

**YOU+ | Week 7 - Develop Deep Disciplines****Message Big Idea**

Disciples of Jesus pursue a growing connection with God through spiritual practices.

**Scripture**

Matthew 6:1-18

**Points to Keep In Mind**

1. Some questions we could ask ourselves about motivations: Am I upset when I don't get recognized, or when others do, and I don't? Am I irritated when I don't get my wishes when it comes to giving? Do I expect my way because I gave or how much I give?
2. How do we know if we're seeking the approval of others? You are motivated/unmotivated in your work, friendships, church, etc., by the praise or lack of praise of those around you. Your decisions are often driven by what others will think. You are easily discouraged, irritated, or angry when others do not appreciate your efforts or when others receive credit for something you have done. You only portray the admirable aspects of your life to those around you. Your relationships only go so deep that your struggles are not revealed.
3. Here are a few markers of the person pursuing God's approval before and above everyone and everything else: You find joy when God is glorified, even if you receive no attention or praise in the process. You are excited for those who do well and compassionate and gracious towards those who fail. You are honest about your struggles, failures, and sin, recognizing that you are a work in progress. You do not feel the need to portray a certain type of life on social media and do not need a high volume of likes and comments to feel good about yourself. You seek to know and pursue what Christ values more than climbing the ladder of success and seeking what the world values.

**Next Steps**

1. Where do you see God at work in your life right now?
2. What next steps do you feel called to take in your faith journey?
3. Have you considered getting baptized? [communitychristian.org/baptism](http://communitychristian.org/baptism)
4. Have you read the Community Daily recently? How is it encouraging you and challenging you? You can sign up at [communitychristian.org/daily](http://communitychristian.org/daily)
5. If anyone in your small group is seeking professional counseling, you can always refer them to our resource page: [communitychristian.org/mentalhealth](http://communitychristian.org/mentalhealth)
6. Start your pre-work and sign up to have a YOU+ Conversation by visiting: [youplus.info](http://youplus.info)