit us from living out our faith?
4. Why do you think so many of us get paralyzed by the image of a "perfect Christian," and fail to act or do anything? What does your image of a "perfect Christian" consist of? In what ways do you consistently fall short of that image?

In Ephesians 2:10, the Bible says that God planned for us to do good things, and to live the way He always wanted us to live. He doesn't provide a checklist of all the things we need to do or accomplish to be a good Christian, He simply says he's created us to do. Through Jesus, He gives us the freedom to be who we are, not who we think we should be. In our faith, instead of making lists of things we need to do or measure, God asks us to think about what we are good at or where we have been gifted, and to live into that identity to make a difference in the world.

5. How does God use us, as imperfect beings, to create impact in the world? Do you believe He's prepared good works for you to do? Why or why not?
6. List some of the ways you have been gifted, or a few things that you are good at. Are you living into those things to impact God's kingdom? Explain.

What's Next?

Unfortunately, most of us spend so much time carving out a picture of what the "perfect Christian" looks like, that we get paralyzed from the ability to do anything when we don't live up to it. Instead of getting caught up in what we "should do," what if we reminded ourselves and those around us who we are as children of God? Over and over again in the Bible, God tells us who we are. What we need to do is embrace that identity, let go of all the things we think we should do or should be, and live into it to start doing. Granted, this isn't easy. It takes courage to live into who God says we are. But the truth is, we can't fail when we are living into who God created us to be.

This week, as you live out and engage your faith, step into some of the places that you know you were created to be. Tell someone else who they are, what you seen in them, and what they could become, instead of what they should do. Watch them grow closer to God as a result.