



GOD OVER

JANUARY 5/6

PLEASING PEOPLE

JOHN FULLER // SENIOR PASTOR

INTRODUCTION

Pastor John begins *Safety Third* calling us to make a shift in the way we approach 2019 by encouraging us to please God over pleasing people. We need to stop praying "Safety First" in our spiritual journey; this may be painful and costly, but with trust in God's plans, it will make a Kingdom difference in our Little Iowas.

DISCUSSION

1. Although we know God's opinion matters most, we all face the temptation to please people above God. Is there an area of your life where you are particularly drawn to putting people first? Why is it important we fight against this temptation? Discuss as a group.
2. Safety First is costly to our souls. **Read Ephesians 1** aloud as a group. Discuss how this scripture frees us to live with a *Safety Third* mentality.
3. Choosing a *Safety Third* mentality is costly. Pastor John provided examples of ways Jesus disappointed people because He chose to follow God. How can we follow Jesus's example in choosing God over people in our own lives? Discuss.
4. An inverse relationship exists between trust and safety. **Read Hebrews 11:1** aloud. Discuss as a group what this verse means by putting it in your own words and giving examples of the "confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see." How can you practice this kind of confidence in your own circles?

DO SOMETHING

1. Set aside specific time this week to pray for a *Safety Third* mentality. Ask God to reveal ways Safety First has been costly in your life. Confess this to God, and ask for His guidance.
2. Meet with a trusted friend or mentor and discuss what your tangible *Safety Third* next steps might be. Ask that person to support you and hold you accountable moving forward.
3. Choose one of the sermon scriptures to dig into more deeply. Meditate and reflect on this throughout the week.

RESOURCES

1. One of books highly recommended by Prairie Lakes Church staff for learning how to please God over people and deal with relational issues is *Emotionally Healthy Spirituality* by Peter Scazzerro [2014].
 2. "Dangerous Prayers" sermon by Shane Fuller
 3. In *When I Don't Desire God*, a six-week RightNow Media series, John Piper teaches emotions are commanded everywhere in Scripture. They're not just instructions to think a certain way but to feel a certain way. So, loving God above all else is not merely about our actions but about our hearts.
- 