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## Part 1 – I'm in a Good Place

### Discussion Guide

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In today's world, many people call themselves Christians. A far fewer number have their hearts, desires, thoughts, and plans lined up with God's plan. Often, believers struggle with having God's perspective, even about themselves. In this series, we look at how we grow more like Jesus and closer in our walk with Him. Let's dive deeper, learning how to line up our thoughts, plans, and lives with God, learning how to see ourselves as He sees us.

#### Jump Start

1. When have you made an unpopular choice or felt like an outcast? It may be the sports team you support, the profession you have chosen, or the shows you watch.
2. **Read [Romans 8:1-4](#) and [John 3:17](#).** What is condemnation? Why is what Paul writes to the new believers so radical and different? In what areas of your life have you experienced Jesus' freedom defeating the power of sin? In what areas of life have you allowed guilt or shame (the power of sin) to impact you (can be present or past)?
3. **Read [1 John 1:8-10](#) and [Acts 3:19](#).** Do these passages suggest that sin is not powerful or not important? Why or why not? How can we remove sin's power? How do we give sin power over our lives? Do you find it easy or difficult to confess your sins to God? Do you confess your sins frequently and specifically, in order to keep that "clean slate" feeling?
4. **Read [Ephesians 4:21-24](#).** What does it mean to put off the old self or nature? What does that look like? How do we find renewal in our thoughts and our attitudes? Those that have given their lives to Christ: What is the biggest change you have seen in your attitude/thoughts/or desires?
5. **Read [Psalm 40:2-3](#).** What pit of destruction is David talking about? How does David describe God's reaction to his failures?

6. Final Thought: **Read [Proverbs 24:16](#)**. What separates a righteous man and a wicked man? Why do you think a righteous man gets up, but a wicked man stumbles and stays down? What motivates you to get up after a fall? Is there an area of your life where you need to “get up” today?

### **Deeper**

In this series, we will be diving into the idea of sanctification, the process of becoming righteous, lining up our intentions, hearts and minds with God. This process certainly includes our need to deal with sin in a God-honoring way. While none of us will ever stop sinning altogether, it is important that we understand exactly how God desires us to view ourselves and deal with sin. It also means we are striving to be holy before God. Let's dive deeper into Romans 6 to do this.

7. **Read [Romans 6:1-4](#)**. Why is it important we stop sinning, if all sin is already covered by the cross? Can you be truly saved if you have an attitude of “I’m forgiven, so I can just go on sinning”? Why or why not? How can we determine what is an “acceptable” amount of sin?
8. **Read [Romans 6:5-11](#)**. What was the former power of sin? Do you live like sin has no power? How so? When we have great shame over our sin, what does it say about our belief in God and what happened on the cross?
9. **Read [Romans 6:12-14](#)**. What does Paul mean when he says, “Don’t let your bodies become an instrument of evil to serve sin”? Another version says, don’t let it “reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions.” What does “serving sin” or allowing it to “reign” mean? How have you seen or experienced this?
10. **Read [Romans 6:14-23](#)**. Why does Paul use something as extreme as slavery? What would you say is your “master” day to day? What is the fruit of pursuing righteousness (verse 23)?