

The Blessing

PART 2: SHOW AND TELL

INTRODUCTION

Have you ever felt that the better you behave, the more God would love you? Or maybe you've wondered if God *could* love you or forgive *that*? If you've wondered about these things, God's love might not depend on what you think . . .

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Share a funny "watch this" moment.
2. Growing up, which did you experience more: behavior correction or character formation? How has this affected you? (*For parents, which of those voices do you use more with your children? How does that affect your relationship with them?*)
3. Have you ever felt like you were on a treadmill in your relationship with God? What does that look like?
4. Believing God *loves* us is sometimes easier than believing he *likes* us. Is it hard for you to believe that God is pleased with you? Why or why not?
5. Which part of the blessing (identity, love, affirmation) is easiest for you to receive? Which is the hardest?
6. This week, what would it look like for you to live with the understanding that God is pleased with you? What would be different in your day-to-day life?

MOVING FORWARD

Our behavior doesn't determine or shape God's love for us. He is already pleased with who we are because we are his. As we believe this and act out of it, what we do and how we see ourselves and others changes. When we believe this, it frees us to live out of the blessing and pass it on to others.

WEEKLY READING

Read aloud Romans 8:31-32 replacing "us" with "me." Start your day with this affirmation each day this week.