

OPENING DISCUSSION

Have you ever missed something that was right in front of your face?

SERMON

What is one part of the Pharisees' encounter with Jesus that changed the way you look at your own story with Jesus?

Can you relate in any way to the Pharisees' encounter with Jesus?

What was the Pharisees' biggest concern when it came to Jesus? Why do you think they struggled so much with Jesus?

What about Jesus' words bothered the Pharisees so much?

What about Jesus' miracles bothered the Pharisees so much?

Considering the prophecies of Jesus are all over the Old Testament, why do you think the Pharisees could not see that Jesus was always God's plan?

APPLICATION

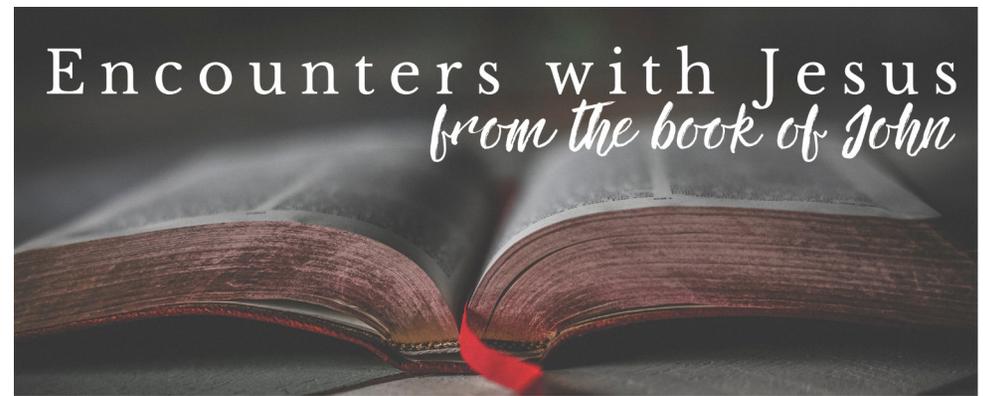
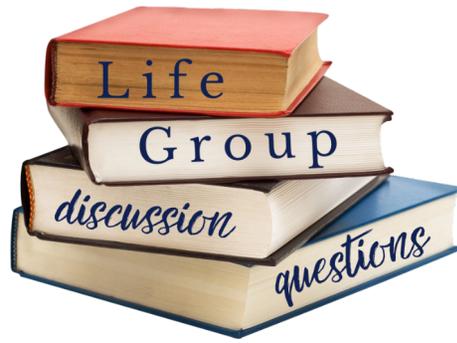
What part of the Samaritan's encounter with the Pharisees do you most identify with?

How are you at listening and understanding the Word of God? How important is the Bible in your spiritual journey?

The Pharisees missed so much because they were focused on themselves and what they wanted. Have you ever missed what God had planned for you because you were so focused on what you thought you wanted? How would you know?

Have you ever seen the miracle of a changed life? What was that like? Have you been changed by the power of the gospel?

What is one thing you can do this week to avoid the same pitfalls the Pharisees had in their encounter with Jesus?



NORTH HILLS CHURCH

- JULY 4, 2021 -

WHO WERE THE PHARISEES?

<https://www.gotquestions.org/Pharisees.html>

The Pharisees were an influential religious sect within Judaism in the time of Christ and the early church. They were known for their emphasis on personal piety (the word Pharisee comes from a Hebrew word meaning "separated"), their acceptance of oral tradition in addition to the written Law, and their teaching that all Jews should observe all 600-plus laws in the Torah, including the rituals concerning ceremonial purification.

The Pharisees were mostly middle-class businessmen and leaders of the synagogues. Though they were a minority in the Sanhedrin and held a minority number of positions as priests, they seemed to control the decision-making of the Sanhedrin because they had popular support among the people.

The Pharisees accepted the written Word as inspired by God. At the time of Christ's earthly ministry, this would have been what we now call the Old Testament. Unfortunately, the Pharisees gave equal authority to oral tradition, saying the traditions went all the way back to Moses. Evolving over the centuries, the Pharisaic traditions had the effect of adding to God's Word, which is forbidden (Deuteronomy 4:2). The Gospels abound with examples of the Pharisees treating their traditions as equal to God's Word (Matthew 9:14; 15:1-9; 23:5; 23:16, 23; Luke 11:42). Jesus applied the condemnation of Isaiah 29:13 to the Pharisees, saying, "Their teachings are merely human rules" (Mark 7:7).

The apostle Paul was trained as a Pharisee, and his credentials in that group were sterling (Acts 26:5). Paul called himself "a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless" (Philippians 3:5-6). But Paul found that his performance of the Law could not produce true righteousness. After he placed his trust in Christ's finished work on the cross, he desired to "be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith" (verse 9). No one, not even the strictest Pharisee, is justified by keeping the Law (Galatians 3:11).

Not a part of a Life Group at North Hills? Visit the church website and check out the different groups currently meeting. When you see one that interests you, click on the link provided and know that everyone will be glad you came!
<https://church.north-hills.org/connect/small-group-ministry>

NORTH HILLS CHURCH

200 Admiral Callaghan Lane, Vallejo, CA 94591 • (707) 644-5286 • north-hills.org

Summer Sermon Series: Encounters with Jesus

The Pharisees

John 7:32-52, 9:13-34, 11:45-57, 12:42-43

BIG IDEA:

Don't miss the _____ when He's right in front of you.

1. They missed His _____.

2. They missed the meaning of His _____.

3. They missed God's _____.

RESPONSE:

Have you _____ what Jesus is doing in and around _____?

Upward at North Hills

Upward is a ministry that has impacted thousands of children and their families over the years through basketball and cheer. In 2020, the Upward season came to an early end due to the global pandemic. As restrictions persisted, the Leadership Team determined that the 2021 season would not be practical. With this news and after much prayer, Gordy and Kelly DeSilva made the decision to step down as the Directors of this amazing ministry to seek new challenges wherever God may lead. Upward has been a part of their family since 2006 and they have been blessed in and through it all. Through their service, God has been glorified and magnified in the lives of numerous individuals in our community, and because of everyone's support and service, lives have been changed for eternity. Gordy and Kelly communicated, "Thank you to all who have served, prayed, and/or donated to this ministry. It has been a blessing to serve together with each of you in this way. We believe this ministry is truly valuable to Vallejo and the surrounding communities and our hope and prayer is that God is already leading someone to step up and oversee it moving forward. Thanks for allowing us to serve with you all these years and we look forward to serving with you in the future as well." If you sense God calling you to provide leadership in this important ministry, we would love to hear from you. Send an email to Pastor James at jwatson@nhcsvallejo.org.



Worship Center update

On Monday, June 14, a water line broke in the men's restroom. We are grateful that the Worship Center was occupied and immediate clean-up took place. Unfortunately, the water was in the walls and the insulation. The first step is complete. The damaged areas have been dried and received mold mitigation. Our next step is to repair and replace the damaged and/or removed items. For safety purposes, the main restrooms, the Family Room, and the last three rows of center pews will remain blocked off until repairs are complete. If you need to use a restroom, please follow the signs on the first floor or use the restrooms located on the third floor above the balcony. Thank you for your patience.

Communication Cards and Offering Envelopes

At the **main entrance** and **senior parking lot entrance** of the Worship Center, you will find special new boxes when you leave today. If you have filled out a Communication Card or Offering Envelope, please insert them into either of the boxes. Please note the boxes will remain out for 20 minutes after the service.

Outdoor Children's Ministry on Sunday mornings

Parents and guardians, we ask that you go to the **main entrance** of the Worship Center to check your child in. After service, please go to the Preschool Playground in a timely fashion to check your child out. While our Sunday morning Children's Worship is designed for children, it is not mandatory children attend. Parents and guardians are welcome to keep their children with them in the Worship Center if they prefer.



Read the entire Bible chronologically in a year

See the church newsletter for this week's Bible reading passages

<https://church.north-hills.org/newsletters/weekly-newsletter>