

Mad Men “God Men” – Jim Burgen

September 9-10

Community:

1. What are some of your favorite shows to binge-watch?
2. When was the last time you intentionally took the time for silence and solitude? How was the experience?

Core:

1. **Read Malachi 4:6.** The way fathers respond to Jesus, and the direction of their hearts, determines a lot of the direction of the lives of those around them. How have you seen this played out—both positively and negatively?
2. Many of us spend time asking questions like, “*Who am I? What am I worth? Why am I here? Am I enough?*” What are the messages you hear when you ask those questions?
3. Jim shared the following *Mad Men* quote, “*People tell you who they are, but we ignore them because we want them to be who we want them to be.*” Does this apply to your life?
4. What “*voices*” have influenced your perception of yourself? What are the competing voices or “*sales pitches*” telling you?
5. **Read Matthew 4:16.** Considering where Jesus was in ministry, and what He was about to take on, how do you think those words from God affected Him?
6. Take a minute to consider how you see yourself—your identity, your worth, your purpose. Now, as best as you can, try to set aside all the outside influences (and all the voices that speak to those attributes) except for Jesus’ voice. What do you think Jesus sees? How does Jesus view your identity, worth, and purpose, and what does He say?
7. If you knew what God says is true about you, if you believed it was true, and if you lived out of that truth, would anything in your life change? What would change the most?

Challenge:

Jim shared his experience with God during his spiritual retreat. He was reading the story of the Prodigal Son when he reached the phrase, “*He came to himself*”—he remembered who he was. Take some time this week to remind yourself who *you* are. Then, write down what God has already said about you and what you need to be reminded of. Whether it is from the Bible, prayer, or from other trusted people in your life, meditate on these truths.