

PALM SUNDAY



Nothing to Prove.

WARM UP

What is your favorite board game and why?

SET IT UP

At some point in your life, someone that mattered to you set up the rules of the game of life. We spend our entire lives trying to prove we matter, only to fall short of our expectations. Even when we achieve great things, the feeling won't go away. But encountering Jesus can change the game. Let's talk about it.

CHAT IT UP

1. What is one skill or talent that you are especially proud of?
2. Describe a time when you felt like you didn't measure up. (*Hint: Think through situations like not making the team, being passed up for the promotion, a failed relationship, etc.*)
3. In those moments when we fall short, is your tendency to fake it, hide it, or work hard to prove yourself?
4. **How does our desire to measure up affect the way we relate to God?** (*Hint: We burden ourselves trying to earn God's approval, or we push Him away for fear of not being good enough*).
5. The Apostle Paul shows us a better way to live. **Read Romans 3:20-27.**
6. **How does Paul flip the typical religious paradigm of doing better, trying harder, and hoping for the best?** (*Hint: God did all the work for us so that we already measure up. On the cross, Jesus took our short-comings and sin, and exchanged them with His perfection*).
7. In light of what Jesus accomplished on the cross, how can you now respond to your feelings of inadequacy or shortcomings? (*Hint: Remember, I am not good enough, but Jesus was!*)

WRAP IT UP

Everyone is searching for acceptance, and we will do anything to get it. We try to find it in dating, sex, success, wealth, inclusion, or power over others. But it never works. Instead, we never stop trying to justify our existence while wondering where we went wrong. You don't have to settle for this kind of life. There is a better way—living in unconditional love and freedom found in the relentless love of our Savior, Jesus.

LEADER TIPS

- **Easter is just one week away. One invitation can be the spark that changes someone's eternity.** Encourage and equip your group members to take that important step of inviting someone to join them at Parker Hill on the weekend. Use the tips below to help your group members take the step of reaching out.

HOW TO ASK:

As you hand someone that invite card, here's what you can say:

- *"If you don't have a church to attend this Easter we'd love to have you join us."*

RESPOND TO POSSIBLE OBJECTIONS:

I already have family plans for Easter Sunday.

- *That's OK... we also have an Easter service on Saturday.*

I don't have "church" clothes.

- *No problem, we dress casually: no Easter bonnets, fancy dresses or pastel shirts required!*

What about my kids?

- *We have some special things planned just for kids – they'll have a great time!*

If I ever set foot in a church, lightning would strike.

- *No problem. That's covered by our insurance!*