



## Address The Mess: Part Two: Best Mess Ever

### Introduction

We've all made messes in our lives. In fact, we know a mess when we see one because we are messes. It's something we all have in common. Our messes can bring us together, but they may also make us feel separated from God. When we can't even live up to our own standards, how can we live up to God's standards? We assume our messes must disappoint or anger our Heavenly Father. But the truth is, the mess that brings us together is the mess that brought God near.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What part of Sunday's message stood out to you? Was there anything you disagreed with or that encouraged you?

*"The mess that brings us together brought God near.  
Your mess can be the avenue that brings God near to you."*

### Read: John 3:17; 8:12 and Matthew 7:24–26

**Context:** *Apostle Paul wrote a letter to a church in Rome which became known as the book of Romans. In this section of the letter, he makes the point that our messes get in the way of our relationship with God, but God uses our mess to bring us near to him.*

- Read John 3:17. What did Jesus come to this world to do? What does condemn mean? What is the definition of "saving" John talks about?
- Jesus invited messy people to follow him while they were still messy people. How is this so different than our human nature? Why do we naturally cringe at this when we think about giving grace but not when we think about you and I receiving grace?
- Read John 8:12. What is the promise Jesus makes? Who does he make this promise to and what distinguishes this person?
- Read Matthew 7:24-26. What is the point of this story? How do you relate to both the wise man and the foolish man?
- ***You cannot pray your way out of a mess you behaved yourself into. You can follow your way out.*** Why can we not pray our way out? Why is our behavior the crucial part of the mess we are in?
- What does "following" our way out of a mess look like? Who and what do we need to follow to get out of our mess?
- God will meet you in the mess. We know because it's what Jesus did. Why is it that people feel like they need to be "un-messed" before coming to Jesus? How does this give us hope that Jesus can use us for His glory in spite of our mess?
- If you are willing to admit publicly that you've messed up, you are giving up and you're looking up. When you do this, God shows up. What does this look like for you? How can this group help you begin to follow Jesus out of your mess?

### MOVING FORWARD

You've made messes in life. We all have. Your current mess may feel overwhelming. It may feel like there's no way out. But you don't have to be stuck. Jesus invites you to follow him out of your mess. You only need to surrender. When you surrender, you can experience God's grace.

## **LIVE IT OUT**

**Memorize:** Matthew 3:17

**Journaling:** Take some time to admit your mess. Think about how you will give up control and how you will look up. Dream about what God can do through you.

**Prayer:** Ask God to forgive you of your messes and ask him to help you out of your mess.

**Accountability:** Ask a friend to keep you accountable to stay laser focused on following Jesus and changing that behavior you need to change.