

CONVERSATION GUIDE

Middle-High School

DATE: 10/18/20

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

LESSON: The Right Kind of Notice

INTRO

This conversation guide exists to help parents interact with their middle and high school students. Our goal in having middle and high school students attend gatherings (or worship at home) with their parents is to help them transition toward being adults who are fully functioning members of the church. But most middle and high school students still need some translation and help connecting what they're learning to their lives. We want our sermons to be accessible, but they aren't specifically targeted toward the transitional teenage years.

- **Read Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18.** How do you feel when you do something really good and don't get the attention or praise you thought you'd get (from your parents, friends, a specific girl or boy, etc.)?
- The word "hypocrite" comes from actors or performers, but Jesus redefined it as "the tendency to do things for the primary purpose of being seen, not because it's who you are." Where in life are you most tempted to act like a hypocrite? (*Parents go first!*)
- This notion of doing things for others to see us is a massive issue in Middle and High School. It's called peer pressure, influence, attention seeking, etc. Why is it so easy to do good and righteous things just so that others will see you? (*It feels great to have other people look at you and say "Dang, you're awesome". And likewise, it feels terrible to have others look at you and say or think, "You're an idiot."*)
 - Why is living for the applause of others a trap that never pays off?
- Do you remember what "radical interiority" means? How confident are you in who you are, who God is and where your identity and righteousness come from?
- At the end of the day, whose notice do you live for overall, God or people?
 - What are some practical things you can do this week to starve your want for approval/notice for your good works?