

WARMING UP

1. What examples can you think of that support the truth “looking isn’t the same as seeing”?

DIGGING IN

Do you see that God is doing extraordinary things among us?

2. *Start with the ordinary (5:17)*. List some of the mundane aspects of everyday life. How can we become so focused on the ordinary that we forget there is something extraordinary out there? What are the ramifications of this?
3. *Recognize what the extraordinary looks like (5:22-23)*. What things would you consider to be extraordinary? Why? Have you personally experienced anything that you would classify this way?
 - *Sinners are easy (5:21)*. Why is sinning so easy? What was the sin of the religious leaders here? Why were they so upset about Jesus forgiving sins? How was this similar to the scenario in the Roman Catholic Church during the Middle Ages? What did both Jesus and Martin Luther let the people know?
 - *Acting in faith is somewhat easy (5:18-19)*. How do the men demonstrate simple faith in these verses? Do you find it relatively easy to act in faith? Why or why not? What does Luke 17:5-6 contribute to this conversation? What act of faith do you need to take right now?
 - *Healing someone is somewhat hard (5:24-25)*. What was required for this more extraordinary act to occur (5:17)? Do miraculous healings still happen today? Why or why not? In what way does James 5:14-16 speak to this issue?
 - *Forgiving someone is hard (5:20)*. How was it hard for God to extend forgiveness toward us? Discuss Matthew 27:46 and Romans 5:7-8 with this in mind. Why is it so difficult for us to forgive others? When has this been true for you—or maybe it still is? How does Matthew 6:14-15 challenge you to be more forgiving toward others?
4. *And stand in awe of him (5:26)*. Notice all of the words in this verse that express the people’s amazement. Pastor Todd said, “When we stand in awe of him, it radically alters our lives.” How so? What are some of the wonderful realities that we experience in our lives when we truly see the extraordinary things happening around us and in us?

BREAKING OUT

5. Which part of this message impacted you most significantly? Why? How is God challenging you to think or live differently as a result? How could you involve your small group members in the pursuit of this change?