



## DISCUSSION GUIDE

**::Week 2: You Don't Have What it Takes to Please Everyone::**

**::January 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>, 2010::**

### Small Group Warm-Up

Anybody want to admit that you once wore the Farrah Fawcett feathered hair-do, or the Mississippi Mud flap (also known as the mullet)? What other fashion trends did you buy into in the past that you laugh at now? What other weird things do we do to try to fit in and please others?

### Opening Prayer

Father God, open our hearts and minds to receive the truth that you love us with an unfailing love. Help us to focus on pleasing you first, and to stop worrying about trying to please everyone else.

### Discussion Questions

1. Do any of these statements describe you? If so, which one/ones?

- I take criticism way too personally and focus on it to an unhealthy degree.
- I have a hard time saying no, for fear of what others may think of me.
- I find it hard to express my true feelings. Instead I try to say what I think others want to hear.
- I often do things I don't want to do simply because of peer pressure.

2. Pastor James reminded us that God is pleased with us! In fact, his love for us is unfailing—in spite of our problems, issues and mistakes. If we are focused on what others think of us, it takes our focus away from what God thinks of us. Take a look at a few of the many references to God's unfailing love in Scripture:

**Psalm 36:7, Psalm 130:7, Psalm 147:11, Isaiah 54:10**

3. Raise your hand if you sometimes find yourself trying to earn God's love. You can't earn it—you're not good enough. But you can receive it as a free gift. Sit quietly for one minute, breathe deeply, and allow the awareness of God's unfailing love for you to settle in. Try to practice this simple exercise throughout the coming week. If your mind tells you that you are unworthy of his love, you can be sure that this is a lie. God's Word speaks the truth. He loves you! Tell the person next to you, "God loves you!"

4. This weekend, we learned that we will never be able to please everyone around us, but that we can please God! **Read Hebrews 11:1-6.** We please God when we live out our faith in him. What are some examples of faith from Hebrews 11? What are some examples of how you and I can express faith in our daily lives?

5. Jesus knew he needed to focus on pleasing God rather than trying to please the people around him.

**Read John 2:23-25, John 5:30.**

Is there someone in your life who seems unpleasable? Stop focusing on pleasing them. Focus on pleasing God.

6. Sometimes when we are trying our best to walk with God and to do the right thing, people can misjudge our actions or our motives. This happened to Paul, Silas and Timothy. **Read 1 Thessalonians 2:1-6a.** Have you ever felt misunderstood or unfairly judged by others? How did you handle this?

7. Our walk of faith is not always easy. That's why it helps to be surrounded by a community of people who are growing in faith. **Read Hebrews 12:1-3.** Is there an area of your life you have been struggling with that has caused you to grow weary and lose heart? Would you be willing to share that burden and receive encouragement from others today?

### Closing Prayer

Pray a simple prayer for the person on your right.



[www.eastlakechurch.com](http://www.eastlakechurch.com) / 619-421-4100